

Article

# Energy Efficiency and GHG Emissions Mapping of Buildings for Decision-Making Processes against Climate Change at the Local Level

Edgar Lorenzo-Sáez <sup>1,\*</sup> , José-Vicente Oliver-Villanueva <sup>1</sup> , Eloina Coll-Aliaga <sup>1</sup>,  
Lenin-Guillermo Lemus-Zúñiga <sup>1</sup> , Victoria Lerma-Arce <sup>1</sup> and Antonio Reig-Fabado <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ICT against Climate Change Research Group, ITACA—Information and Telecommunication Research Institute, Universitat Politècnica de València, Camí de Vera, s/n, 46022 València, Spain; joolvil@upv.es (J.-V.O.-V.); ecol@cgf.upv.es (E.C.-A.); lemus@upvnet.upv.es (L.-G.L.-Z.); vlerma@upv.es (V.L.-A.)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Applied Physics, Universitat Politècnica de València, Camí de Vera, s/n, 46022 València, Spain; areig@fis.upv.es

\* Correspondence: edlosae@upv.es; Tel.: +34-660-048-233

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**Abstract:** Buildings have become a key source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions due to the consumption of primary energy, especially when used to achieve thermal comfort conditions. In addition, buildings play a key role for adapting societies to climate change by achieving more energy efficiency. Therefore, buildings have become a key sector to tackle climate change at the local level. However, public decision-makers do not have tools with enough spatial resolution to prioritise and focus the available resources and efforts in an efficient manner. The objective of the research is to develop an innovative methodology based on a geographic information system (GIS) for mapping primary energy consumption and GHG emissions in buildings in cities according to energy efficiency certificates. The developed methodology has been tested in a representative medium-sized city in Spain, obtaining an accurate analysis that shows 32,000 t of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions due to primary energy consumption of 140 GWh in residential buildings with high spatial resolution at single building level. The obtained results demonstrate that the majority of residential buildings have low levels of energy efficiency and emit an average of 45 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>. Compared to the national average in Spain, this obtained value is on the average, while it is slightly better at the regional level. Furthermore, the results obtained demonstrate that the developed methodology is able to directly identify city districts with highest potential for improving energy efficiency and reducing GHG emissions. Additionally, a data model adapted to the INSPIRE regulation has been developed in order to ensure interoperability and European-wide application. All these results have allowed the local authorities to better define local strategies towards a low-carbon economy and energy transition. In conclusion, public decision-makers will be supported with an innovative and user-friendly GIS-based methodology to better define local strategies towards a low-carbon economy and energy transition in a more efficient and transparent way based on metrics of high spatial resolution and accuracy.

**Keywords:** energy efficiency; buildings; GHG emissions; climate change; GIS; INSPIRE directive; decision-making tool

## 1. Introduction

Climate change adaptation and mitigation have become a central concern of many cities in Europe. Following EU Commission [1], around 65% of European cities with more than 5000 inhabitants have a mitigation plan in place. There is, however, a wide variation among countries. The mayors of

300 EU cities signed the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy [2], pledging to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 40% by 2030 [3]. Many other cities have also signed the covenant, including some from outside the EU. European cities are seeking to reduce both energy consumption and GHG emissions by supporting better thermal insulation of buildings, using more efficient lighting technologies, and promoting new low-energy buildings. However, more will be needed to meet the ambitious EU goal of cutting GHG emissions by 80% by 2050 [4]. Many cities are testing new nature-based solutions to adapt to climate change. Such solutions often also support additional goals such as reducing GHG emissions, pollution, or flood risks [5]. For example, green roofs can help reduce the impact of heat waves and can catch run-off water and reduce the need for cooling [6]. Trees can reduce the heat island effect and reduce air pollution [7–10].

Buildings in urban areas are responsible for approximately 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the EU [11]. This is because 35% of the EU's buildings are over 50-years-old, and 75% of the building stock is energy inefficient, while only 1% of the building stock is renovated each year [1]. Therefore, the building sector has high potential to implement measures to reduce energy consumption [12]. Accordingly, EU policies are oriented to improve energy efficiency in buildings, e.g., Energy Performance of Buildings Directive [13] and Energy Efficiency Directive [14].

Local governments have to act against climate change with energy transition measures and monitor their impacts. Therefore, local authorities have to define strategically planning in multi-level governance to mitigate and adapt to climate change, especially in their urban development and rehabilitation programmes of the housing stock [15,16]. So, we are facing a scenario in which policies and directives at supra-municipal level should be supported with the commitment of local councils to achieve the targets [17]. Therefore, local authorities must take on the challenge posed by the problem of climate change and turn it into an opportunity. As evidenced, the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy has the purpose to support and foster the efforts of local authorities in the implementation of sustainable energy policies [1]. This agreement has become the main European movement in which local authorities participate, assuming a voluntary commitment to improve energy transition in their territories to significantly reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Public decision-makers have a lack of tools to support strategic planning in a quantitative, objective, and transparent manner. For this reason, public decisions and measures are normally taken based on a Base Emissions Inventory (BEI) or Monitoring Emissions Inventory (MEI) [2]. These inventories are carried out mostly with top-down methodologies using aggregated data (statistical ratios). They allow neither monitoring the impact of the measures taken nor identifying opportunities due to low spatial resolution. Thus, decision-making is currently carried out by mostly following public subsidies lines and not through rigorous and quantitative analysis. In addition, an accurate and monitored energy characterization as well as a quantification of GHG emissions of buildings are necessary:

- (a) To estimate the baseline energy consumption of the building sector, disaggregated by residential, tertiary, and public typologies [18].
- (b) To analyse geospatial distribution of the different levels of energy efficiency and related GHG emissions [19].
- (c) To combine urban energy geospatial characterization to simulate scenarios to determine integrated planning-energy strategies and to support, evaluate, and control sustainable transition measures in cities [20].

For this purpose, various modelling techniques based on top-down and bottom-up approaches allow energy consumptions calculation at city level [21]. Top-down approaches relate the energy consumption of buildings to macroeconomic variables such as population growth and tax revenues that treat the built environment as a black box, and rarely describe in detail the demand characteristics or the performance of building components [22]. On the other hand, bottom-up approaches base their estimations on single buildings analysis [18]. These approaches aim to take into account both the

statistical data and building physics, which generally achieve a comprehensive characterization of energy services at any spatial or temporal scale [23].

Moreover, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) offer the opportunity to characterize geospatial energy consumption intensities using geo-referenced information [19]. So, several GIS-based models have been already developed at city scale [24–27]. Nevertheless, in order to ensure interoperability at EU level, it is necessary to develop the data model adapted to standard normative. For this purpose, the European INSPIRE Directive [28] defines specifications and metadata in buildings topic. Thus, data models adapted to the INSPIRE directive should be developed to achieve higher spatial resolution for public decision-making processes on sustainable urban planning towards energy transition and mitigation of climate change [21].

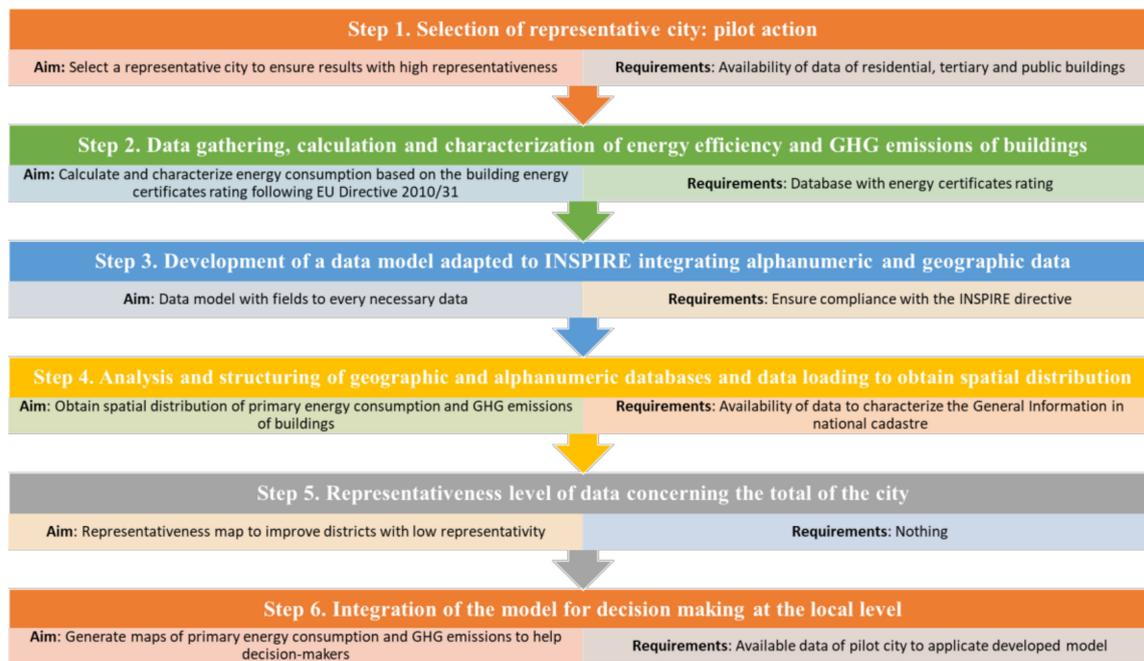
The general objective of this multidisciplinary research is to develop an innovative methodology based on GIS for mapping primary energy consumption and GHG emissions in buildings, according to energy efficiency certificates, in order to support public decision-making processes against climate change in cities. To achieve this overall objective, the following specific objectives have been defined:

1. To calculate and characterize energy efficiency and GHG emissions from residential, public, and tertiary buildings typologies based on occupancy.
2. To develop geospatial and alphanumeric data integration models based on the EU INSPIRE directive.
3. To develop an innovative model to obtain spatial distribution of primary energy and GHG emissions of buildings at district and city levels by analysing and structuring geographic and alphanumeric data base and data loading.
4. To test and validate the developed model in a pilot action in a representative medium-sized city to support decision-making about energy transition measures and mitigation of climate change.

To achieve these objectives, we begin describing the criteria followed for the selection of a representative pilot city to apply the developed model. Next describes the methodological processes for data collection, quantification, and characterization of the energy efficiency and GHG emissions of buildings. After that, the development of the data model adapted to INSPIRE directive is exposed together with the analysis and structuring of the georeferenced databases to achieve the spatial distribution of the results and their integration in the decision-making process at the local scale. Following the same structure, the results obtained from the described methodological application are shown graphically, and finally, it is applied to the selected pilot city to demonstrate its applicability and usefulness. The article ends with the conclusions obtained from the research.

## 2. Methodology

The research methodology is based on a bottom-up approach including the following: data gathering, calculation and characterization of energy efficiency and GHG emissions of buildings, data model development adapted to the EU INSPIRE Directive integrating alphanumeric and geographic data, analysis and structure of geographic and alphanumeric databases and data loading to obtain spatial distribution of primary energy and GHG emissions of buildings, and, finally, the testing and evaluating of the methodology in a representative medium-sized city (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Outline of steps, aim of each step, and requirements of each step of the methodology.

### 2.1. Selection of Representative City: Pilot Action

According to the United Nations [29], approximately two-thirds of the world's population will be living in urban areas by 2050. This rapid change of pace is projected to be driven primarily by changes in Africa and Asia, as the focus of global urbanisation patterns continue to shift towards developing and emerging economies. In Europe, around 75% of the population is living in cities, towns, and suburbs [30]. The pace of urbanisation change in Europe is likely slower, with the share of the population living in urban areas projected to rise over 80% by 2050. In fact, Europeans tend to live in medium-sized cities. Following EU Commission [1], European cities are on average located closer to each other than cities in other parts of the world. This is the outcome of Europe's dense network of medium-size cities, generally in a range between 25,000 and 100,000 inhabitants.

