

BELGIUM (FLANDERS)

1. CONTEXT OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Urban population¹

Total population	Functional Urban Area population*	Share of urban population	Average urban growth
11.696 million (2020)	8.978 million (2020)	77% (2020)	2.6% (2015-2020)

*Data source: European Commission (2023), FUA and eFUA methodology: OECD/European Commission (2020)²

Building data

	Building stock	Built before 1980	Annual construction	Annual construction rate
Residential	3,150 thousand dwellings (2022)	56%	30 thousand dwellings (2023)	1%
Non-residential	N/A million m ²		N/A million m ²	N/A

Energy & emissions data³

Residential buildings**	1990	2021	+/- rate	Non-residential buildings	2021
Final energy consumption (PJ/year)	347	352	1%	Final energy consumption (PJ/year)	109.7
	1990	2021	+/- rate		2021
GHG emissions (MtCO ₂ /year)	18.68	16.02	-14%	GHG emissions (MtCO ₂ /year)	3.77

**Data source: IEA Countries & Regions⁴

Energy consumption by end-use (Residential)

N/A

Heating degree days***

1,822.6

Degree (°C) Days (2020)

Reference degree day: 16 degree (°C)

Cooling degree days***

61.3

Degree (°C) Days (2020)

Reference degree day: 21 degree (°C)

***Data source: IEA Weather, Climate and Energy Tracker⁵

¹ Population data pertains to the national level in Belgium.

² <http://data.europa.eu/89h/2ff68a52-5b5b-4a22-8f40-c41da8332cfe> <https://doi.org/10.1787/d58cb34d-en>

³ Energy and emissions data pertains to the national level in Belgium.

⁴ <https://www.iea.org/countries>

⁵ <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/data-tools/weather-climate-and-energy-tracker>

2. GOVERNANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Who does what

Ministries/Agencies responsible for BEE (building energy efficiency) and related policies

A DOMG (Departement Omgeving, regional)	B VEKA (Flemish Energy & Climate Agency, regional)	C OVAM (Public Waste Agency of Flanders, regional)	D ENOVER (Consultation group of federal & regional gov. on energy)	E Wonen in Vlaanderen (regional)
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Ministries/Agencies responsible for each policy area

Building code	Governmental buildings	Housing policy in general	Financial incentives for BEE	Behaviour change for BEE
A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E
BEE standard	Act/law for BEE regulation	Whole life carbon	Energy policy in general	NDC
A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E

Local governments' authority to customise BEE standards

—	Local governments can customise national standards.
—	Local governments cannot adjust national standards, but the standards differ across regions depending on the local climate.
✓	Local governments cannot adjust national standards. All building codes, standards or requirements are uniform across the entire country.
—	Neighbourhood level approach/planning
✓	The national government is tracking progress on decarbonisation efforts at the local level
	Central data on EPC's can be found in the regional database, and thus can be monitored.
✓	More ambitious policy instrument by local governments
	The Woningpas (The Flemish Building Renovation Passport) is a free digital passport that brings together all information about a citizen's home. It can be accessed by building owners and third parties, providing an overview on available official documentation like the energy performance certificate (EPC), building permits, soil certificates and certificates on building quality, sewage, and water installation. Woningpas offers links to possible premiums and other financial stimuli during the renovation process.

Capacity building

Government funding programmes to train/enhance skills for SMEs

Designing for ZEB	—	Insulation	—
Calculation for energy performance of buildings	—	Installation of energy efficient equipment	—
Calculation for life cycle CO ₂ of buildings	—	Other	✓

Actions undertaken by the national government to support local governments for BEE policy implementation

Co-ordinating regional networks for knowledge exchange and support	Priority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Providing funding for training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Distributing toolkits and guidelines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Developing online platforms to share best practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hosting annual conferences focused on BEE policy implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Offering grants to hire consultants	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborating with research institutes offering specialised courses on BEE practices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creating incentive programmes to reward local governments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting the Implementation of local regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establishing mentorship programmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	Priority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3. GOALS AND POLICY FOCUS

Policy areas covered in the goals and existing commitments

	Zero emission for new buildings	Zero emission for existing buildings	Renewable energy for new buildings	Renewable energy for existing buildings	Whole-life cycle carbon reduction
NDC	-	-	-	-	-
LT-LEDS	-	-	-	-	-
Ministerial plan	-	-	-	-	-

