



# Belgian Renovation Week

15 • 16 • 17 • 18 January 2024

**Brussels** Maison de la Poste (site Tour & Taxis)

- ▶ Monday: Navigating Renovation Challenges in the European Union
- ▶ Tuesday: Transitioning the Building Sector for Tomorrow
- ▶ Wednesday: Materials at the Heart of the Transition towards Sustainable Buildings
- ▶ Thursday: Unlocking Social Innovations



## Navigating Renovation Challenges in the European Union

### Thematic

Kicking off the event is an afternoon dedicated to fostering high-level discussions. Esteemed speakers will share insights into the challenges that renovation encounters within the European Union, this day lays the foundation for dynamic conversations that will echo throughout the week. Afterwards, we invite the attendants to join us for a walking dinner with network opportunities, guidance and collaboration.

### Program

16:00 | Registrations and welcome drink

16:30 | Welcome address

16:35 | High level opening speech

*Diederik Samsom - Head of Cabinet of Commissioner for Climate Action Hoekstra*

17:15 | High level panel debate - Moderated by Kira Taylor - Climate and Energy reporter

*Ditte Juul Jørgensen - Director-general at Directorate-General for Energy*

*Oliver Rapf - Executive Director Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE)*

*Julie Kjestrup - President European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency (EuroACE)*

*Chiara Martinelli - Director Climate Action Network Europe*

18:15 – 20:00 | WALKING DINNER

20:00 – 20:45 | Closing concert - Yentl Verborgt and Jeroen Reggers

Yentl Verborgt en Jeroen Reggers first crossed paths at the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp, and their musical collaboration has been ongoing ever since. As a duo, these two young musicians delve into the works of artists such as Thelonious Monk, Fred Hersch and Joni Mitchell. Beyond interpreting established works, Yentl and Jeroen weave their own compositions into their repertoire.

At every concert they enjoy exploring uncharted musical territories and embrace fresh perspectives. They appreciate the freedom that this intimate setting offers.

For their concert during the Belgian Renovation Week, Jeroen and Yentl curated a setlist featuring songs that revolve around nature.

## Transitioning the Building Sector for Tomorrow

### Thematic

On the second day, our attention is directed towards the ongoing transition within the building sector. Delving into the subject, the agenda meticulously examines multiple themes. In order to reach a successful roll-out of the Renovation Wave, the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) is believed to be a key policy instrument. We examine how member states should utilize it. In the afternoon multiple parallel sessions will be organised ranging from the role of heat pumps in the European building stock to the importance of adaptation & co-creation in construction, innovation, and a forward-looking perspective on deep renovations towards 2050. Additional emphasis will be placed on the pivotal role of first line contact points (one stop shops) —indispensable hubs for guidance and collaboration.

### Program

9:30 | Registrations and welcome coffee

10:00 | Introduction speech – *Flemish Minister of Energy, Zuhal Demir*

10:15 | Energizing the renovation challenge: EPC as guiding policy instrument

In order to reach a successful roll-out of the Renovation Wave, the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) is believed to be a key policy instrument. Some Member States have already integrated the EPC as a policy instrument in their renovation strategies and measures, others are planning to do so. This plenary session will elaborate on how the EPC can play an important role in the renovation policy of Member States, both now and in the future.

*Flemish Energy and Climate Agency (VEKA), Pau Garcia Audi - European Commission, Tim von Harras - Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands, Rui Fragoso - Buildings and efficiency of resources department (ADENE) of Portugal, Chris Hughes - Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)*

12:00 - 13:30 | LUNCH BREAK

13:30 – 15:00 | Parallel sessions

- **The role of heat pumps in the European building stock**

The European Commission will present the latest developments in a supportive framework for the roll out of heat pumps, followed by presentations from Germany and Bulgaria on their national heat pump policies. This will set the stage for a panel debate involving stakeholders, focusing on challenges, production capacity, and other critical issues in the efficient roll-out of heat pumps