In this research, the selection of the pilot urban area is important to test the methodology developed and to ensure results with high representativeness. To achieve this, a representative medium-sized city is needed, with all activity sectors (several land uses, including agriculture, industry, and services as well as public administration facilities), but also with available data on residential, tertiary, and public buildings. For these reasons, Quart de Poblet was selected as the pilot city. It is located 6 km W of Valencia (Spain). Quart de Poblet has approximately 25,000 inhabitants and meets with all selection requirements.

City council of Quart de Poblet is very interested in reducing its GHG emissions. In 2016, the city council adopted the goals of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiative and has been proposed to exceed the EU goals of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20% for 2020 and 40% for 2030, adopting a joint approach to tackling mitigation and adaptation to climate change [3]. In fact, energy consumption reduction in buildings tackle two objectives: mitigation due to reduction of fossil energy consumption and therefore GHG emissions, and adaptation due to improvement of energy efficiency.

### 2.2. Data Gathering, Calculation, and Characterization of Energy Efficiency and GHG Emissions of Buildings

The bottom-up methodology is based on building physics and a statistical hybrid approach, which calculates energy demand per living area (m<sup>2</sup>). For this purpose, three different types of buildings based on occupancy are differentiated: residential, tertiary (non-public), and public buildings.

Energy consumption has been calculated based on the building energy certificates rating following EU Directive 2010/31 [13]. The rating is the result of the energy consumption necessary to satisfy the building energy demand calculation under normal operating and occupancy conditions. Buildings are classified by letters from A to G, where G corresponds to the least efficient building and A to the most efficient, according to primary energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to a base building with same geometry and location and following EU legislation [13].

The energy rating of each building is obtained by comparing the data entered by the certifying company with a database that collects a large number of tests. The database has been prepared for representative cities in different climatic areas, with the results obtained from carrying out a large number of simulations with the Calener VYP program [31]. This database covers all the constructive possibilities that can be found in Spain. The certifying company must enter following data: climatic area, type of building (residential or tertiary), orientation, compactness of the building, air renovation, thermal transmittance of opaque closings, mass of the closings, percentage of voids in the façade, thermal transmittance of the gaps, solar factors of the glass and shading elements, and thermal bridges. From the data entered by the certifying company, its dimensionless variables are obtained to compare them with those of the database. The energy certificate qualification is obtained by comparison. Each energy certificate rating has a value of energy consumed and associated emissions based on the variables mentioned.

Energy certificates of residential and non-public tertiary buildings are obtained from available databases of the regional Energy Agency (IVACE). This database includes 1,218 energy certificates done by certifying companies in the pilot city. These energy certificates were used to calculate the primary energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of residential, commercial, and other tertiary buildings available in regional Energy Agency database.

Furthermore, 37 public buildings with several uses (administration buildings, schools, library, sports facilities, social centres, care centres for elderly people, etc.) were audited and certificated carrying out inventory visits to characterize the energy consumption equipment and to verify the state of the thermal insulation following EU Directive [13]. These input data are entered into the energy certification tools to obtain the expected energy consumption in each audited building according to their characteristics. Finally, the results were contrasted with the actual energy consumption of the building obtained from the energy bills from the last two years (2016 and 2017) provided by the local public administration.

### 2.3. Development of a Data Model Adapted to INSPIRE Integrating Alphanumeric and Geographic Data

The developed model contains every data needed to identify and locate the buildings and every data used to obtain the primary energy consumption and the GHG emissions. Thus, the fields shown in Table 1 compose the data model in order to comply with the EU INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC) [28].

**Table 1.** Fields of data model developed to comply with EU INSPIRE Directive [28].

Fields	Metadata
Code	Code id of the building
Type	Type of building
Description	Description of aim of the building (e.g., hospital, office, restaurant)
Address	Address of the building
Municipality	Name of the municipality
Postal code	Code id of the municipality
Region	Name of the region

Table 1. Cont.

Fields	Metadata
Primary energy consumption (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> × year)	Primary energy consumption of the building per square meter and year
Primary energy consumption level	Primary energy consumption level of classification
GHG emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq./m <sup>2</sup> × year)	GHG emissions of the building per square meter and year
GHG emissions level	GHG emissions level of classification
Normative	Regulations followed for the construction of the building
Cadastral reference	Cadastral reference
Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total square meters of the building
Total primary energy consumption (MWh)	Total primary energy consumption of the building
Total GHG emission (t CO <sub>2</sub> eq.)	Total GHG emissions of the building
Year of construction	Year of construction
Classified housing units	Number of dwellings classified of the building
Total housing units	Number of total dwellings of the building

#### 2.4. Analysis and Structuring of Geographic and Alphanumeric Databases and Data Loading to Obtain Spatial Distribution of Primary Energy and GHG Emissions of Buildings

Geographical layers and field data compose necessary data. Field data were obtained from the local administration, cadastre, databases of the Energy Agency, and additional energy audits carried out by the researchers.

Data to characterize the General Information (explained in Section 2.3) are available in national cadastre. Spain General Information is available in the catalogue file “46\_104\_U\_2019-02-06” of Spanish Cadastre website [<https://www.sedecatastro.gob.es>]. From the cadastre information file, Land register is extracted for each cadastral parcel involved. The constructive unit register exists for each construction of each constructive unit in each cadastral parcel. Finally, there is one construction register for each constructive unit for each parcel involved. Geographical data of buildings, parcels, and streets are obtained from the Electronic Headquarters of the Cadastre (cadastre website) that also provides access to the INSPIRE services (the atom file of buildings).

Furthermore, data of energy certificates that are not available in the Energy Agency database are obtained through bottom-up methodology based on building physics and statistical hybrid approach estimated by energy audits in public buildings.

