

May 2026

Dear Minister,

Ensuring energy security through ambitious National Building Renovation Plans

The ongoing energy crisis triggered by recent disruptions linked to the conflict in Iran is already making life more expensive for households and businesses across Europe. Without decisive action, this pressure is likely to intensify in the months ahead.

The World Green Building Council's Europe Regional Network, representing 24 Green Building Councils, more than 4,000 member organisations and six private-sector partners, believes that Europe's continued reliance on imported fossil fuels leaves our economies vulnerable, undermines long-term energy security, and increases the risk of energy price volatility and energy poverty for households.

Improving the energy performance of buildings is the fastest and most reliable way to reduce demand and strengthen Europe's energy security. This, and replacing fossil fuel heating systems with clean alternatives, can substantially lower energy use, reduce exposure to volatile global markets, and deliver lower, more stable energy bills for citizens.

The development of National Building Renovation Plans (NBRPs), as required under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), provides a timely opportunity to ensure that Sweden is resilient, competitive, and prepared for the future. NBRPs are intended to provide a clear national pathway for reducing energy demand, scaling up clean heating and improving housing quality and affordability.

We encourage the government to publish its draft NBRP without delay and open it for public consultation, incorporating the following elements to help address the energy crisis and support households:

1. Reduce energy demand

Set binding targets for improving the energy efficiency of the worst-performing buildings, to rapidly cut energy demand and protect households from future price shocks.

2. Reduce fossil fuel dependence

Accelerate electrification measures to strengthen energy security and reduce exposure to global fossil fuel markets, supporting the transition to clean heating solutions.

3. Ensure fairness

Ensure renovation finance is suitable and accessible for low-income households and those in energy poverty, so that the transition is affordable and socially just.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these recommendations further and stand ready to support the government in developing a credible, ambitious and socially fair National Building Renovation Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Cristina Gamboa,
CEO,
World Green Building Council

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