

Building Modernisation Act: Leading industry associations publish expert reports

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The leading associations in the fields of renewable energy systems, building envelopes and energy consultancy have presented a pivotal report to the relevant politicians in the governing coalition, setting out a framework for a new Building Modernisation Act. The authors from the Institute for Technical Building Equipment (ITG, Dresden) and the Research Institute for Thermal Insulation (FIW, Munich) outline a flexible and open-ended approach that enables independence from fossil fuel imports, economic growth and the achievement of climate protection targets.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bert Oschatz, Managing Director of the Dresden Institute for Technical Building Equipment (ITG): „Depending on the technology chosen, the measures set out in the current Building Energy Act result in a 50 to 90 per cent reduction in CO₂ emissions in a typical existing building. Replacing an outdated gas heating system with a more efficient new one, however, cannot make an equivalent contribution, even if small proportions of biomethane are factored in.“

In addition, the experts considered adding compensatory measures to the building envelope to meet the current 65 per cent requirement: “There is no conflict between renewable heating systems and a high-performance building envelope – quite the opposite. Energy efficiency measures on the building envelope significantly reduce final energy consumption and costs. They also reduce peak electricity demand in winter, which stabilises the grid and reduces the need for additional grid infrastructure” said Prof. Dr.-Ing. Andreas Holm, Director of the Munich Research Institute for Thermal Insulation (FIW).

„The coalition must not now lose sight of its ambitions“, said Dr. Martin Sabel, Managing Director German Heat Pump Association (BWP): „The reformed Building Energy Act must continue to provide consumers with clear guidance on which paths ensure a future-proof home and which, on the contrary, will only increase dependence on gas and oil. It is important that homeowners do not install new gas heating systems on the basis of unsustainable promises made by the energy industry.“

Jan Peter Hinrichs, Managing Director Bundesverbands energieeffiziente Gebäudehülle (BuVEG) e.V.: „Germany’s building stock varies greatly in terms of energy efficiency, which is why each property requires a bespoke renovation solution to achieve the shared goal of the heating transition. Whether to tackle the heating system or the building envelope first, and in what order, is something that owners should decide on site in consultation with energy advisers. The heat transition can only succeed through the combined effect of all renovation strategies, and this is what the new Building Modernisation Act should focus on.“

Benjamin Weismann, Managing Director Energieberaterndenverband GIH: „This collaboration between associations representing providers of centralised solutions for the heating transition and us, as local experts, is of great importance. In future, reducing energy consumption must become a key factor, alongside the important goal of cutting CO₂ emissions. If refurbishment

measures to the building envelope were now also recognised as an equally valid alternative solution, this would represent a genuine breakthrough. This would respond to the public's desire to save energy and, consequently, costs."

The report is available for download [here](#).

The German Heat Pump Association - **Bundesverband Wärmepumpe (BWP) e. V.** is an industry association based in Berlin that covers the entire value chain relating to heat pumps. The BWP brings together over 1,300 companies from the heating industry, trades firms, planning and architectural practices, drilling companies and energy suppliers, all of which are committed to promoting the wider use of efficient heat pumps.

The **BuVEG – Bundesverband energieeffiziente Gebäudehülle** represents all construction products used in the building envelope. These include manufacturers of bricks, windows, doors, façades, rendering systems and insulation materials. An efficient building envelope is essential for achieving climate protection targets and plays an important role in maintaining a property's value, as well as in ensuring comfort and health.

About the GIH – Gebäudeenergieberater Ingenieure Handwerker e.V.: As the umbrella organisation for 13 regional member associations from the respective federal states, the GIH represents more than 5,500 qualified energy consultants, including master craftsmen and technicians, engineers, architects, scientists and career changers. GIH members provide consultancy services in areas including residential and non-residential buildings, as well as energy efficiency in the business sector and company audits.

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