Once the available data has been collected and analysed, the following domains are defined (Tables 2 and 3):

Table 2. Buildings type domains definition of the data model.

Building Type	Description
Residential	Individual dwelling, apartment, residential building block
Tertiary	Commercial building, restaurant, hospital, office, others
Public	Public buildings

**Table 3.** Primary energy and GHG emissions certification levels.

Primary Energy/GHG Emissions Certification Level	Colour	Description
G		Building without any type of energy efficiency and high GHG emissions
F		Building with almost zero energy efficiency and high levels of GHG emissions
E		Very little energy efficiency and significant GHG emissions
D		Normal energy efficiency and moderate GHG emissions
C		Acceptable energy efficiency and low GHG emissions
B		Good energy efficiency and very low GHG emissions
A		Highest energy efficiency and lowest GHG emissions

Then, this information is loaded from the databases to the developed model for analysis. Information from the Energy Agency and own performed energy certification estimations is classified by building type categories, as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Energy certificates classification by building type.

Energy Certificates	Quantity	Building Type
Commercial building	11	Tertiary
Residential building block	69	Residential
Commercial premises	84	Tertiary
Office	37	Tertiary
Other	22	Tertiary
Restaurant	6	Tertiary
Individual dwelling	946	Residential
Single-family dwelling	43	Residential
Public buildings	37	Public

The analysis of geographical data shows some cadastral reference with more than one energy efficiency certificate by parcel. This is because different dwellings with different energy supply or different energy efficiency levels could compose a building.

Thus, a methodology to calculate the level of energy certificates of a parcel with more than one certificate has been established, for the case that it has more than one dwelling with different certificate levels. For this purpose, a SQL query is developed and applied (see Figure 2) to calculate the quantity of dwellings per parcel with energy efficiency certificate available. Then, the total amount of building area (m<sup>2</sup>) of each efficiency energy level is summed up. Finally, the energy efficiency level calculated is assigned to the parcel.

```

SELECT b.ref AS refe,
       b.calificaci,
       count(*) AS count,
       sum(b.emisioco2) AS sum
FROM cal b
GROUP BY b.calificaci, b.ref
ORDER BY b.ref;

SELECT tmp.refe,
       tmp.calificaci,
       tmp.count,
       tmp.sum
FROM tmp,
     ( SELECT tmp_1.refe,
            max(tmp_1.sum) AS max
      FROM tmp tmp_1
      GROUP BY tmp_1.refe) foo
WHERE tmp.refe::text = foo.refe::text AND foo.max = tmp.sum;

```

**Figure 2.** SQL query to calculate the quantity of dwelling per parcel with available energy efficiency certificate.

### 2.5. Representativeness Level of Data Concerning the Total of the City

The representativeness level of city data is calculated as the amount of parcel calculated based on efficiency energy certificates concerning total parcels in the city. Then, a representativeness map is generated in order to improve data gathering of the districts with a low level of representativeness.

### 2.6. Integration of the Model for Decision Making at the Local Level

The integration of the model developed generates maps of primary energy consumption and GHG emissions to identify the potential districts for improving energy efficiency and reducing GHG emissions. This will help the public decision-maker to define local strategies towards a low-carbon economy and energy transition policies against climate change in a more efficient and transparent manner based on metrics of high spatial resolution. However, it must be taken into account that other methodologies for existing buildings used both for online (based on real-time operation of buildings) [32,33] and offline (based on strategic choice for structural changes) [34,35] are used to improve energy efficiency and sustainability of single buildings with high temporal resolution.

An example for the application of the developed model for decision-making at the local/district level has been carried out. For this purpose, primary energy consumption and GHG emissions of buildings without available data nowadays have been calculated based on statistical correlation with results of buildings, which have been determined following the described methodology. Thus, the energy efficiency level based on the construction year and building orientation has been calculated based on energy classification by national law [32].

Therefore, an intersection of the parcel layer with the buildings layer is done to obtain the year and the number of dwellings in each parcel. However, the CAT format with alphanumeric information is provided by the cadastre, obtaining the properties of each plot, with the m<sup>2</sup> and construction or rehabilitation year. Then, energy efficiency classification average is obtained per year. Finally, an algorithm is developed and applied in order to calculate GHG emissions and primary energy consumption of buildings without available data.

## 3. Results and Discussion

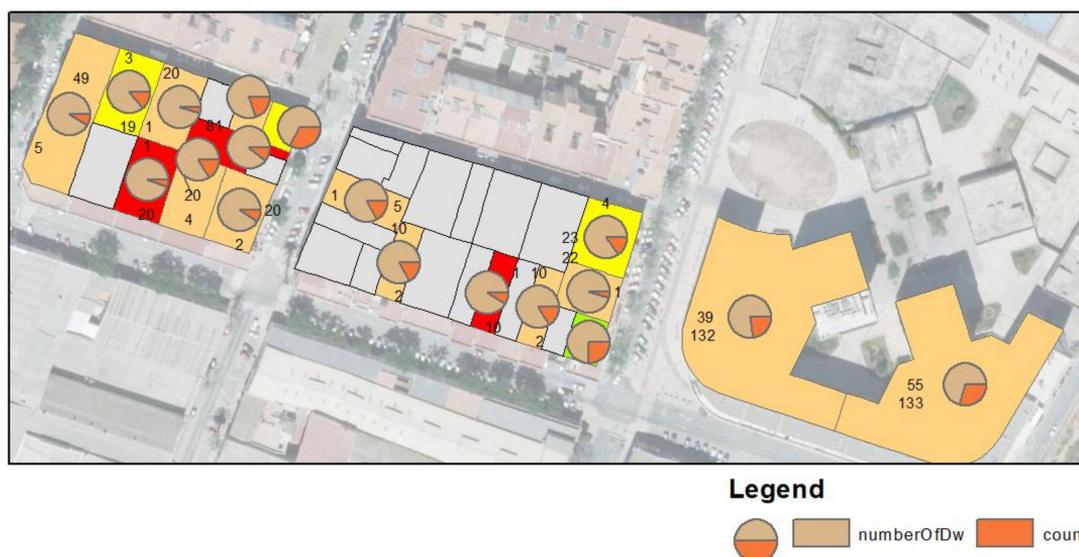
### 3.1. Representativeness Level of Data Concerning the Total of the City

The representativeness level of available data concerning the total of the city is 17% (Table 5). Each parcel has calculated the representative level as the relation between dwellings with available energy efficiency certification and total dwellings of the parcel (Figure 3).

