



B&Q Energy Efficiency Policy and Buying Standard

August 2010

socialresponsibility
Community | Diversity | Ethical | Environment

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The Purpose behind our work on energy efficiency

The rising cost of energy and the contribution towards UK climate emissions means that B&Q has a huge role to play in ensuring our products are as energy efficient as possible. In addition to launching new installed products and services, increasing the availability of advice and labelling, we will also continue to drive the market to increase procurement efficiency. We are concerned about embedded efficiency and will work with our suppliers to lower the impact of production through eco design.

Introduction

B&Q aims to:

- Encourage our customers to improve the energy efficiency of their homes
- Clearly label products with their energy consumption.
- Improve the energy efficiency of the products we stock, phasing out higher consumption models
- Proactively develop markets for innovative new products for the home that lower costs and carbon emissions for customers .
- Report on the energy efficiency of the products we sell

Raising Awareness of Energy Efficiency

B&Q will encourage customers to improve the energy efficiency of their homes via our 'One Planet Home' campaigns. We will

- Provide information on the energy use and methods customers use to reduce their energy consumption
- Provide goods, products and services that assist our customers in understanding where they are using energy in their home e.g. home audit information
- Identify and engage with the Trade (B2B) sector through the provision of relevant information, goods, products and services
- Fully implement the energy saving measures contained within the Energy Using Products Directive (EuP).

Enabling Choice through labelling

Energy labelling enables customers to make an informed choice about the products they buy. B&Q will

- Continue to ensure compliance with existing labelling schemes
- Encourage our suppliers to achieve the Energy Saving Trust's (EST) "Energy Saving Recommended" status for their products and ensure the is displayed on all qualifying products.
- Encourage suppliers to clearly label the energy consumption of products and help customers to gain a better understanding of how efficient the product performs in terms of everyday use.

Maximising Efficiency

We will increase the energy efficient products we offer customers, for example –

- At the end of 2010, all domestic washing machines, dishwashers, electric cookers, fridges fridge freezers will be classified as A rated or above according to the EU energy labelling standards
- Purchase air conditioning that is A rated or above for all new products coming into B&Q
- Work with suppliers to improve the energy efficiency of their products and factories, encouraging the provision of energy saving features and in aiding the understanding customers have of the issues involved.
- Work towards stopping selling products that use large amounts of energy with little benefit e.g. wine coolers.
- Review our range of solid fuels on sale, including coal and work to secure a sustainable wood fuel range.

Product Innovation

- B&Q will proactively develop the market for alternative energy sources, both for application within customers homes and throughout our store estate. We will encourage Research and Development (R&D) to drive innovation and bring enabling technology to the mass market.
- We will help our customers to access new products and services that help to drive reductions in energy usage in the home

Reporting

We will capture the following information annually and use to report appropriate KPI's:

- Energy rating of key product lines, e.g. proportion of washing machines reaching at least an A rating.
- Progress on labelling (particularly) own brand goods with energy information
- Level and impact of information campaigns

The Future

We will monitor the effectiveness of this strategy with the aim of gradually phasing out inefficient products and increase the proportion of efficient product we sell.