

Implementation of Energy Performance Requirements for New Construction

The Mexican-Danish Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Program (CCMEP) has supported Mexico in implementation of its climate policy and energy reform. Under the energy efficiency component of the programme Denmark co-operates with CONUEE, the government of Mexico City and the states of Baja California and Tabasco on implementation of energy performance requirements for new buildings.

Reducing electricity demand for space cooling in buildings is highly cost-effective, provided that the necessary measures are included already in the design phase. It is much more costly to retrofit existing buildings.

Therefore, every new building with poor energy performance creates an unfortunate “lock-in” of unnecessarily high demand for electricity. And a high rate of new construction aggravates the problem.

The only truly effective way to stop this problem from growing further is to have mandatory energy performance requirements for new buildings. Mexico already has national standards which can serve that purpose. But for that to happen, they must first be adopted by municipalities and integrated into local building codes. And then they must be enforced and implemented in practice.

The purpose of this co-operation is to make that change happen, to the largest extent possible, in Mexico City, Baja California and Tabasco.

OUTPUTS:

- Revised building codes and associated legal documents, so as to ensure a legal basis for local adoption of existing national standards on energy performance of new construction;
- Revised internal procedures plus guidelines and training for local authorities creating capacity for enforcement of the new regulation;

- Tools and guidelines for NOM-008 and NOM-020 (the commercial and residential Norms on building envelopes) completed and published on CONUEE’s web-site. These include a compliance check tool, a catalogue of energy saving technologies (with cost/benefit analysis for each of them), case studies and examples on how to integrate technologies for different building components (e.g. walls, roofs, windows) in the most cost effective way;
- Training of trainers and training rolled out for local authorities and the building industry in Villahermosa, Mexicali and Mexico city (estimated 400 persons trained)
- Information campaigns and meeting held in all three states explaining the benefits of complying with the norms;
- Certification program for verifying units supported with the aim of enhancing local capacities for enforcing the norms
- Next: Final approval and publishing of the revised building codes in the three municipalities is still awaited but expected during 2017. Training materials will be made available online for self-study.

OUTCOME:

- Regulative and supportive measures improved for ensuring construction of energy efficient buildings.



The support from Denmark on this important issue has been very welcome and the program has been crucial in moving forward on the implementation and enforcement of the official Mexican norms on energy efficiency in new buildings

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