

## LEAF results published

The Low Energy Apartment Futures (LEAF) project draws to a close March 2016. Final LEAF results are now available [online](#).

LEAF is a Europe-wide project aiming to improve the energy efficiency of apartment blocks. It is funded by the European Union's Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme and local organisations in each country. The project runs from March 2013 to March 2016 and involves eight partners from seven different countries.

The project's aim is to identify and overcome key barriers to retrofitting apartment blocks, including shortcomings of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and the difficulties of engaging multiple owners. The LEAF consortium has achieved this by working with case study buildings, creating resources to aid retrofit and forming policy recommendations.

The results are summarised in the [project brochure](#) and full details can be found in the:

- [Final report: Improving the energy efficiency of apartment blocks](#)
- [Case study reports, showcase and action plans](#)
- [Results and evaluation](#)
- [Policy recommendations](#)

An overview of the project and results were recently presented at the LEAF webinar, attended by a world-wide audience of 200 delegates. Missed it? Don't worry, you can [listen again](#).



## Recent events



### LEAF webinar

LEAF partners Changeworks, e7 and CSE gave an overview of the project and results at the LEAF webinar, which had a world-wide audience of 200 people.

[Listen to the LEAF webinar](#)



### Bauz! Sustainable Building Congress, Vienna

LEAF partner e7 introduced the project and explained the engagement and technical toolkits



# Policy recommendations

A key output of the LEAF project was the production of policy recommendations to make retrofit more achievable in multi-occupancy buildings. These recommendations are now available to download from the [LEAF website](#), including:

- an **EU policy recommendations** report
- **country specific policy recommendations** for each partner country (Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, UK)
- a **full policy recommendations** report which includes all of the EU and national recommendations, as well as policy background information and key lessons and barriers from the case studies

The policy recommendations produced relate to:

- **Information provision** – improving EPCs and energy advice for residents
- **Demand-side factors** – stimulating demand through improved EPCs and regulation such as minimum energy efficiency standards
- **Supply-side factors** – improving the supply chain, including the quality of EPC assessors and installers
- **Funding and finance** – improving the design of energy efficiency subsidy schemes and finance for maintenance works



## Recent events



**World Sustainable Energy Days Conference, Wels**  
e7 presented a LEAF poster with an overview of the project



**Partner Meeting, Bristol**  
Discussion of evaluation, policy recommendations and dissemination



**Practical Approaches to the Building Renovation Challenge, Brussels**  
Changeworks attended this EASME organised event and contributed the lessons from LEAF to one of the workshop sessions – read the [EASME workshop findings paper](#)

# Case study spotlight:

## Telford, Edinburgh, Scotland

### Background

Based in the Telford area of Edinburgh these two six-in-a-block buildings were built in the 1950s-60s and are of no fines concrete construction. The buildings are largely occupied by housing association tenants but include some private owners and tenants.

For residents, the main motivations behind improving these blocks were to reduce energy bills and improve property appearance. The project benefited from full funding and as such, the residents did not need to contribute financially towards the work.

### Results

Two communal measures were installed: external wall and loft insulation. Alongside these, individual gas condensing boilers were fitted in two dwellings. These measures are expected to result in average annual savings of £226 (€310) per flat and £1,357 (€1,862) per building which equates to a saving of 28%.

### Barriers

The major barrier in motivating and engaging residents was a previous failed insulation scheme: an installer had engaged residents but was not able to secure funding, leaving residents wary. This factor was compounded by the short term nature of the new funding initiative which required residents to give approval for the measures in a short timeframe.

### Successes

The case study demonstrates the significant energy saving potential for non-traditional blocks of flats from external wall insulation and loft insulation. It also highlights the success of having a complete funding package (in this case built from UK and Scottish Government funding schemes and support from Manor Estates Housing Association for their properties). Without this, the project would have been significantly more challenging to achieve. This does mean, however, that the replication of this success is quite dependent on the funding landscape in the region at that time.

The LEAF case study reports, showcases and action plans for all of the European case studies are available on the [LEAF website](#).



Before retrofit



During retrofit



After retrofit

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