**Table 5.** Representativeness level of the city data concerning the total of the city.

Type of Parcels	Amount with Data	Total City	Representativeness
Tertiary	99	732	14%
Residential	333	1891	18%
Public	27	56	48%
Total Parcels with Data	459	2679	17%

IVACE Parcels



**Figure 3.** Representativeness level of an example of parcels of a district of the pilot city Quart de Poblet. In brown: number of energy efficiency certification in parcel. In orange: number of total buildings/locals in the parcel.

### 3.2. Energy Efficiency and GHG Emissions Level of Buildings

#### (a) Residential and tertiary (non-public) buildings

Most of the 1,218 available energy certificates of the municipality are individual dwellings located in housing blocks (77%) followed by commercial premises (7%) and complete housing blocks (5%). The classification of energy certificates by use type obtained from the Energy Agency database can be observed in Figure 4.

The results of energy certificates obtained from these buildings are shown in Figure 5. Energy certification levels E, G, D, and F are the most common in the analysed buildings. This low rating is due to the age of the residential buildings in the city, most of them constructed in from 1960 to 1990 and many of them without an integral rehabilitation since construction. In terms of GHG emissions, this implies an annual average GHG emissions of 45 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>.

Furthermore, the obtained results show that tertiary buildings have significant higher energy efficiency, obtaining approximately 30% of them a level of energy efficiency of C or more. On the other side, more than 90% of residential buildings have obtained a certification of D or less. It is also notable to remark that no one building has obtained level A.

These results were compared with the data from other experiences [33] that collects energy certificates of every building audited in Spain by regions. This comparative shows that the results obtained in Quart de Poblet are very similar to the region (Valencia) and to the country (Spain), as shown in Figure 6. In all local, regional, and national scales predominates E energy certification level with more than 50% of total amount of audited buildings followed by G level. Nevertheless, the results in Quart de Poblet are slightly better than the region of Valencia, which is 8% of the buildings have C or more energy efficiency level while in the region of Valencia only 4% have C or more.

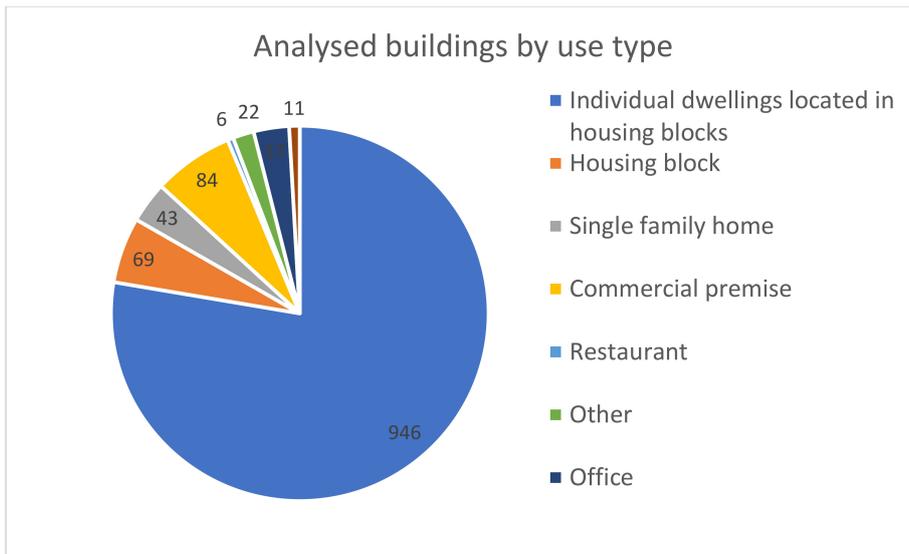


Figure 4. Analysed buildings by use type.

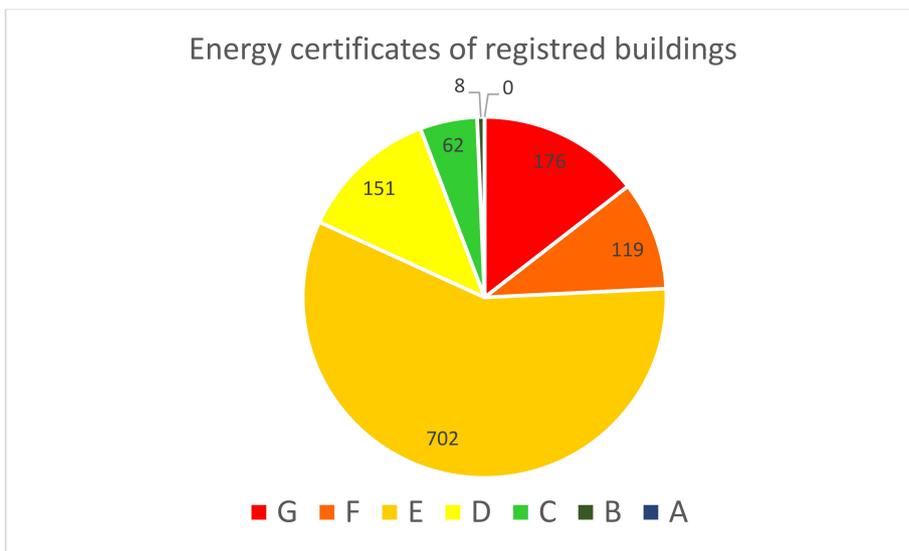


Figure 5. Energy certificated of registered buildings.

