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The potential of energy efficiency

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### **Summary**

Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving climate and energy policy objectives. The reduced energy costs help improve economic competitiveness and the new jobs generated boost regional development. Enhancing energy efficiency is therefore a policy objective which not only fulfils environmental aims but also makes a major contribution towards achieving the Lisbon Strategy objectives of strengthening the competitiveness of the European economy and creating new jobs.

Making buildings energy efficient is the area in which there is the greatest potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Measures in this sector are also the cheapest way of reducing emissions. In Slovenia, legislation on the subject is still only at the earliest preparatory stage. Slovenia recently adopted a National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, but policy decisions on its implementation still remain to be taken. Maximum advantage should be taken of energy efficiency, as the most cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with a view to achieving the Kyoto targets and ambitious EU climate-energy objectives for 2020.