GBPN
Global Buildings Performance Network

Building Policies for a Better World

Case Study

MASSACHUSETTS

REDUCING ENERGY DEMAND IN EXISTING BUILDINGS: LEARNING FROM BEST PRACTICE RENOVATION POLICIES

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MASSACHUSETTS: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RENOVATION STRATEGY

Massachusetts' Green Communities Act, 2008, requires utilities to increase their investment in energy efficiency measures. This Act requires adoption of three-year revision planning cycles, with the 2013 goal requiring utilities to save 2.76% by 2015 by developing cost-effective energy solutions for the building sector. The 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act sets an overarching national target for Massachusetts to reduce its GHG emissions from 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The Massachusetts' "Stretch Energy Code" is a voluntary appendix to the Massachusetts Building Code that allows cities to elect to adopt more demanding requirements. Massachusetts has a home energy certification scheme currently in a pilot phase, the Energy Performance Score. The Mass Save programme acts as a one-stop solution centre that provides advice, information and financial guidance to all citizens of Massachusetts. Massachusetts, for the third year in a row, won first place in the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's (ACEEE) annual energy efficiency state scorecard.

The Policy Tool for Renovation highlights five key areas where Massachusetts' Renovation Policy Package excels: overall country reduction targets, building code requirements for renovations, utility-funded energy efficiency programmes, training and education campaigns and a one-stop solution centre.

The total residential energy consumption in Massachusetts has continually decreased since 2003, with the consumption/capita and the consumption/dwelling following the same trend. There was a dip in consumption in the year of 2006, from 2007 this continued along the previous trend. The GDP has decreased annually from 2000 with a slight fluctuation in 2006 where it remained steady from then to 2009 where it began to decrease once more. Massachusetts' population is 6.7 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012).

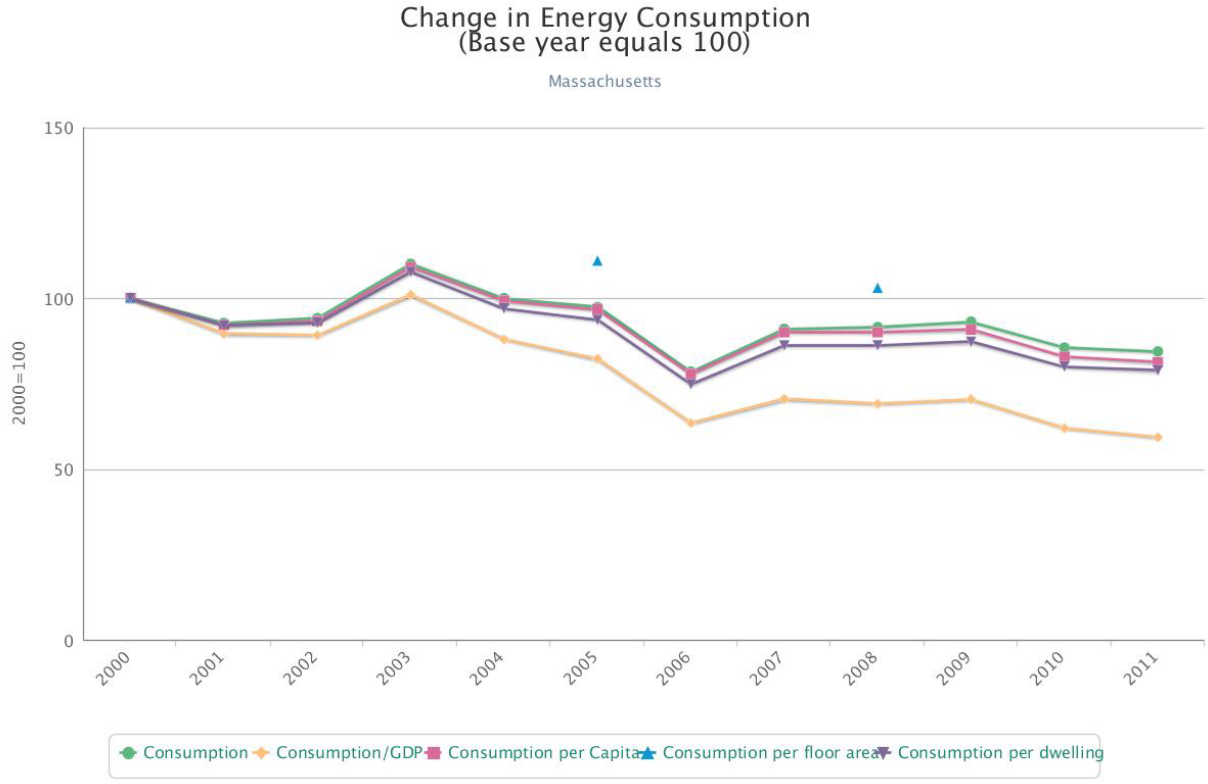

Figure 3.8. Objective Criteria in Massachusetts, all consumption units are normalised in relation to 2000, GDP is normalised to year 2010.

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About GBPN

The Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN) is a globally organised and regionally focused network whose mission is to advance best practice policies that can significantly reduce energy consumption and associated CO_2 emissions from buildings.