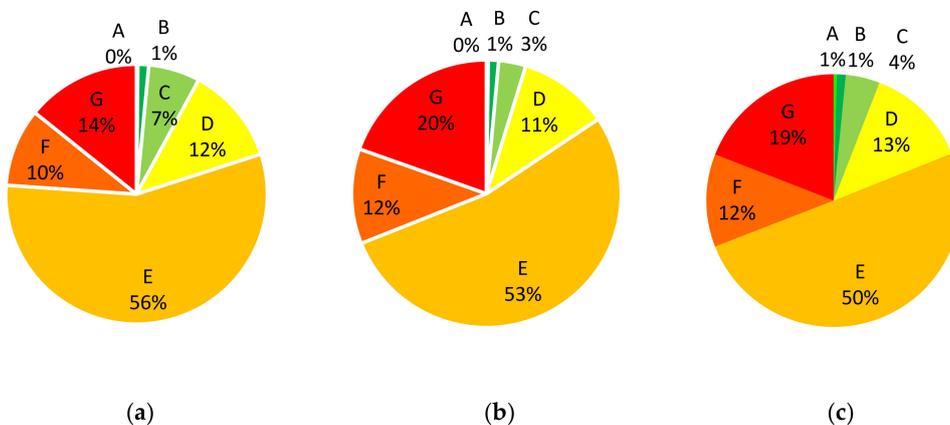
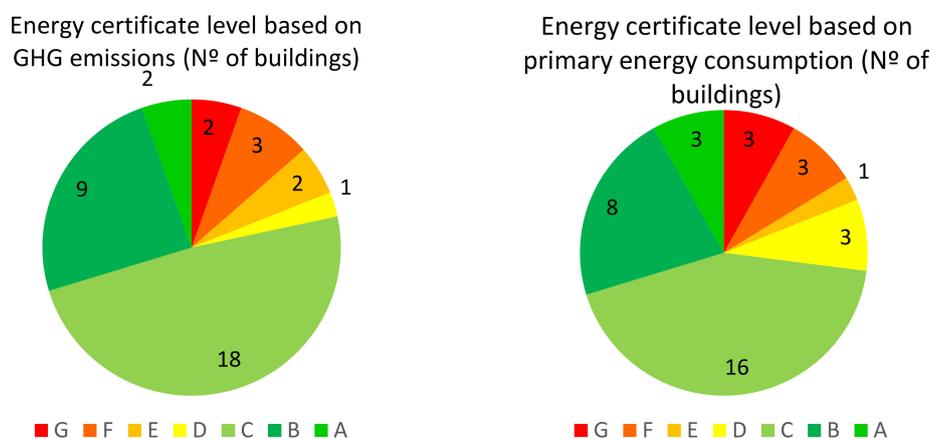


Figure 6. Comparative results at local, regional and national level. (a) Local level (pilot city of Quart de Poblet), (b) Regional level (Community of Valencia), and (c) National level (Spain).

## (b) Public buildings

Energy certification results and its analysis in terms of GHG emissions and primary energy consumption are shown in Figure 7.



**Figure 7.** Energy certificate level based on GHG emissions and primary energy consumption.

The obtained results show a good level of energy efficiency and GHG emissions when compared to the total sample. Concretely, 78% of buildings audited have C or even higher energy certificate level. This can be explained as follows:

- Most of these buildings audited have non-intensive use of energy due to its main activity closing at night (schools, social centres, and office buildings).
- Most of these buildings use heat pumps (with high coefficient of performance) and natural gas boilers (with moderate emission factor of CO<sub>2</sub>) as source energy for heating, which reduce the total emissions significantly in comparison with electricity.

### 3.3. Data Model Adapted to INSPIRE Directive Integrating Alphanumeric and Geographic Data

The data model developed consists in one data table (Table 6) and three geographical layers (Public, Tertiary, and Residential).

**Table 6.** Data table of the developed model.

Fields Name	Data Type
Code	Text
Type	Text
Description	Text
Address	Text
Municipality	Text
Postal_code	Text
Region	Text
PEC	Double
PEC_level	Text
GHG	Double
GHG_level	Text
Normative	Text
Cadastral_reference	Text
area	Double
Tota_PEC	Text
Total_GHG	Text
Building_Year	Text

The geographic data table of the data model developed is shown in Table 7:

**Table 7.** Geographical data table of the developed model.

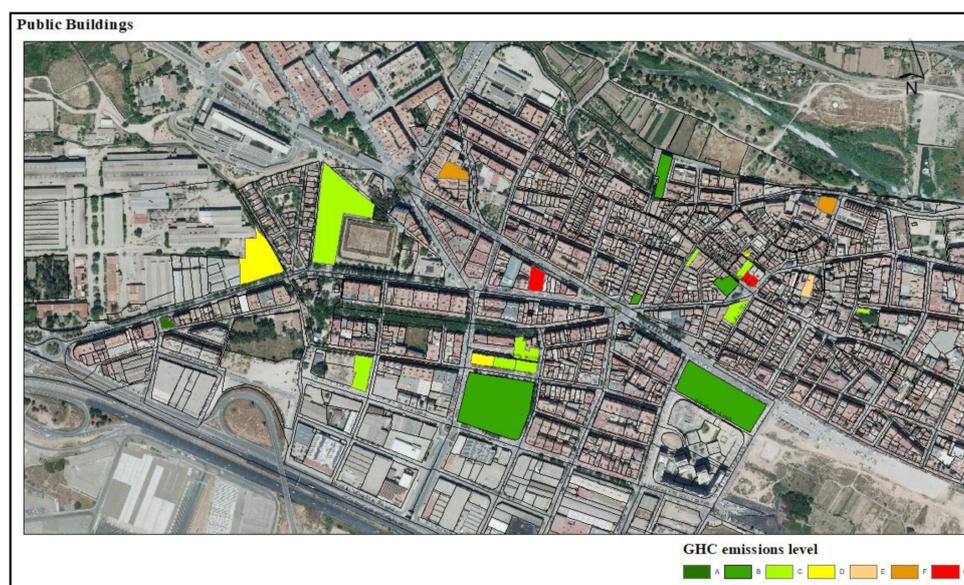
Fields Name	Data Type
Shape	Geometry
Name	Text
Description	Text
Address	Text
Municipality	Text
Postal_code	Text
Region	Text
Cadastral_reference	Text
Area	Double
Total_PEC	Text
Total_GHG	Text
Building_year	Text
Housing_classified	Integer
Housing_total	Integer