*Paula Rey Garcia - European Commission, Marek Miara – Fraunhofer-Institut für Solare Energiesysteme ISE, Dragomir Tzanev - Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect of Bulgaria, Jozefien Vanbecelaere - European Heat Pump Association, Duncan Gibb – Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP), Jaume Loffredo – BEUC; the European Consumer Organisation, Oliver Jung – GCP*

- **Climate adaptation & the building environment: successful partnerships between government and building sector – Co-hosted with the Department of Environment and Spatial Planning and Embuild Flanders**

This workshop will focus on the powerful synergy between the government and the construction sector. Discover how we are jointly showing leadership in sustainable renovation and climate adaptation in different cases. For instance the signing of the climate roof protocol. A diverse panel of both Flemish and European experts will share insights.

*Christophe Pelgrims – Department of Environment and Spatial Planning, Marc Dillen – Embuild Flanders, Niels Kuijpers – Hanzehogeschool Groningen, Wendy Francken – European Water Association*

- **The future of One-Stop-Shop for Private Home Renovations: A Complete Relief process Co-hosted with BEREEL!**

The key to a successful One-Stop-Shop lies in significantly simplifying the renovation process for homeowners. Apartments pose unique challenges in this context. However, what features should a future One-Stop-Shop incorporate to fulfil this promise effectively?

*Eddy Deruwe – BE REEL!/Flemish Energy and Climate Agency (VEKA), Henriette de Robiano – CLIMACT, Didier Van Severen – Homegrade – Brussels, Veva Roessems – City of Antwerpen, Sébastien Delpont – EnergieSprong France*

15:00 – 15:30 | COFFEE BREAK

15:30 – 17:00 | Parallel sessions

- **Towards 2050: Deep Renovations in the Construction Sector**  
*Co-hosted with Buildwise/ BEREEL!*

Deep home renovations are crucial to achieving the ambitious 2050 climate goals. It is a challenging but essential task for the construction industry to lead this change and contribute to a greener future. Key strategies are examined with particular focus on skills & training, digital and energy-efficient technologies, sustainable materials, a collective renovation approach and innovative financing mechanisms.

*CLIMACT, Marc Dillen – Embuild Flanders, Dirk Mattheeuws – Netwerk Architecten Vlaanderen (NAV), Mariangiola Fabbri – Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE), Bart Ingelaere – Buildwise, Fernando Sigchos – European Builders Confederation (EBC)*

- **Innovating Renovations: Pioneering the Future of Built Environment Transformation**  
*Co-hosted with VITO/EnergyVille*

In the session “Innovating renovations”, pioneers from different innovation angles will explore how innovation can accelerate the current renovation pace. What is the intersection of technology, social, institutional, and digital innovation in the mission to transition the built environment. Where are the synergies, and where potential conflicts?

*Maarten De Groote – VITO/Energyville, Bas Van de Kreeke – Soltech, Filip Jorissen – Builtwins, Peter Conradie – IMEC, Chloé Fayole – Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS)*

- **One Stop Shops in Flanders and Europe, which way forward?**  
*Co-hosted with FOSSTER*

In this workshop we will be taking stock of the initiatives on Flemish and European level related to Integrated Home Renovation Services that are taking place right now. We will be discussing the key role of One Stop Shops in reaching the renovation goals and moving towards a climate neutral building stock.

*Christophe Milin – CINEA, Annick Vanhove – Stad Mechelen/CondoReno, Matthias Ghyselen – Energent/ OSR-Coop, -Lies Anseeuw - Flemish Energy and Climate Agency (VEKA)/FOSSTER, Bruno Pluvier - WVI/FOSSTER, Erwin Mlecnik - TU Delft/CondoReno, Srgjan Vidoeski - RESCoopEU/OSR-Coop*

## **Renovation and Circular Economy:**

### *Materials at the Heart of the Transition towards a Sustainable buildings*

#### **Thematic**

On day three we invite you to discover the pivotal role of materials in propelling the journey towards sustainable buildings. Beyond the energy performance metrics, the discussion shifts to encompass a broader narrative-reducing greenhouse gases through strategic material choices and embracing the circular economy. Pioneering actions in this realm serve as an inspiration, with action plans, trainings, tools, and project calls lighting the way.

