

# Decret d'Ecoeficiencia (Catalunya, Spain)

## Summary

The Decree aims at regulating the criteria for the sustainability of buildings in Catalonia, promote social consciousness in the way to conceive, design, build and use buildings in a sustainable way. Four action fields have been established within the decree: water, energy (including solar thermal), materials, construction methods and waste.



## Ordinance Facts

<b>Ordinance title</b>	Decret d'Ecoeficiencia
<b>Type of ordinance</b>	Solar thermal ordinance
<b>Starting date</b>	Adopted in February 2006 and entered into force in August 2006.
<b>Duration</b>	Unlimited.
<b>Geographical area</b>	Region of Catalonia.
<b>No. of inhabitants</b>	about 7 millions; 32,000 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Scope</b>	New and existing buildings subject to major renovations (only building facades are left); old buildings which use will be changed. Building types: residential, collective residential (hotels, guesthouses, retirement residences, hostels), educational, health-care and sport centers.
<b>Technology priorities</b>	Solar thermal.
<b>Size of the solar heating system required</b>	The hot water demand is based on fixed figures, according to the building use and to inhabitants.
<b>Alternative measures</b>	It is allowed to apply other technologies (RES, cogeneration and heat recovery).
<b>Executing authority</b>	The Catalan Government.
<b>Execution mechanism</b>	There were external (national and international) forces (Ley de Ordenación de la Edificación and the Kyoto Protocol) and internal forces (by the end of 2006, 55 solar ordinances had entered into force in Catalonia as local initiatives) that encourage the Catalan Government implementing the Decree.

## Development and Implementation

<b>Background</b>	The building stock in Catalonia is responsible of 40% of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions. Additionally, there is a trend to increase the primary energy consumption from non renewable sources in a great number of buildings. Increase of water consumption due to the low resource price. Resistance to apply strategies for a rational waste management in the construction sector.
<b>Objectives</b>	Technical and innovation development, decrease of expenses on fossil fuels, avoidance of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, jobs creation and improvement on living quality.
<b>Process</b>	It is a regional initiative, born as a consequence of following international and national initiatives: - The framework of the Kyoto Protocol

- The National law 38/1999, November 5th, the Town Planning and development Act (Ley de Ordenación de la Edificación), related to building requirements that ensure environment protection

<b>Timing</b>	Six months were needed for the Decree to come into force.
<b>Quality schemes product</b>	yes
<b>Quality schemes installation</b>	no
<b>Quality schemes other</b>	yes
<b>Flanking measures</b>	Awareness campaign on boiler renovations. The Economy & Finance Department issues certified licenses to installers. Training courses on energy audits and energy management.
<b>Supervision</b>	Not clear yet. Probably quite similar to the procedures used in Barcelona Ordinance, since checks are carried out at municipal level.
<b>Sanctioning fees</b>	Probably similar to the Barcelona Ordinance.
<b>Costs for implementing</b>	No cost borne by the administration side because the solar ordinance is embedded in the Decret d'Ecoeficiencia.

### Monitoring and Results

<b>Monitoring</b>	ICAEN is monitoring the Collector surface installed. Results are not yet available.
<b>Quantitative results</b>	According to the Catalonian Energy Plan, it is expected to install 1,250,000 m <sup>2</sup> of solar thermal by 2015. Results at local level: 120,000 m <sup>2</sup> by 2006.
<b>Costs borne by the enduser</b>	0,32-0,41% increase per m <sup>2</sup> built.
<b>Effects on other sectors</b>	Not defined.
<b>Communication</b>	Not defined.
<b>Future outlook</b>	Not defined.

### Lessons Learned

<b>Barriers faced and overcome</b>	Not available yet. More time is required to test the Decree.
<b>Success factors</b>	Not available yet. More time is required to test the Decree.
<b>Potential for improvement</b>	Some measures are: simplify the legislative framework, better controlling and monitoring measures, capacity building of professionals, awareness raising.
<b>Recommendations</b>	Not available yet. More time is required to test the Decree.

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