

Energy Efficiency of Buildings in Australia

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Australia's National Science Agency

Energy use in buildings : Australia

- 86% Australian population live in cities
- Buildings make up of about 18% total emissions
- Nearly 60% of building energy use is through electricity
- High uptake of Distributed Energy Resources (DER). One in every three households likely to have rooftop solar by 2050



Energy use in buildings : Australia

- National Energy Performance Strategy (2015, 2024)
- Trajectory for low emission buildings (2019,2024)
- Sector wide decarbonisation plans (2023)
- National Construction Code (NCC), Greenhouse and Energy minimum Standards (GEMS) for appliances



Policies with successful implementation history



Decarbonisation of Australian built environment sector

Residential buildings :



- From 2023 : Increased requirements for thermal performance (6 to 7)
- Whole of home rating to incorporate efficiency of appliances
- Household energy upgrade fund

Commercial buildings :



- Usage based rating system (NABERS) : highly successful in improving efficiency
- Commercial Building Disclosure (CBD) program requires energy efficiency information to be provided during sale or lease
- Energy efficiency in government operations : Government buildings to lead by example

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Drivers for energy efficiency

➤ As a consumer ^A

- Reduce energy bills
- Climate resilient
- Health and comfort



- Net zero
- Electrification
- Distributed generation + storage
- Consumers becoming prosumers



Emerging Opportunities

Electrification & Decarbonisation

- Switch from gas heating to heat pumps
- Gas /electric boiler to heat pumps
- Self consume : use onsite generation and storage

➢ Digitalisation

- Smart meters, sensors for monitoring and control
- Optimal control, management, preventive maintenance
- Participate in the electricity market



Digitalisation journey: Australian experience

Two step process :

- Connecting the buildings ("digital ready") and getting access to all data in a cost effective way
- Delivering benefits through analytics (both operational and energy cost)



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Digitalisation journey: Australian experience



100+ buildings : office buildings, mixed use, schools, hospitals

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Pathway for decarbonisation of building sector



Brinsmead et al (2023) : Pathways to Net Zero Emissions – An Australian Perspective on Rapid Decarbonisation, CSIRO, Australia

Thank you

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