Quantitative targets included in long-term goals

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Fossil fuel-free buildings </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> District heating/cooling </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Insulation </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #c8e6c9;"> Heat pumps </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 98% new buildings will have a heat pump by 2025. </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #c8e6c9;"> Rooftop PVs </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> More than 90% of new buildings already installed PV panels. </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Solar heating of water </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Other renewable energy </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Other </div>

Policy focus for decarbonising buildings (Top 3)

Current focus

Passive design to reduce heating demand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Energy efficiency on heating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Passive design to reduce cooling demand	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy efficiency on cooling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Switching energy to sustainable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renewable energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Embodied carbon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Circularity of building materials	<input type="checkbox"/>



Future priorities

Passive design to reduce heating demand	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy efficiency on heating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Passive design to reduce cooling demand	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy efficiency on cooling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Switching energy to sustainable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renewable energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Embodied carbon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Circularity of building materials	<input type="checkbox"/>

Energy poverty

Strategies to reduce poverty and inequality via decarbonising buildings



Stronger financial support for decarbonising public housing for low-income people	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial support to buy zero-energy/emission homes	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Financial support to renovate their homes to zero-energy/emission	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Allowing partial retrofits to ease financial burden on upfront cost	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Provide energy efficient appliances (e.g. LED)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Energy bill coupon	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Energy coach/consultation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: Policies targeting specific households Low-income Elderly Households with more than 3 children Other

4. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY INSTRUMENTS

Standards and regulations for decarbonising buildings

Building codes	National level	<input type="checkbox"/>
	State level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Local level	<input type="checkbox"/>

Type of buildings covered by the mandatory energy efficiency code

Residential buildings

New	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Only large units
Renovated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Only large units

Non-residential buildings

New	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Only large units
Renovated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Only large units

Elements of building codes (new buildings)

Insulation/heat transmission coefficient	<input type="checkbox"/>
Primary energy consumption	<input type="checkbox"/>
Primary fossil-fuel energy consumption	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy efficiency of equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operational carbon reduction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whole life cycle carbon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comprehensive green building assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Stricter standards for public buildings than private buildings

🏠 For new construction 🔧 For renovation

	Public buildings	Public housing
Energy efficiency	🏠 🔧	🏠 🔧
Zero energy/emission	– –	– –
Renewable energy	🏠 🔧	🏠 🔧
Embodied carbon/life cycle	🏠 🔧	– –
Locally sourced & recycled materials	– –	– –

Certificates/labeling programme for built environment

Types of certificates/programme

Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Energy labelling on passive house	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy labelling on annual energy consumption	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comprehensive built environment certification	<input type="checkbox"/>
Labeling for whole life carbon emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>

Target for Mandatory EPC

New buildings (residential)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New buildings (non-residential)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existing buildings for renovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Existing buildings for sales/rent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Standardised calculation methods for embodied carbon/LCA


Database of CFP/EPD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governmental	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental
Grant for using the following materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Low-carbon	<input type="checkbox"/> Bio-based <input type="checkbox"/> Reused
Policy tools for reusing building materials	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mandatory declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Non-residential
Limit value on CO2 emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Non-residential

Minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) regulation for existing buildings


<input type="checkbox"/> All buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential (rent)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential (sale)
<input type="checkbox"/> Office (rent/sale)	<input type="checkbox"/> Public buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other

Climate resilience

🔥 Extreme heat adaptation measures implemented in the building sector

Strategic orientation of main building facades	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial incentives
Light coloured and reflective materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial incentives
Green roof	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial incentives
Green facades	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial incentives
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

🌊 Floods/storms adaptation measures implemented in the building sector

Lowest liveable floor above ground level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial incentives
Roof drainage system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial incentives
Hip-roof	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial incentives
Hurricane straps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial incentives
Impact-resistant glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial incentives
Backup generators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial incentives
Microgrids	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial incentives

Publicly available geographic database with climate risk information

Flood risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Heat wave	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild fire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Building certificate system on climate resilience

Resilience to flood risk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resilience to heat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

This survey is designed for national governments.