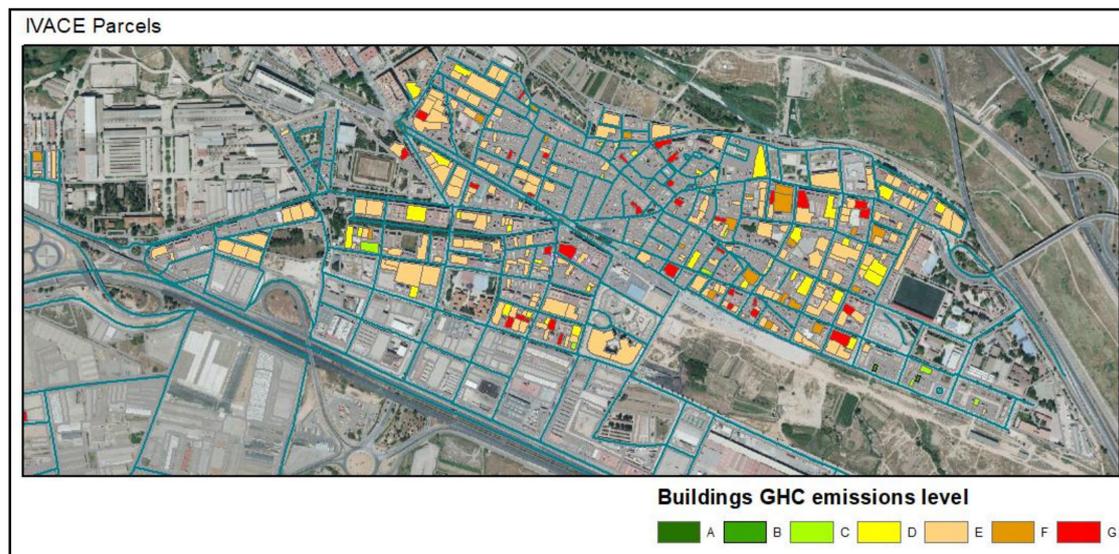
The application of the developed model to the parcels with available energy certificates data shows the total emissions amount of 12,015 t CO<sub>2</sub> due to the primary energy consumption of 144 GWh of tertiary, residential, and public buildings based on the developed model (Table 8).

**Table 8.** GHG emissions and primary energy consumption of tertiary, residential, and public buildings.

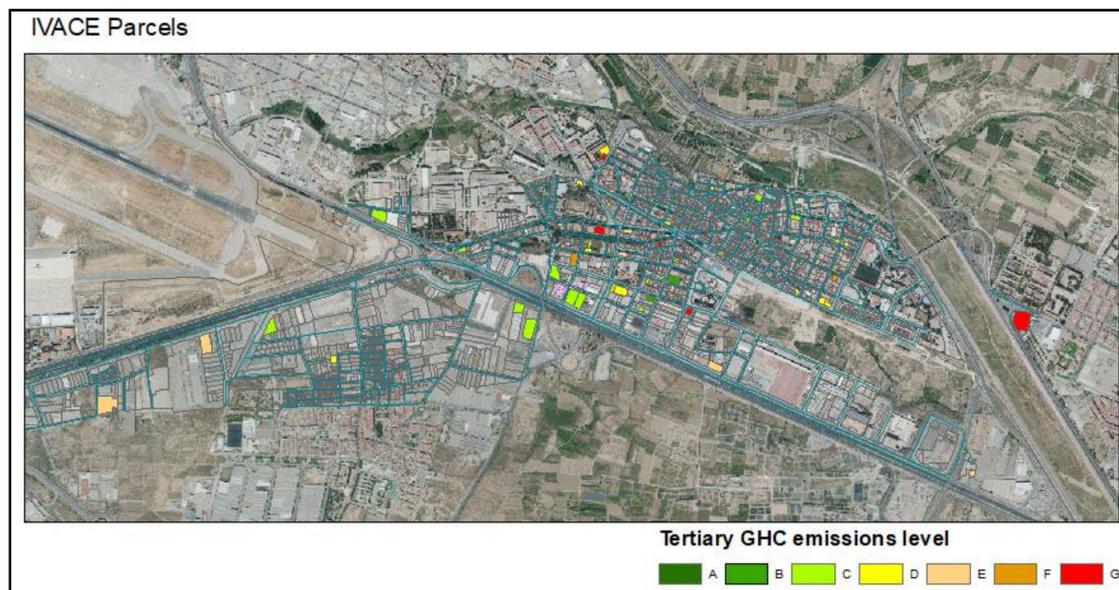
Type	Number of Parcels	Emissions (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	Primary Energy Consumption (MWh)
Tertiary	99	6125	30,714
Residential	333	3697	16,742
Public	27	623	3038
Total	459	12,015	144,415

The GIS tool developed and applied allows a geographical representation of a GHG emissions map, which enables a good diagnosis of the energy efficiency of the buildings in the city. Figures 8–10 show the spatial distribution of GHG emissions in public, residential, and tertiary buildings.

