# A short EU update

## Energy efficiency in buildings

New business models with performance-based contracts are a key challenge for achieving energy efficiency in buildings, according to Ger Maas from Royal BAM Group, the Netherlands. “This happens in other industries, such as the food sector, why not in buildings and the built environment?” Read more about it in the free book ‘*ICT Roadmap for Energy Efficient Buildings – Research and Actions*’

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## Efficient energy for cultural heritage

Historic buildings are the trademark of numerous European cities, towns and villages: The project 3ENCULT bridges the gap between conservation of historic buildings and climate protection, which is not an antagonism at all: historic buildings will only survive if maintained as living space. Energy efficient retrofit is useful for structural protection as well as for comfort reasons - comfort for users and “comfort” for heritage collections.

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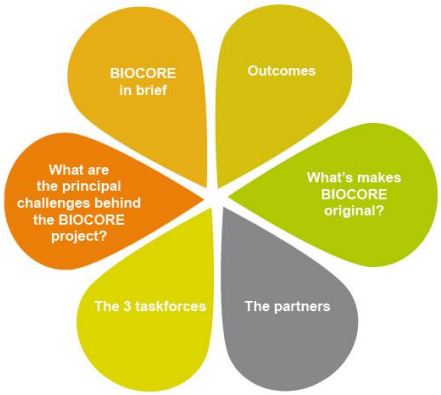


## Biocore, a biorefinery concept

The EU project BIOCORE will conceive and analyse the industrial feasibility of a biorefinery concept that will allow the conversion of cereal by-products (straws etc), forestry residues and short rotation woody crops into a wide spectrum of products including 2nd generation biofuels, chemical intermediates, polymers and materials. Through the development of a range of polymer building blocks, BIOCORE will show how 70% of today’s polymers can be derived from biomass.

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## Renewable diesel

UPM Biofuels received the Sustainable Biofuels Award due to its success in developing an innovative production process for an advanced renewable diesel, BioVerno. UPM was the winner because of the product characteristics corresponding to traditional fuel with the greenhouse gas emissions being reduced by up to 80%.

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