

EPBD on the horizon

Building renovation passports. The tool that aims at zero-emission buildings by 2050.

By May 2026, EU Member States, including Poland, are to implement a system of building renovation passports, which will help renovate buildings towards zero-carbon in line with EU climate targets.

The documents will contain detailed information on energy performance, renovation plans and available funding sources, and will require inspection by qualified professionals. While in principle the system is intended to be voluntary for owners, Member States can make its application mandatory, while providing financial support to those households most in need.

EU measures to tackle climate change provide that buildings should be zero-emission, preferably well before 2050. One of the tools to help to achieve this will be building renovation passports. Poland, like other EU Member States, will have to introduce a system of building renovation passports by the **end of May 2026** at the latest.

What will the building renovation passports be?

Building renovation passports will be documents in digital format containing information regarding, among other things:

- the current energy performance of the building;
- an action plan and phases for a phased major renovation (with specific targets to be achieved and estimated energy savings);
- the share of planned renewable energy generation and consumption;
- available opportunities to improve the closure cycle of construction products and reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the life cycle of construction products;
- available sources of funding for renovation, as well as information on technical assistance and advisory services for renovation.



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Mandatory or voluntary?

Under the EPBD, the renovation passport system is to be essentially voluntary for owners. However, the Member States will be able to make their preparation **mandatory for certain types of buildings**.

It will also be possible to combine the procedure for issuing an energy performance certificate with a building renovation passport.

Such a document **will have to be issued by suitably qualified persons** and, once issued, the building owner will have the right to consult an expert to discuss the most appropriate measures which will contribute to the transformation of the object in question into a zero-carbon building by 2050.

National database

The building renovation passports will be included in a dedicated national database, which will contain information on the energy performance of:

- individual buildings, and
- the national building stock.

Support for households

The EPBD states that renovation passports should be affordable. In addition, vulnerable households which want to renovate their buildings should receive **appropriate financial support from the state**.

It should be borne in mind that the EPBD has not yet undergone the process of implementation into the Polish legal order, which involves the possibility of introducing exceptions to the aforementioned provisions, as well as the risk of the Polish legislator adopting even more ambitious objectives regarding renovation passports.

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