

# CITIZEN BRIEF

Citizen Brief - July 2019  
#EU4Energy  
#EnergyReforms4Citizens



## How will Georgian citizens benefit from the new law on energy efficiency in buildings?



A new law on energy performance in buildings: a way for citizens to save money on energy, improve their comfort level at home and have a healthier home environment.

## Why is the new law needed?



Did you know that Georgia's economy uses almost 30% more energy than the average of EU countries? This means that Georgia has a high energy intensity – its economy uses more energy than needed for the goods and services produced – and in return, Georgian citizens are needlessly paying for large amounts of wasted energy.

Energy intensity describes how effectively an economy is using energy. A lower energy intensity supports economic growth in a country without relying on increased energy consumption. The best way for a country to reduce energy intensity is to support energy efficiency in all economic areas: industry, transport, and most importantly buildings. In fact, in Georgia, the building sector alone accounts for almost 40% of the savings potential.

What's happening now? The EU-funded EU4Energy Governance project is assisting Georgia with the adoption of a new draft law on energy performance in buildings, and in preparing a series of building regulations. The new law will ensure that buildings are more energy efficient and wasted energy is reduced. Citizens will reap the benefits of more energy-efficient homes: lower energy bills, a higher level of comfort, and a healthier home environment.

## What are the requirements of the new law on energy performance in buildings?

Under the new law, all buildings will have to meet the following requirements:

Minimum energy performance requirements will be set for new buildings and building under major renovation, as well as for replacing or retrofitting building elements (heating and cooling systems, roofs, walls, etc.).

Building-owners will need to issue an energy performance certificate when a building is sold or rented;

Regular inspection of heating and air conditioning systems to ensure energy savings;

The draft Law on Energy Performance in Buildings has been submitted to the Parliament of Georgia and is under deliberation by the Economy Committee. Once it is in effect, Georgia's building regulations will be in line with the respective EU law on minimum energy performance of buildings in the EU (Directive 2010/31/EU), and with Georgia's Energy Community obligations, launching the improvement of the quality of buildings across the country.

# Why an energy performance certificate?



Energy performance certificates will provide Georgian citizens with information on the energy performance of the buildings or apartments that they are buying or renting by providing them with transparent information that will help them save money, improve the comfort level of their home, and provide a healthier home environment.

*Buying or renting a new home can be a complicated process. With so many decisions to be made when selecting a new home, it is easy to forget the cost of energy. With the new law, it will be mandatory for energy performance certificates to be issued for all buildings being sold or rented. Prospective new owners or tenants will be able to consider the cost of energy before buying or renting a home as the certificate will provide information on the annual energy consumption, and recommendations for cost-effective improvements for better energy efficiency.*

The energy performance certificate will feature a color-coded rating scheme, from A to G, showing the actual energy consumption, the minimum energy performance, and the most cost-efficient level of consumption for the building or home.

Many times we do not correlate energy efficiency measures with a healthier home environment. However, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for indoor air quality, there is sufficient evidence of association between dampness, or mould with asthma development and respiratory infections (e.g. coughing, wheezing and dyspnea). Energy efficiency measures in homes, such as better insulation, ventilation, etc. contribute to better air quality, and the prevention and control of excess moisture and microbial growth.

## Key Benefits

- Saves money on energy bills
- Improves home comfort (better temperatures, less humidity)
- Creates a healthier home environment (better indoor air quality)

# Energy efficiency in your home

Energy efficiency does not mean restrictions on energy use – it is about not wasting energy and using it wisely. Creating awareness and providing information on efficient energy use, especially at home, will be a key part of the awareness raising campaigns that will take place when the new law is in place.

Citizens can take low to no-cost energy efficiency measures such as installing motion sensors lights and using power strips to turn off appliances when not in use. Higher-cost investments in other home improvements for energy efficiency can translate into significantly increased savings, improved comfort, and better health. The main areas where higher cost energy efficiency investments can be made are:



Space Heating



Space Cooling



Domestic Hot Water



Ventilation



Built-in Lighting



Technical Building Systems

Georgian citizens can learn more about energy efficiency for their homes from the Energy Efficiency Centre (EEC) in Tbilisi. ([www.eecgeo.org](http://www.eecgeo.org)).

## FACTS AND TIPS FOR CITIZENS

Replace old light bulbs with compact fluorescent light (CFL) or LED. CFLs and LED cost

**75%**

less to operate and last ten times longer.

Replace an old water heater with a new energy efficient unit and reduce energy consumption by

**20%**

The savings gained will pay off the cost of the new unit.

Seal cracks and leaks in windows and doors and save

**10%**

annually on the cost of heating and cooling your home.

Insulate your home.

**55%**

of heat loss occurs through a home's roof and walls.

Follow the hashtag [#EnergyReforms4Citizens](#) on Facebook and Twitter for more ideas and examples of how to improve your home's energy use and save money!

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The EU4Energy Initiative covers all EU support to improve energy supply, security and connectivity, as well as to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewables in the Eastern Partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It does this by financing projects and programmes that help to reform energy markets and to reduce national energy dependence and consumption. Over the longer term, this makes energy supply more reliable, transparent and affordable, thus reducing energy poverty and energy bills for both citizens and the private sector