Join us at this seminar, which will give you the opportunity to learn from our experiences, talk to experts and be inspired by visits to circular economy projects.

#### **Program**

08:30 - 09:00 | WELCOME DRINK

09:00 | Introduction – *Liesbet Temmerman (CERAA)*

09:15 | Brussels' Green Journey: Strategies to Minimise Environmental Footprint in Building Initiatives – *Barbara Dewulf (General Director of Brussels Environment)*

09:30 | Policy Developments in the field of Construction Products and Environment  
*Dieter De Lathauwer (Federal Public Service Environment)*

09:45 | Which Priorities and Objectives for Construction Materials?  
*Wendy Boswell (Sustainable Building Facilitator) and Jérémy Boomers (NaturaMater)*

10:25 | Tools to Minimise the Environmental Impact of Buildings  
*Dorothee Stiernon and Emilie Gobbo (Catholic University of Louvain)*

10:45 - 11:00 | COFFEE BREAK

11:05 | Mundo-Lab, a Sustainable Approach to Real Estate: Innovative projects in terms of circularity, materials and energy – *Frédéric Ancion and Julien Willem (Mundo LAB)*

11:30 | Zinneke: an Exemplary Circular Economy Project – *Myriam Stoffen (Zinneke)*

11:50 | Q/A with panelists

12:20 | Conclusion – *Liesbet Temmerman (CERAA)*

12:30 - 13:30 | LUNCH BREAK



## Day 3 : Wednesday 17th January 2024

13:30 - 17:00 | Guided Tours of Sustainable Buildings (see program below)

Group 1 – 'Ixelles'

Group 2 – 'Anderlecht'

Group 3 – 'Centre'

17:00 | Closing of the Seminar at Maison de la Poste

---

### AFTERNOON

13:30 - 17:00 | Guided Tours of Sustainable Buildings

Group 1 – 'Ixelles'



© Be Sustainable 2023

#### Usquare

Conversion of a former closed military complex into an innovative, sustainable living space including a public space open to its neighbourhood, housing, university and public facilities, and a sustainable catering area, all while preserving the architectural identity of the site.



© urban.brussels 2023



#### Vandeuren ([beexemplary.brussels](https://beexemplary.brussels))

Complete renovation of the Vandeuren block: the buildings are renovated and restructured, the number of apartments is reduced from 160 to 132 and new facilities are added. Shared spaces are created and the central garden is turned into a collective meeting place.



## Day 3 : Wednesday 17th January 2024

### Group 2 – 'Anderlecht'

 <p>© Kairos - AZM - Urban Platform - ORG - Pixelab</p>	<p><u>CityGate</u></p> <p>Complete transformation of a 130,000 m<sup>2</sup> former industrial site to meet the district's needs in terms of housing, economic activities, public facilities and public spaces, turning it into a "bridge" between the Cureghem district, the South Station and future projects along the canal.</p>
 <p>© Circularium 2021</p>	<p><u>Circularium</u></p> <p>Transformation of over 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> of industrial space into a major centre for local innovation and circular production dedicated to the city. A place hinged around short circuits, cultural players and neighbourhood life. A place where everyone can work, live and meet.</p>
 <p>© hub.brussels Ecobuild</p>	<p><u>BatiTerre</u></p> <p>A cooperative whose activity revolves around the reuse of building materials. The main activity consists of recovering building materials in good condition from construction sites of varying types and sizes. These materials are then prepared for re-use, marketed and, if possible, re-used in circular, reversible designs.</p>

## Day 3 : Wednesday 17th January 2024

### Group 3 – 'Centre'



© CONIX RDBM Architects

#### Multi (beexemplary.brussels)

A large-scale reconversion project with urban challenges: redefinition of an emblematic modernist office building and creation of an urban connector by opening up the base and connecting it to the public space. The project is exemplary in terms of materials re-use and preservation of the existing building.



