WHAT'S YOUR LEVEL?

Your score

0-4 – Hmmm, it looks like there is still a lot about the Renovation Wave for you to discover.
5-8 – Not bad – you have the Renovation Wave basics covered but are still missing a few details.
9-10 – Good job! You really know your Renovation Wave by heart!

Correct Answers & Explanation

Q1. Which of these actions is not part of the main priorities of the Renovation Wave?
Correct Answer (3): More effective local recycling initiatives
The three focus areas for building renovation are a) tackling energy poverty and worst-performing buildings; b) renovating public buildings, such as administrative, educational and healthcare facilities and c) decarbonising heating and cooling. These areas should be considered as a priority for policy and financing, because they offer huge potential for increasing renovation rates, while delivering large energy savings and healthier and more comfortable buildings for citizens.
Source: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/eu_renovation_wave_strategy.pdf

Q2. The Renovation Wave aims to match sustainability with style. What is the name of the project that will nurture a new European aesthetic?
Correct Answer (1): The New European Bauhaus
The New European Bauhaus will act as an incubator for innovation and creativity to drive sustainable design across Europe and beyond, that is also appealing and affordable for citizens. It is an interdisciplinary project that will create experimental spaces where art, culture, science and technology can interact.
It will have two dimensions. The first is a network of thinkers, planners, architects, entrepreneurs, students and citizens working together to develop sustainability in style. The second dimension will consist of real existing building projects across the EU.
Source: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/eu_renovation_wave_strategy.pdf

Q3. What is the main objective of the Renovation Wave?
Correct Answer (2): Double the annual energy and resource renovation rate of buildings by 2030.
The objective is to at least double the annual energy and resource renovation rate of residential and non-residential buildings by 2030 and to foster deep renovations. Mobilising forces at all levels towards these goals will result in 35 million building units renovated by 2030. The increased rate and depth of renovation will have to be maintained post-2030 in order to reach EU-wide climate neutrality by 2050.
Source: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/eu_renovation_wave_strategy.pdf

Q4. Which kind of buildings will be in focus when the Commission develops green public procurement criteria based on Level(s)?

Correct Answer (2): Offices and schools

By June 2022, the Commission will look into the possibility to develop green public procurement criteria for public buildings such as office buildings and schools related to life-cycle and climate resilience and based on Level(s).

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/eu_renovation_wave_strategy.pdf

Q5. An additional noted benefit of the Renovation Wave is…

Correct Answer (3): the creation of over 160,000 jobs.

Renovation works are labour-intensive, create jobs and investments rooted in often local supply chains, can generate demand for highly energy and resource-efficient equipment and bring long-term value to properties. By 2030 an additional 160 000 green jobs could be created in the EU construction sector through a renovation wave. This can be very valuable for a sector where more than 90% of the operators are SMEs, hard hit by the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Already before the COVID-19 crisis, there was a shortage of qualified workers to carry out sustainable building renovation and modernisation. The potential for job retention and creation in this sector has been and remains large.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/eu_renovation_wave_strategy.pdf

Q6. The Renovation Wave aims to tackle energy poverty in Europe. How many Europeans are currently unable to keep their home adequately warm?

Correct Answer (3): 34 million

With nearly 34 million Europeans unable to afford keeping their home adequately warm, tackling energy poverty is an urgent task for the EU and its Member States. Each year, 800,000 social housing units need renovation, requiring an estimated EUR 57 billion of additional funding per year. Inefficient buildings are often synonymous with energy poverty and social problems. This often means that people with low incomes have little control over their energy expenditure, causing a vicious circle of high energy bills, arrears and problems with wellbeing and health. People in inefficient buildings are more exposed to cold spells, heatwaves and other impacts of climate change. Inadequate comfort and sanitary conditions in housing and work environments, such as inadequate indoor temperatures, deficient air quality and exposure to harmful chemicals and materials, contribute to lower productivity, health problems and higher mortality and morbidity.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/eu_renovation_wave_strategy.pdf

Q7. The renovation wave announced that the Commission will develop a roadmap. What will it be about?

Correct Answer (1): Reducing whole life carbon

The Commission promotes environmental sustainability of building solutions and materials, including wood and bio-based materials, nature-based solutions and recycled materials on the basis of a comprehensive life-cycle assessment approach. It will address the sustainability performance of construction products in the context of its revision of the Construction Product Regulation and it will develop by 2023 a roadmap leading up to 2050 for reducing whole life-cycle carbon emissions in buildings. The Commission will also accelerate work with standardisation organisations on climate resilience standards for buildings.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/eu_renovation_wave_strategy.pdf

Q8. What percentage of EU buildings were built over 20 years ago?

Correct Answer (1): 85%

Europe's building stock is both unique and heterogeneous, given that it expresses the cultural diversity and history of our continent. But not surprisingly, it is also old and changes very slowly. More than 220 million building units, representing 85% of the EU's building stock, were built before 2001. 85-95% of the buildings that exist today will still be standing in 2050. Most of those existing buildings are not energy efficient. Many rely on fossil fuels for heating and cooling and use old technologies and wasteful appliances

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/eu_renovation_wave_strategy.pdf

Q9. According to a study for the European Environment Agency, what proportion of greenhouse gases emitted across the total life cycle of buildings can be saved by taking circular economy actions?

Correct Answer (3): 60%

Circular economy actions can lead to reductions of up to 60 % in the materials-related greenhouse gases emitted across the life cycles of buildings. Each of a building's life cycle stages, from design, production and use to demolition and waste management, offers rich opportunity for greater circularity and emission reductions. Steel, cement and concrete are some of the most emission-intensive materials used in constructing buildings. These can be cut down if the demand for such materials is reduced through smarter design and production as well as reusing and recycling these materials at the end of building's life cycle. Other actions ranging from increasing occupancy rate to improved maintenance that extends a building's lifetime also offer good potential to reduce emissions.

More information about the study here.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/eu_renovation_wave_strategy.pdf

Q10. What is the digital tool being developed by the European Commission to be used to store data over a building's life time?

Correct Answer (2): The Digital Building Logbook

Deep renovation is not always achievable in one go. It is therefore important to create better conditions for staged renovation. The Commission will introduce Digital Building Logbooks that will integrate all building related data provided by the upcoming Building Renovation Passports, Smart Readiness Indicators, Level(s) and EPCs to ensure compatibility and integration of data throughout the renovation journey. The Digital Building Logbook will bring together all relevant building data and make sure the right person has access to the right information, at the right time. This would facilitate circularity in the construction and building sector, optimise operation and maintenance, and enable better-informed decisions.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/eu_renovation_wave_strategy.pdf