



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT ,
ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**



1. The Household Energy-Saving Programme:

This concerns the provision of economic incentives for energy-saving interventions in residential buildings, with the aim of reducing energy needs. The programme is for old, legally established buildings, which were built before 31 December 1989 in areas valued at a maximum of 2 100 euros/sq. m, are used as a primary or first secondary residence and whose owners meet certain income-related criteria. The eligible categories of interventions to improve energy efficiency are: the replacement of windows/doors (frames/glazing) and the fitting of shading systems, insulation of the building envelope including the flat roof/roof and pilotis, and the upgrading of the heating and hot-water supply systems.

The income categories of beneficiaries are as follows:

Category • : owners of eligible houses whose declared individual or family income does not exceed 40 000 euros or 60 000 euros respectively. The incentives include a 100% interest-rate subsidy (i.e. an interest-free loan) combined with a grant of 35%.

Category • : owners of eligible houses whose declared individual or family income is between 40 000 and 60 000 euros or 60 000 and 80 000 euros respectively. The incentives include a 100% interest-rate subsidy (i.e. an interest-free loan) combined with a grant of 15%.

The programme started on 1 February 2011 and is still ongoing. To date, around 10 000 applications have been submitted and around 3 500 applications are now at the approval stage.

2. Programmes for improving the energy efficiency of public buildings under Priority Axis 1 "Protection of the Atmospheric Environment & Urban Transport – Tackling Climate Change – Renewable Energy Sources" of the Operational Programme "Environment and Sustainable Development"

In particular, the following funding actions have already been promoted:

- installation of high-efficiency CHP units in conjunction with natural gas cooling systems in hospitals, with a budget of 15 000 000. This action is ongoing and so far three applications have been filed;
- demonstration projects for the use of renewable energy sources and energy-saving measures in existing public primary and secondary school buildings, with a budget of 40 000 000. This action is ongoing and so far ten applications have been filed;
- standard demonstration projects for the use of renewable energy sources and energy saving in public buildings, with a budget of 40 000 000. For this action, 63 applications have been submitted with a budget of 120 000 000 euros, and are currently in the evaluation phase;
- demonstration project entitled "Green Neighbourhood", with a budget of 7 000 000 euros. It involves an energy upgrade of four residential apartment blocks in buildings with almost zero energy consumption, and the optimisation of the local micro-climate. The project is in the implementation phase and it is estimated that the works will be completed by the end of 2012, involving the incorporation of modern energy-saving technology and renewable resources to achieve maximum possible benefit at minimum cost. It is important that a large number of Greek industries and commercial companies participate and contribute by donating entire sections of the project, in accordance with the voluntary agreements which they have signed.

3. "Building the Future" Project

The "Building the Future" project is a comprehensive programme to improve the energy efficiency of the building stock of Greece. It is a partnership between the public sector, the manufacturing industry and citizens and includes a total of twelve interventions on residential and commercial buildings (replacement of frames with high-standard equivalents, replacement of single-glazing with low-energy double-glazing, installation of solar-powered central heating systems, installation of cool roofs, rooftop insulation, façade insulation, replacement of conventional heating and cooling systems by high efficiency systems, replacement of artificial lighting, replacement or installation of advanced energy control systems).

The project is now in the planning stage and is based on the voluntary agreements between the public and private sectors, under which the parties responsible for interventions (manufacturers and suppliers of products, installers, service providers) are obliged to offer special substantial discounts for citizens.

4. Integrated municipal energy planning - "Let's save Energy" (" ") programme

The "Let's save energy" programme concerns the implementation of measures and proven best practices to reduce energy consumption in the urban environment, focussing first on the building sector (public buildings) and the upgrading of public areas, and secondly on the public and private transport sector and energy-intensive community facilities through the provision of technical intervention and actions to raise awareness and mobilise citizens, local government, businesses and organisations. The programme is in the evaluation phase for the proposals submitted.

In particular Priority Axis 1 of the programme refers to interventions on existing public buildings and concerns the improvement of energy efficiency in existing public buildings and especially an overall reduction in consumption by 30%, i.e. 11.14 GWh (958 toe) per year, of which 7.8 GWh is heat energy and 3.34 GWh is electrical. The annual CO₂ savings amounts to 4.97 kt.

5. The "Change Your Air-Conditioning" action (completed for consumers on 22 August 2009)

The "Change Your Air-Conditioning" action provides financial support for the replacement and recycling of old, inefficient domestic air-conditioning systems. The grant amounts to 35% of the retail sale price of each new device, with a maximum grant of 500 euros. A total of 141 323 old air-conditioning systems have been replaced and recycled under this measure. This figure is three times the original target of 45 000. Similarly, the budget for the action amounted to 46 900 000 euros, compared to the original budget of 15 million euros, due to increased demand and the strong consumer response.

This measure has been completed with energy savings of 52.53 GWh/year and a decrease in CO₂ emissions of 46.22 kt/year.

6. Tax relief

In accordance with the Income Tax Code (as amended by Act 3943/2011 – Government Gazette Series I, No 66 of 2011), provision is made for the deduction of expenses from taxable income of 20% of expenditure for amounts of up to 3 000 euros and of 10% of expenditure for amounts of between 3 001 and 6 000 euros, for energy-upgrading interventions which are included in projects under the Operational Programme "Environment – Sustainable Development" in the framework of the NRSF or for energy-upgrading interventions on property, which may be required following an energy inspection.

7. Urban incentives

In accordance with the General Building Rules, for buildings with a maximum height of 8.50 metres and for bio-climate buildings regardless of height, an additional increase in the authorised volume coefficient is given, if an energy study provides for such need.

Please note that the above-mentioned measures will also be included in the second Energy Efficiency Action Plan (as referred to in Article 14(2) of Directive 2006/32/• C and as set out in our national legislation in Article 6 of Act 3855/2010).

Special Secretary

Margarita Karavasili