© IMMOBEL 2023

#### OXY (Renolab-B)

Complete renovation of one of the city's main buildings: reduction of office space and development of 120 flats, a 316-room hotel and community or public service facilities. The project pursues a cross-cutting environmental and energy approach (Breeam Outstanding/Well Platinum/NZEB).



© EVR Architecten

#### AG Campus (beexemplary.brussels)

Renovation of an office building's ground floor into a modern learning and meeting centre. The project's environmental approach is exemplary in terms of materials, comfort, health and building management. It also boasts cutting-edge water management and biodiversity credentials. In terms of circularity, the project demonstrates a good degree of flexibility of use.

## **Unlocking social innovations:**

*Shifting perspectives: towards more socio-technical innovations  
to accelerate energy renovation.*

### **Topic**

Our responses to the challenges of energy renovation have historically reflected a techno-economic view of the matter. They focus on the energy performance of buildings and promote technical solutions to improve it. This approach struggles to bridge the energy efficiency gap, despite the proven availability of technologies and the increasing financial support from public authorities.

To trigger a massive wave of renovation, a shift from this techno-economic approach to a socio-technical one is urgently needed. While keeping in mind the core technical challenges, it can link the technical issues to the complexity of human behavior by emphasizing the role of public authorities, a vision of the home as a place of daily life practices and social norms rather than of a building, and the mobilization and empowerment of the households. This approach challenges our collective and individual perceptions of energy renovation and will raise questions of *who* (renovates) and *why*.

Furthermore, energy renovation is a key issue for a just energy transition. Therefore, socio-technical approaches are even more important when it comes to triggering the renovation of households in energy poverty. In addition to technical, legal, and economic barriers, these households face social constraints to renovation such as dependence on landlords, inadequate physiological needs fulfilment, and social downgrading.

Throughout the day, we will shift perspectives by promoting the social and socio-technical aspects of energy renovation: from a techno-economic approach to a socio-technical approach, from buildings to homes and neighborhoods, from non-vulnerable to vulnerable households.

Altogether, we will build on the propositions of outstanding panelists and generate a comprehensive set of recommendations to inspire local policies and support actions. To this end, we will create a collaborative and interactive space to showcase the panel's conclusions and engage the public to build on them.



## Day 4 : Thursday 18th January 2024

### Program

9:00 – Introduction: *Jean-Yves Saliez (Walloon Minister of Energy, P. Henry)*

9:15– 09:45 | Keynote – *Rob Hopkins*

9:45– 09:55 | Toward a regenerative architectural approach – *Audrey Contesse (ICA)*

10:00 - 12:30 | Issue #1: How do we see energy renovation?

Without a dedicated support service, renovating remains a long and complex project for a household. However, even in the regions where support services are quite advanced and integrated, the number of projects remains significantly lower than what is targeted. It seems that the renovation projects' complexity is not the only factor that prevents households from renovating. Why do so few people renovate, even if they can afford it?

Energy renovation challenges our mental schemes and social norms. Despite reaching a consensus on the necessity to save energy, why do we find more reasons not to renovate or to delay the action, rather than renovating now? To create a paradigm shift, we must better understand the psychological constraints that people deal with, either when weighing the decision to renovate their homes, or that prevent them from even considering renovating. This calls for an exploration of our perceptions of the built environment, its evolution, our emotional attachment to it, and some deeper contradictions. It leads us to the meaning question: why do(n't) we renovate?

- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Why do(n't) we renovate?  
*Leo Van Broeck (Architect), Suzanne de Cheveigné (CNRS), Olivier Servais (UCL)*
- 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM: How to overcome social and societal barriers to energy renovation?  
*Paolo Bertoldi (JRC), Rutger Broer (BPIE), Jaume Loffredo (BEUC)*

10:00 - 12:30 | Issue #2: House vs. Home: How to integrate the sociotechnical dimensions of renovation in household support?

