Buildings (New Construction & Renovation)

Source Metadata

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EU Taxonomy Definition

The buildings sector covers construction of new buildings and major renovation of existing buildings that achieve substantially lower energy demand and carbon emissions than regulatory baselines. Activities include construction of nearly zero-energy buildings (NZEB), deep energy renovation achieving at least 30% primary energy demand reduction, installation of energy-efficient equipment (heat pumps, insulation, smart building controls), and acquisition and ownership of energy-efficient buildings. The 2026 revision aligns criteria with the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and introduces whole-life carbon assessment requirements.

Technical Screening Criteria Summary

New construction must achieve primary energy demand at least 10% below the national NZEB standard, with the 2026 revision introducing lifecycle GHG thresholds for the full building. Renovation activities must achieve at least 30% reduction in primary energy demand or qualify as major renovation under the EPBD. Buildings must have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated A or demonstrate top-15% national performance. Heating systems must not use fossil fuels, with specific heat pump efficiency requirements (SCOP above 3.0). Airtightness and thermal bridging requirements apply to both new and renovated buildings.

Do No Significant Harm (DNSH)

Building activities must address adaptation (climate resilience of structures, flood and heat risk assessment), water (water-efficient fixtures meeting specified flow rates), circular economy (construction and demolition waste management plans with at least 70% material recovery), pollution (low-VOC materials, formaldehyde limits, radon protection), and biodiversity (no construction on arable land, greenfield, or designated conservation areas without compensation measures).

LATAM Relevance

Green building certification in LATAM (EDGE, LEED, CASA Colombia) increasingly references EU-aligned energy performance metrics to attract European green finance. Colombian cities like Bogotá and Medellín have growing sustainable construction sectors where EU Taxonomy-aligned standards influence building codes and green mortgage products. The IFC's EDGE certification widely used in LATAM provides a bridge to EU Taxonomy building criteria.

Colombia Green Finance Taxonomy Alignment

The TVC covers green buildings with emphasis on energy efficiency, sustainable materials, and water efficiency. Alignment is partial — Colombia uses national building code (NSR-10, RETIE, RETILAP) as baselines rather than EU NZEB standards. The TVC does not require lifecycle carbon assessment or specific EPC ratings, creating methodological gaps despite shared objectives around energy-efficient construction.

Cleantech Taxonomy Crosswalk

Maps to Cleantech Taxonomy sector BU (Buildings) — nodes BU-NEW (new construction), BU-REN (renovation), BU-EQP (building equipment). Cross-references with ES (Energy) for building-integrated renewables and IN (Industry) for construction materials.

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