



Buildings For Our Future The Deep Path for Closing the Emissions Gap in the Building Sector

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Buildings can make a huge contribution to the transformation to a low-carbon world. *Buildings for our Future* shows that there can be significant improvements in energy performance of buildings. By 2050, energy use in buildings could be reduced by nearly a quarter of that of today, and buildings' CO₂ emissions could be reduced by around one third. The technologies and techniques are available but the policy framework needs improved policy tools. A "Deep Path" of reduced energy consumption is achievable only if there is a rapid shift in thinking, and more ambitious analysis and policymaking.

Buildings for our Future calls for a new dialogue. The report brings together analysis commissioned over the past year, analysing the mitigation potential for new and existing buildings in the GBPN's four regions – China, Europe, India and the United States – together with a review and analysis of best practice policies that, if effectively applied globally, could pave the way to that transformation to the Deep Path. The report also raises concerns about risks of the "lock in" effect that could delay major energy savings and emissions reductions for decades if we do not act quickly.

It is a major challenge to build on the improvements in policy frameworks of recent years. Priorities need to be reoriented, with consensus on the importance of long-term energy savings and CO₂ emissions reductions. There must be greater reliance on replicating examples of proven best practice policies and better development and sharing of best practice models. Acknowledgement that

'business as usual' is no longer acceptable, is a pre-condition for progress.

Buildings for our Future sets out the steps to the "Deep" transformation: First, define the "Deep Path" agenda by analysing the mitigation potential of buildings in a jurisdiction, and identifying the environmental, cost-benefits and co-benefits of applicable state-of-the-art policy packages. Second, all stakeholders need to be engaged, involved and fully committed. Third, develop policy roadmaps adapted to each region to guide the implementation process. Fourth, implement a "Deep Path" agenda for the next decade. Finally, it is critical to ensure that all elements are well monitored, evaluated and adapted to ensure maximum effectiveness.

Buildings for the Future opens a new dialogue on the role and importance of improved energy performance of buildings in today's global and national policy discussions about energy and climate change policies. Current policy frameworks must be transformed to reflect the urgent need for reduction of CO₂ emissions. Much of that transformation will depend on a change in the attitudes and commitment of decision makers. Achieving these reforms requires a new approach to strategic planning and collaboration, with more holistic thinking. In *Buildings for the Future*, GBPN has raised the challenge for countries to take the "Deep Path" and is pro-actively taking the practical steps to build global collaboration.