Minsk energy efficiency

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Nearly 40% of the world"s CO2 emissions come from the real estate sector. Of this, around 70% are produced from operation of buildings and the remaining 30% belongs to construction. Carbon emissions from building operations and construction sectors have recently reached record high levels. Thus, enhancing the energy efficiency of buildings is critical for decarbonization of the real estate sector.

Designing of behavioral strategies to promote energy efficiency among tenants in combination with the use of innovations and technological improvements can be a cost-effective way for the housing sector to reduce energy consumption and mitigate climate change.

In Belarus, heating and hot water supply in residential and public buildings consumes about 35% of all heat energy produced in the country, while the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the housing sector is more than 12% of all emissions. Belarus is pursuing a targeted and systemic policy to reduce heat energy consumption in the housing and communal sector through upgrades and renovations, such as high-performance insulation "warm" windows, "smart" ventilation systems, as well as green energy solutions like heat pumps and solar panels.

From 2012 to 2018 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) partnered with the Energy Efficiency Department of the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus to pilot the construction of the country"s first model apartment buildings equipped with energy efficient technologies in Mogilev, Grodno and Minsk.

Brining energy efficiency to the small-town housing sector.

Energy efficiency and energy saving technologies are now widely used in the capital and regional cities, however, in the Belarusian districts they are still quite rare. The lack of energy efficient practices in the districts puts a burden on local budgets and local people"s wallets. Because houses in small towns often rely on expensive heating systems that use coal, the cost of heating can account for up to 40% of utility bill.

Closing the energy-efficiency gap in the housing sector between cities and small towns requires partnerships, investment in green technology and environmental education.

The rate of application of energy efficient technologies in rural areas is increasing and a number of local initiatives can serve as models for districts that are at the very beginning of their journey towards energy efficiency.

Two energy-efficiency initiatives were implemented with the support from the UNDP/Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Cherikov district, Mogilev region.

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In 2018, the GEF/UNDP SGP, the Center for Innovative Development joined efforts with the Cherikov Housing and Communal Service to implement a project aimed at piloting energy efficiency practices and technologies in the district.

Smart technologies to help improve energy efficiency in houses.

The project helped to install an automated "smart" heating system in the 20-apartment residential house in Cherikov. The smart heating allows tenants to control their heat consumption and set a base temperature. A special sensor monitors the air temperature and if it goes up or down it can be adjusted manually by an electronic regulator. Further, the selected temperature mode will be maintained by a thermostat.

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