New ENBUS! smartphone app helps home owners on the way to energy efficiency. Credit: Fraunhofer IAO

The building sector accounts for 40 percent of primary energy consumption in Europe. Home owners seeking for energy efficiency are faced with confusing and sometimes contradictory information. Now, Fraunhofer IAO has developed a smartphone app in the EU project ENBUS! that helps home owners calculate the tangible benefits of energy efficiency measures before investing.

"I'm an energy saver" – today this 1980s slogan is experiencing a revival as part of the "energy efficiency" movement. But just like back then, very few people are doing it purely for environmental reasons, since many products and solutions promise significant savings. Energy efficiency measures are intended not only to sustainably increase a house's value, but also to improve comfort, preserve the building's structure and appeal visually. Above all, the measures must make sense – financially and ecologically. This requires return-on-investment figures laying on the table in advance.

The ENBUS! app is currently available as a prototype for iPhone and iPad. In the future, the software will be rolled out to other platforms and the content will be comprehensively supplemented. The aim is a solution that reproduces real buildings as accurately as possible and is still easy to use. In accordance with the user’s requirements, the system can then make comprehensive proposals for energy efficient improvements based on the individual case.

Provided by Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft