

EU Releases Energy Saving Blueprint

The European Union has released its energy saving blueprint which is aimed at cutting energy waste by 20 per cent by 2020. The comprehensive 75 point plan could cut annual oil imports by 390 million tonnes – twice the amount of oil the EU imports from Russia – erase 780 million tonnes of CO2 emissions and save EU national budgets €100 billion annually. The raft of proposed measures – many of which will require member states and MEPs’ approval – will also impose mandatory standards on 14 groups of household products ranging from light bulbs to TVs and hot water systems. Goods will also be labelled with ecocredential stickers to help change consumer tastes. “You should go both ways, punish the ones who pollute and give strong incentives to the ones who don’t,” energy commissioner Andris Piebalgs said, while unveiling the scheme in Brussels. “What you do, is allow on the market only those products that fulfil minimum energy requirements.” Some analysts say the plan has more chance of succeeding than the commission’s July 2007 target for liberalising the energy market or forging a common energy policy.

[Source essa news]