Dwellings' energy retrofitting can be viewed from two conceptual perspectives: the "House" and the "Home." The "House" emphasizes technical and physical aspects such as energy efficiency and the characteristics of renovated buildings, associated with ideas like sustainability and innovation. On the other hand, the "Home" focuses more on the well-being of occupants, comfort, and emotional connection with the domestic environment, highlighting values such as conviviality and harmony with nature. These two perceptions are not mutually exclusive and must be considered to communicate effectively about energy renovation.

## Day 4 : Thursday 18th January 2024

This session aims to create a space where the “House” and the “Home” dimensions can meet. The panelists conclusions will help to inform on the main guidelines that a support service for households (such as one-stop-shops) should follow, to properly integrate these two dimensions.

- **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM:** How can we take better account of households' daily life practices in energy renovation projects?

*Sanne de Wit (EnergieSprong), Geoffrey van Moeseke (SlowHeat), Stefan Goemaere (Papillon Project), Pascal Lanselle (Le Réseau de l'Assistance à Maîtrise d'Usage - AMU)*

- **11:30 AM - 12:30 PM:** What is the profile of the ideal renovation coach?  
*Florence Lepropre (RENO+ project), Alice Morcrette (SPEE Hauts-de-France & SERAFIN), Valérie Barlet (Renocity), Britt Berghs (Antwerpen voor Klimaat)*

### 12:30 - 13:30 | LUNCH BREAK & NETWORKING

**13:30 - 16:00 | Issue #3: From House to Neighborhood: How to shift from individual to collective projects?**

The EU expects district-scale energy renovation projects to contribute significantly to the renovation wave. They might reduce investment costs, increase revenues for companies, simplify projects, save time... However, not only is mobilizing citizens for their home energy renovation a complex challenge, but mobilizing a group of them is even more difficult. This sequence will explore why energy renovation at a district scale should be supported and how to effectively empower local stakeholders to foster collective projects.

- **13:30 - 14:30 :** Energy renovation at a district scale: what opportunities, what perspectives?  
*Grégoire Wallenborn (ULB), Quentin Jossen (Rénov La Roue), Maarten De Groote (VITO)*
- **15:00 - 16:00 :** How to mobilize citizens and local actors to foster collective projects?  
*Jokin Garatea (GAIA – ProLight project), Adriano Bisello (EURAC – Prolight project), Marine Cornelis (Community Energy for Energy Solidarity - CEES)*

## Day 4 : Thursday 18th January 2024

**13:30 - 16:00** | Issue #4: How to seize the energy renovation as a lever for reducing inequalities (energy poverty, right to decent, healthy, and affordable housing)?

Social inequalities are deepening within the housing sector, as multiple factors (energy poverty, insalubrity, noise pollution, etc.) intersect with a cumulative effect. The renovation wave, made mandatory due to climate change, can be seized as an opportunity to reduce inequalities. By proposing a comprehensive regulatory landscape, as well as assistance and financial support which positions the households at the heart of the process, energy retrofitting can address energy poverty, and provide the right to decent, healthy, and affordable housing.

- **13:30 - 14:30** : How to ensure a fair implementation of renovation obligations?  
*Françoise Bartiaux (UCL), Julien Dijol (Housing Europe), Aurélie Ciuti (Réseau Wallon Pour l'Accès Durable à l'Energie - Rwadé)*
- **15:00 - 16:00** : How to mobilize and support energy-poor households who are unable to invest in energy renovation, or tenants with limited agency to act?  
*Adrien Roux (Territoire Zéro Logement Passoire), Ciaran Byrne (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland - SEAI)*

### **16:00 - 17:15** | Closing Session

- **16:00– 16:15: Conclusions of the 3 days**  
*Benoit Fourez (Administration of Wallonia)*
- **16:15– 17:00: Panel of discussion**  
*Walloon Minister of Energy Philippe Henry, Yamina Saheb (Lead Author IPCC), Philip Crampton (European Construction Industry Federation – FIEC), Deputy DG Mechthild Wörsdörfer (DG ENER)*
- **17:00– 17:15: Conclusion speech**  
*Walloon Minister of Energy Philippe Henry*

**17:15** : Closing drink





