

ACE (Association for the Conservation of Energy)



The Association for the Conservation of Energy exists to reduce overall energy demand to ensure a secure and sustainable energy future.

It was formed in 1981 by a group of companies responding to the need for raised awareness of energy efficiency and for policy to drive forward the market for products that promote better use of energy, principally in buildings. The role of the organisation is to influence policy makers through lobbying, campaigning and carrying out research to achieve sensible and consistent policy, legislation and targets; it aims to raise a positive awareness of energy conservation and encourage increased investment in all appropriate energy saving measures.

The Association's lobbying and campaigning activity is funded through the support of a limited number of corporate members. These include insulation manufacturers, energy suppliers, distributors and installers of insulation and whole building energy conservation measures, including new technologies such as domestic combined heat and power units. Members who supply other services such as energy performance measurement are also represented.

Research is funded independently, through grants, competitive tenders and commissions. Nearly all the research is published on the Association's website so that it is freely available to academics, researchers and other parties interested in the field. Key areas of research are the links between energy

conservation, fuel poverty, health and access to information; economic barriers to improving the energy efficiency of more difficult properties such as high-rise buildings and older housing stock; the institutional barriers to energy efficiency in the domestic and commercial sectors, and the skills and frameworks needed to deliver sensible energy conservation policies. Social effects such as energy use and behaviour, and employment impacts are also addressed.

The main activity of the parliamentary team is to lobby for improved standards of energy performance in the built environment, mindful of the economic and social benefits that improved performance brings. It works with other interested parties to ensure that clear messages can be understood and acted upon by society. Increased awareness has led to the introduction of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995, which calls, among other things, for local authorities to deliver a 30% improvement in the energy efficiency of housing stock in their area between 1998 and 2010. The Warm Homes Act 2000 led to the implementation of the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy, and the team is currently active in ensuring that the provisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive is appropriately implemented throughout the UK.

The Association also works with its counterpart in Europe, EuroACE, to support the promotion of energy conservation in the European context.

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Main Business Activity

ACE is a not-for-profit company / trade association engaged in research and campaigning