CONTEXT: Energy use in buildings worldwide accounts for over 40% of primary energy use and 24% of greenhouse gas emissions. Energy use and emissions include both direct, on-site use of fossil-fuels and indirect use from electricity, district heating / cooling systems and embodied energy in construction materials. Several International Energy Agency (IEA) countries have adopted a vision of so-called ‘net zero energy buildings’ as long-term goal of their energy policies. However, what is missing is a clear definition and international agreement on the measures of building performance that could inform ‘zero energy’ building policies, programmes and industry adoption around the world.

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the joint Task/Annex “Towards Net Zero Energy Solar Buildings” is to study current net-zero, near net-zero and very low energy buildings and to develop a common understanding of a harmonised international definitions framework, tools, innovative solutions and industry guidelines. To achieve this objective the Task/Annex will document and propose practical NZEB demonstration projects, with convincing architectural quality.

SCOPE: The Task/Annex will cover major building types (both residential and non-residential), new and existing, for the climatic zones represented by the participating countries. Individual buildings, clusters of buildings and small settlements will be considered.

AIM: To support the conversion of the NZEB concept from an idea into practical reality in the marketplace. Demonstrating and documenting real projects will also lower industry resistance to adoption of these concepts.

STATUS: On-going to September 2013.

RESEARCH STREAMS

Subtask A: Definitions & Implications
Activity A1: NZEB definitions framework
Activity A2: Monitoring, verification and compliance guide
Activity A3: Grid interactions

Subtask B: Design Processus & Tools
Activity B1: Processes and tools
Activity B2: Pre-concept design, feasibility tools
Activity B3: Tools guide and worked examples

Subtask C: Solution Sets (Design, Engineering, Technologies)
Activity C1: NZEB STC Database:
Activity C2: Analysis Matrix
Activity C3: Research analysis of themes undertaken
Activity C4: STC Source Book

Subtask D: Dissemination & Outreach
Activity D1: NZEB web page
Activity D2: Reports production, Source book(s): Vols. 1, 2 and 3
Activity D3: Education network for PhD students and summer schools
Activity D4: Outreach (conferences, seminars, workshops etc.)

http://www.iea-shc.org/task40/
PRODUCTS

- A source book, targeting specific groups such as national policy makers, industry and industry associations, utilities, academic and funding programme managers
- An international education network
- Expansion of the US DOE High Performance Buildings Databases with ‘as-designed’ and ‘as-achieved’
- Knowledge transfer portal / web-site

Task 40 / Annex 52

SUBTASK (ST) LEADERS

STA

Karsten Voss
Bergische Universität Wuppertal
Haspeler Straße 27
42285 Wuppertal, Germany
Phone: 0049 (0)202 439 4094
Fax: 0049 (0)202 439 4296
E-Mail: kvoss@uni-wuppertal.de
Web: www.btga.uni-wuppertal.de

STA

Assunta Napolitano
EURAC Research Institute for Renewable Energy
Viale Druso n°1, 39100 Bozen/Bolzano, Italy
Phone: +39 0471 055 651
Fax: +39 0471 055 699
E-Mail: assunta.napolitano@eurac.edu
Web: www.eurac.edu

STB

Andreas Athienitis
Prof. & Concordia Research Chair Tier I
Dept. of Building, Civil and Env. Eng.
Concordia University
1455 Maisonneuve W.
Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3G 1M8
Tel. + 1) 514 848-2424 Ext. 8791,
Fax + 1) 514-848-7965
E-Mail: aathieni@encs.concordia.ca
Web: www.solarbuildings.ca

STB

Adam Hirsch
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
1617 Cole Blvd.
Golden, Colorado 80401-3305, USA
Phone: + 303-384-7874 fax
Fax: + 303-384-7540
E-Mail: adam.hirsch@nrel.gov
Web: www.nrel.gov/about

STC

François Garde
ESIROI-CODE/Labo PIMENT
Université de La Réunion
Campus Université Sud
117 rue Général Ailleret
97430 Le Tampon, Ile de La Réunion
Phone: +262 692 67 20 51
Fax : +262 262 57 95 41
E-Mail: garde@univ-reunion.fr
Web: www.univ-reunion.fr

STC

Michael Donn
Victoria University of Wellington
School of Architecture
PO Box 600, 139 Vivian St.
Wellington, New Zealand
Phone: +64 4 463 6221
Fax: +64 4 463 6204
E-Mail: michael.donn@vuw.ac.nz
Web: www.victoria.ac.nz/home

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

The International Energy Agency (IEA) was established as an autonomous body within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974, with the purpose of strengthening co-operation in the vital area of energy policy. As one element of this programme, member countries take part in various energy research, development and demonstration activities. The Energy Conservation in Buildings and Community Systems Programme has sponsored various research Annexes associated with energy prediction, monitoring and energy efficiency measures in both new and existing buildings. The results have provided much valuable information about the state of the art of building analysis and have led to further IEA sponsored research.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Canada
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New Zealand
Norway
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
USA

OSERVER

The Netherlands

SHC Vision
The greater use of solar designs and technologies in the built environment, and for agricultural and industrial process heat.

ECBCS Vision
For near-zero primary energy use and carbon emission solutions to be adopted in buildings and communities, where energy is produced on demand.

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OPERATING AGENT
(Std Leader)

Josef Ayoub
CanmetENERGY/Natural Resources Canada
P.O. Box 4800, Varennes, Québec, CANADA J3X 1S6
Phone: + (1) 450-652-1981 / Fax: + (1) 450-652-5177
E-mail: josef.ayoub@nrcan.gc.ca
Web: www.canmetenergy.nrcan.gc.ca