

Green Infrastructure

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WFEO

Green infrastructure is a **strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas** with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation.

Green infrastructure planning is a successfully tested tool to provide **environmental, economic and social benefits through natural solutions**.

The European Commission has developed a **Green Infrastructure Strategy**. This strategy aims to ensure that the protection, restoration, creation and enhancement of green infrastructure become an integral part of spatial planning and territorial development whenever it offers a better alternative, or is complementary, to standard grey choices, and introduces **Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEBs)** which have very high energy performance.

The [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) requires all new buildings to be nearly zero-energy by the end of 2020. All new public buildings must be nearly zero-energy by 2018. EU countries have to draw up national plans to increase the number of NZEBs.

The energy efficiency of buildings is one of the key strategic themes which in recent years have risen to the top of the European and international agendas. The EU has launched major programmes, projects and directives, such as Directives 2002/91/EC and 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings, Directive 2006/32/EC on energy services and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency, in order to deploy harmonised and shared tools, criteria and solutions for increasing the energy efficiency of both existing and new buildings.

In Italy promoting the energy efficiency of buildings is a top national priority, in view of the saving opportunities achievable in this field and of the priority given by the National Energy Strategy (NES) to energy efficiency.