



Press Release

A central property database as a prerequisite for achieving climate targets in the building sector

February 2024 - The discussion paper published today by the German government's Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee (SFB) presents recommendations for overcoming current challenges in the German building sector. According to the SFB, a lack of transparency regarding the energy data of buildings not only makes it more difficult to achieve Germany's climate targets, but also harbours risks for financial stability.

Germany's property assets amount to 16.9 trillion euros, around four times the country's economic output, and play a key role in wealth creation. At the same time, the building sector is a key sector for climate protection, as it is responsible for around 40% of CO₂ emissions. However, efforts to reduce these emissions to date have fallen short of Germany's self-imposed climate targets. The lack of valid energy-related building data contributes to this. In contrast to other European countries, there is no overview of the energy efficiency of properties in Germany, which also makes it difficult to control them. In addition, a lack of reliable data means that risks for financial institutions and their portfolios remain inappropriately addressed, e.g. through the inaccurate valuation of property investments.

"The German climate targets depend on the heat transition - the financial system needs data as a basis for financing decisions. Without a performing database, which is currently lacking in Europe and Germany, the potential cannot be realised," comments Matthias Kopp from WWF, who led the working group.

The SFB therefore emphasises the need to set up a building database at federal level as quickly as possible. Only by setting up a central database can climate protection in the building sector be driven forward in a planned manner and at the same time minimise risks for financial institutions and financial stability as a whole.

According to the paper, the following are of particular importance for their implementation:

- Merging the already planned projects on the building stock into a modular database
- Accelerating the processes for implementing ongoing projects and closing technical and infrastructural gaps for data provision
- Clarifying the legal basis, such as data protection requirements

Silke Stremlau, Chairwoman of the SFB, explains: *"Transparent data on the energy efficiency of our properties is a key prerequisite for the financial market to be able to make its contribution to the rapid refurbishment of the building stock in Germany. A modular and easily accessible database can be a win-win situation for banks, homeowners and the state."*

The full final report is available on the [website](#) of the Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee.

Contact SFB

SFB-Geschaefsstelle@bmf.bund.de

Tel.: +49 3018 682 3069

Responsibility for content under German media law: Silke Stremlau, Chair of the Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee of the German Federal Government

The Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee

The German Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee advises the German Federal Government on sustainability aspects in the financial system. Consisting of 34 experts from the financial sector, the real economy, civil society and academia, and supported by 19 observers, it acts independently. It supports the German Federal Government in the implementation and further development of the German Sustainable Finance Strategy and advises relevant stakeholders on how to position themselves.