**Figure 8.** Results of the GHG emissions of the 37 public buildings distributed in 27 parcels.



**Figure 9.** Results of the GHG emissions of the 1,058 residential buildings distributed in 333 parcels.



**Figure 10.** Results of the GHG emissions of the 160 tertiary buildings distributed in 99 parcels.

#### 3.4. Application of Results and Methodology for Local Decision-Making

Following the developed model, a total amount of 31,984 t CO<sub>2</sub> of GHG emissions and a primary energy consumption of 140,750 MWh can be estimated for the entire city. The spatial distribution of the obtained results is shown in Figures 11 and 12.

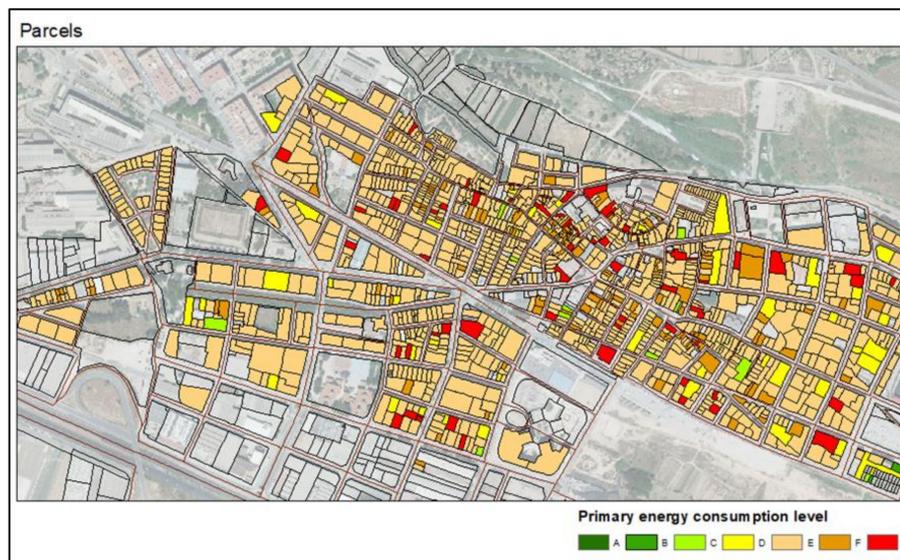


Figure 11. Spatial distribution of primary energy consumption.

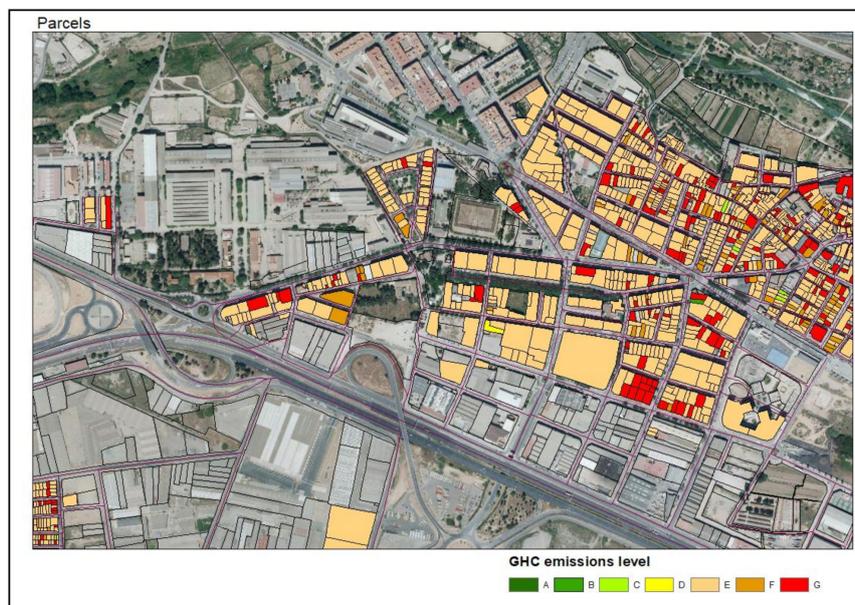


Figure 12. Spatial distribution of GHG emissions.

The results obtained and its spatial representation allow the public authorities to prioritize the available resources on the priority measures on buildings or districts towards an efficient reduction of GHG emissions, following the required objectives determined at EU level.

#### 4. Conclusions

An innovative methodology based on a geographic information system (GIS) for mapping primary energy consumption and GHG emissions in buildings has been developed. This tool aims to support decision-making processes against climate change at a local or district level. The developed methodology and its implementation with a simple tool allow knowing the diagnosis of buildings contribution to climate change in an accurate manner with high spatial resolution. Thus, local authorities as public decision-makers can identify the most relevant GHG emissions in buildings or districts, and consequently focus their efforts and resources to reduce it with high efficiency.

The developed model has been tested in a representative medium-sized pilot city obtaining a quantification of GHG emissions and primary energy consumption of its buildings. The developed

model has allowed integrating heterogeneous available data (local databases, national cadastre, external databases and own performed energy audits) to achieve a good level of representativeness of the city. The result of its application to the pilot city shows an acceptable level of energy efficiency in public buildings and a lower level in tertiary and residential buildings. Furthermore, a methodology to extrapolate primary energy consumption and GHG emissions to buildings without previous energy certification has been developed and validated. In comparison with current techniques used to make decisions (Base Emissions Inventory and Monitor Emissions Inventory), the developed model offers a high spatial resolution results obtained with bottom-up approach that offers more accurate and useful results.

The energy efficiency results obtained have allowed the local authority to prove that the energy efficiency of their buildings is at the average at national level and slightly above at regional level. It has also allowed detecting opportunities and improved management of the energy consumption. As a result, the consumption of public buildings will be monitored to improve their energy efficiency. In future, these results will be studied to improve the developed model.

Finally, data model has been adapted to INSPIRE directive integrating alphanumeric and geographical data ensuring interoperability and therefore the possible application to other EU cities.

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