

Ökologische Gebäudesanierung - Wertschöpfung für die Region durch eine Sanierungsoffensive

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Abstract

The Kyoto treaty against global warming came into force on February 16th, 2005 due to the ratification of Russia last October. Under the Kyoto Protocol to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), industrialized countries are to reduce their combined emissions of six major greenhouse gases during the five-year period from 2008 to 2012 to below 1990 levels. Austria has the target to cut these emissions by 8% in this period. Additionally it was committed to implement the EU directive on the energy performance of building.

In Austria the main originators of greenhouse gases are the sectors industry (25%) and traffic (25%) followed by the energy (18%) and construction sector (17%). The construction industry can accomplish a considerable contribution in reducing greenhouse gases, supported by an adequate framework and a target-oriented housing promotion system.

Recent calculations show that three quarters of the energy consumption for heating buildings is needed in the residential construction sector. Former WIFO papers indicate that buildings established in the period between 1945 and 1980 show the highest energy savings potential. The housing stock built within this period covers about 27.000 dwellings in the region "East Styria" and about 14.000 buildings in "Southeast Styria". A total renovation potential of 60.000 dwellings can be derived in both regions, if also the constructed buildings before 1945 are taken into consideration. A WIFO paper from 2002 analyzed that a 2% rate of renovation is necessary to fulfil the Kyoto-aim in Austria. Therefore annual investments in thermal renovation of about 525 Mio. € would be necessary. Accordingly the region East- and Southeast Styria would need to invest about 20 Mio. € per year to achieve the Kyoto objective. This could create or secure 240 jobs in this area. These jobs could be mainly created in the construction sector (43%). Beside the construction industry the ceramic sector (6%), the credit system (4%), the real estate sector (4% and the wood and service sector (3% each) would profit most.

In the last years it is more and more evident that economic growth can not be explained only by capital and labour. Innovations take an always more important part. There is also a high pressure on the construction sector which is forced to produce more flexible, ecological, cost and space efficient high quality buildings to be competitive in the future. A slight increase in patent registration in the construction sector can be derived, but all in all the research and development expenses of the Austrian construction industry are decreasing from a very low level.