**PRESS RELEASE**

# Experts Push for Smart Energy Action Plan for Buildings

## *Innovators offer hope with bold solutions to meet the Renovation Wave Strategy*

**Brussels, 5 June 2025 –** This World Environment Day, EU innovators gathered in Brussels to showcase smart, scalable solutions that support the EU's Renovation Wave, a cornerstone of Europe's climate and energy transition. Their message was clear: deep renovation needs national targets to reduce emissions, tackle energy poverty and build community resilience.

As part of the EU's ambitious climate and energy agenda, the Renovation Wave Strategy - which aims to renovate 35 million buildings by 2030, at least doubling the annual rate of energy renovations across the EU - is transforming how Europe thinks about its buildings, and the people who live and work in them.

### Why it matters

- 180 million EU citizens experience energy poverty all year round, which has left over 41 million citizens, 9.3% of the population, unable to heat their homes during the winter months and over double this (19%) struggling to cooldown during heatwaves.
- Buildings account for 40% of the EU's energy consumption and 36% of its greenhouse gas emissions.
- 85% of EU buildings were built before 2000, with 75% performing poorly in terms of energy efficiency

As energy prices stabilise following the 2022 crisis, a just transition, especially for vulnerable and low-income communities, is more important than ever. At a dedicated event at the Press Club Brussels Europe, five leading EU-funded projects (RE-SKIN, EBENTO, NEBULA, STAR*Track, and OSR-Coop) presented innovative models for energy-efficient renovation, citizen engagement, and local energy services that can be replicated across Europe.

*"Achieving our 2050 decarbonisation targets hinges on the rapid deployment of market-ready solutions. But to truly maximise their impact and scalability, these innovations must be integrated in a systemic, synergistic way — exactly what the RE-SKIN project is demonstrating."*

– Fabrizio Leonforte, Associate Professor, Politecnico di Milano

RE-SKIN

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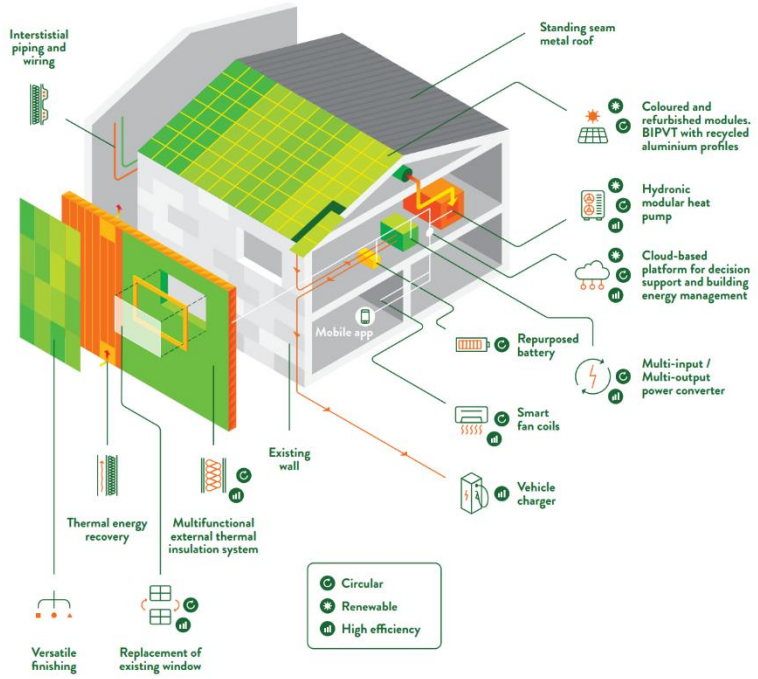


Renovation experts presented the RE-SKIN project, which aims to cut energy consumption in existing buildings by up to 90% through an innovative, multifunctional retrofit system. By integrating bio-based insulation materials, renovations can be carried out externally, allowing tenants to remain in their homes while improvements are made, making the process both efficient and socially inclusive.

*"Achieving the EU's climate goals means prioritising deep renovations, tripling the renovation rate, targeting public and social buildings first, supporting renewable-ready homes, offering affordable green financing, and engaging citizens. Clear national targets and roadmaps aligned with EU policies are crucial to make this transition real and equitable."*

– Alejandra del Valle, Senior Project Manager, ETRA I+D

In addition to lowering emissions and creating local jobs, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises, projects reinforcing the Renovation Wave will support European supply chains, sustainable material use, and innovative technologies needed for the modernisation of the EU's built environment.

RE-SKIN

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Through energy upgrades and modern, sustainable building practices, initiatives like these will improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable communities, reduce household energy costs, and contribute to the EU's overarching climate goals.

***ENDS***

## Background

The RE-SKIN project is a testament to the power of collaboration between public institutions, industry leaders, and academia to drive sustainable change. By retrofitting with innovative technologies, RE-SKIN sets a precedent for cities across Europe to enhance living conditions for the most vulnerable citizens. This initiative underscores the importance of holistic approaches in tackling interconnected crises, offering hope and a sustainable future to communities facing the dual challenges of energy poverty and climate change.

Given that 85% of EU buildings were constructed before 2000, with 75% performing poorly in energy efficiency, such initiatives are crucial. Buildings account for 40% of the EU's energy consumption, with heating and cooling making up 80% of that usage.

## About RE-SKIN

RE-SKIN aims to enhance total energy and environmental efficiency in the building sector, intensively applying the life cycle sustainability and circular economy principles. The project is expected to develop and demonstrate an integrated, multi-technology and low-impact renovation package for energy retrofit and smart upgrade of residential, public and commercial buildings.

## Media contact

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RE-SKIN

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