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The potential of climate renovation

The VELUX Group makes its case in this year's G8 Summit publication "G8 Climate Change – The New Economy".

As buildings account for 40% of energy demand, they also play an essential role in solving the challenge of reducing the world's energy consumption. We can get most of the way to achieving Europe's 2020 carbon emission target by halving the energy use in existing buildings with solutions available and scalable today. This would not only generate increased economic activity and jobs but also improve the living conditions of the people living, working and playing inside these buildings; and it would minimise the environmental impact of buildings – a triple bottom line gain.

90% of today's buildings will still be in use in 2050, so existing buildings offer a new opportunity for climate renovation and for exploiting hitherto unleashed potential. Recent studies project that an average of up to 1 million jobs could be generated in the period 2011-2050 if renovation of existing buildings were accelerated.

However, it is not enough to look at societal parameters and to create buildings that are energy efficient and close to carbon neutral. We also need to ensure that buildings support and nurture important human factors, such as health and well-being, through a comfortable indoor climate based on daylight and fresh air through the roof.

LichtAktiv Haus in Hamburg is one of several demonstration buildings initiated by the VELUX Group to show how we can meet the 2020 goals. The existing house was climate renovated to Active House principles and exemplifies that it is possible to improve energy efficiency and indoor climate, with minimal environmental impact, using the knowledge and the materials available today.

These key learning points are presented in the VELUX contribution to the G8 magazine "G8. Climate Change – The New Economy" released at the 39th G8 Summit.

Read the VELUX Group article "Climate renovation holds a huge potential" in the web version of the G8 magazine, page 32-35: <http://view.digipage.net/go/g8climatechange2013/>

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Editors' notes

About the VELUX Group

The VELUX Group creates better living environments with daylight and fresh air through the roof. The VELUX product programme contains a wide range of roof windows and skylights, along with solutions for flat roofs. The Group also supplies many types of decoration and sun screening, roller shutters, installation products, products for remote control and thermal solar panels for installation in roofs. The VELUX Group, which has manufacturing companies in 11 countries and sales companies in just under 40 countries, represents one of the strongest brands in the global building materials sector and its products are sold in most parts of the world. The VELUX Group has about 10,000 employees and is owned by VKR Holding A/S, a limited company wholly owned by foundations and family. For more details, visit www.velux.com.