Mandate for Implementation Working Group on Energy and Resource Efficiency in Buildings

Adopted by the Steering Group on

8 May 2026

The **Implementation Working Group on Energy and Resource Efficiency in Buildings** (IWG5) is established by the SET Plan Steering Group (SG) to support the implementation of the SET Plan in this technology area. The working group is divided into two subgroups: "Sustainable materials and technologies for energy efficiency solutions for buildings" (5.1) and "Cross-cutting heating and cooling technologies for buildings" (5.2). IWG5 promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency, and innovative building technologies, while also emphasising resource efficiency, circularity, and the human dimension of the green transition. It works under the supervision of the SG to whom it reports regularly. To carry out its tasks, the IWG will benefit from the expertise, support and tools provided by the Commission (e.g., Joint Secretariats (CSAs), the SET Plan information system - SETIS, the Clean Energy Technology Observatory project, the Competitiveness Progress Report, workshops, events etc.).

EU policies on housing and energy efficiency in buildings provide the broader policy framework within which the Implementation Working Group on Energy and Resource Efficiency in Buildings (IWG5) operates, combining climate ambition with social and industrial considerations. In particular, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) establishes stricter requirements for zero-emission buildings, increased renovation rates, and improved energy performance, thereby directly supporting the objectives of IWG5 subgroups 5.1 and 5.2. At the same time, the European Affordable Housing Plan ensures that the transition towards more efficient buildings remains accessible and affordable, especially for vulnerable households, reflecting the human dimension emphasised by IWG5. In parallel, the EU Heating and Cooling Strategy supports the decarbonisation of thermal energy systems through technologies such as heat pumps and district heating, aligning closely with the focus of subgroup 5.2 on cross-cutting heating and cooling technologies. Furthermore, the integration of circularity and resource efficiency – core priorities of subgroup 5.1 – is reinforced under the Circular Economy Action Plan, which recognises the significant material use and waste generation associated with the building sector. The new Construction Products Regulation further strengthens this policy landscape by promoting durable, recyclable, and resource-efficient construction materials, while enhancing transparency through instruments such as digital product passports.

Taken together, these EU policy frameworks provide a coherent and enabling context for IWG5 activities, supporting the development of the Thematic Vision, Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), and Implementation and Investment Commitments (IICs), while ensuring alignment with broader EU objectives on decarbonisation, competitiveness, and sustainability across the full life cycle of buildings.

The IWG oversees the development of a 'Common Implementation and Investment Plan' (CIIP). The CIIP consists of a 1) Thematic Vision (TV), a 2) Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), and 3) Implementation and Investment Commitments (IIC). The old Implementation Plans and SRIAs may act as a source of inspiration and content for this exercise. In this context, the IWG shall:

1. Develop a **Thematic Vision for the technology area** of Energy and Resource Efficiency in Buildings, establishing ambitious and achievable short-term (up to 2030), medium-term (up to 2040), and long-term (up to 2050) goals on the development, manufacturing and market uptake of this technology in Europe.

The IWG will develop this Vision in close collaboration with industry and research stakeholders by July 2026. It shall be based on solid evidence and foresight, and outline short-, medium- and long-term goals. The goals may include corresponding targets where relevant, such as but not limited to: technological performance, maturity and progress to commercialisation; manufacturing capacity in Europe; intellectual property metrics; and emissions reductions.

The resulting Thematic Vision will be submitted to the SG for discussion and endorsement. The SG can identify if additional evidence or analysis is required.

2. Oversee the stakeholder community's development of a European **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** which aims to achieve the vision.

The IWG will be supported in the development or update of a SRIA by SET-IWG5 CSA, by the ETIP RHC and by the European Construction and Sustainable Built Technology Platform (ECTP). The SRIA will be updated by early Q1 2027.[1] *It will be based on the new ECTP SRIA which is currently revised and shall be finalized by the end of 2026. Also, the SRIA of RHC ETIP will be used as a basis as well as elements of the revised Implementation Plan of IWG5, which has been updated in July 2025. The SRIA of IWG5 will identify the specific R&I priorities and activities, corresponding KPIs and the level of funding needed in Europe to achieve the Thematic Vision's goals. Where appropriate, the SRIA will also include recommendations on enabling framework conditions for manufacturing and market uptake (e.g., regulatory, fiscal, standardization) that should accompany and help realize the Thematic Vision's goals. This process may benefit from the input of the CETPartnership, Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, and the Built4People Partnership.*

The resulting SRIA will be well-aligned with the Thematic Vision and submitted to the SG for discussion and endorsement. The SG can identify if additional evidence or analysis is required.

3. Identify and collect **Implementation and Investment Commitments (IICs)** based on national and EU priorities.

The IWG will organize and steer the discussion among all relevant actors (EC, MS, industry, research organizations, academia) on how to best implement the endorsed SRIA by early Q2 2027. It will aim to build the broadest possible consensus on a common implementation approach (e.g., priorities, timing, resources) and will facilitate agreement on the allocation of efforts between public and private actors and identify their respective investment R&I commitments.

Monitoring and reporting on the progress of the **Common Implementation and Investment Plans (CIIP).**

The CIIP shall include a description of indicators for monitoring progress and identifying bottlenecks. This exercise will be based on the guidance devised by the Commission to ensure a level of comparability across the working groups. The IWG will then annually assess the progress made in the implementation of the CIIP by the different actors via the harmonised annual SETIS exercise. The Steering Group and the European Commission can identify potential gaps, lagging areas, and new/emerging issues in order to suggest a revision of the CIIP.

[1] In some rare cases, IWGs might not have corresponding ETIPs. In these specific situations, the IWG can involve other stakeholder organisations involved in the SET Plan (i.e., partnerships, industrial association, dedicated technical sub-group of the IWG) to act as an ETIP, until a formal ETIP is set up and endorsed by the Steering Group or another structure is formally tasked to act as such by the Steering Group.