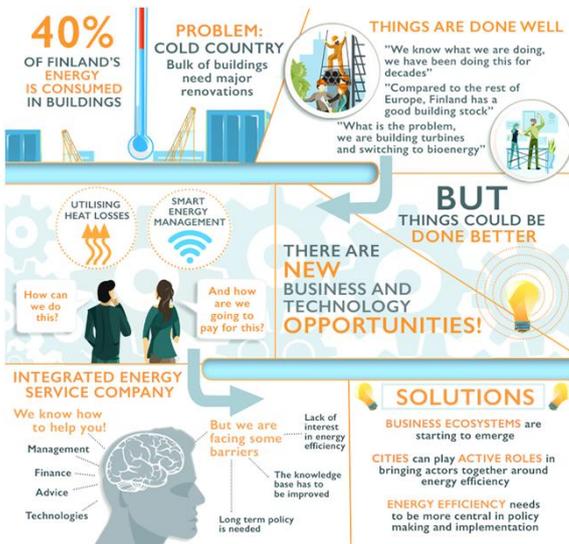


Transition towards zero energy buildings

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STARTING POINT: Improving buildings to contribute to climate change mitigation

The shift to nearly zero energy buildings requires a systemic socio-technical transition. This transition impacts upon both building and energy systems profoundly. In Finland the transition has started, but the building sector is still far from being nearly zero energy. Using insights from the sustainability transitions literature, the USE project examined how ecosystems of actors, particularly those built around energy service companies, can be change agents, and how current policy is supporting the nearly zero energy buildings transition.

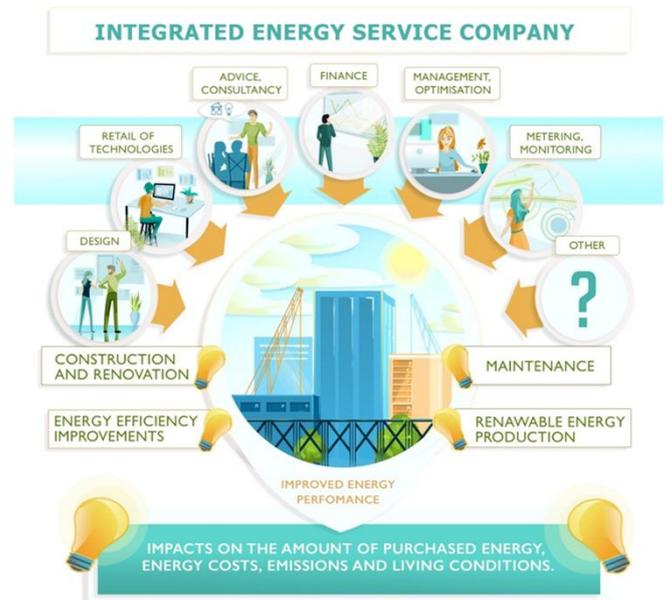
POTENTIAL GAME CHANGERS:

A: Energy Service Companies

Successful energy service companies are brave, innovative and cooperative. The lack of technical skills of policymakers, regulators and policy implementers can cause outdated standards, complicating the work of energy service companies. Common disinterest in energy efficiency can slow down energy service market growth. Energy services require customer-centricity and in depth understanding of customer needs.

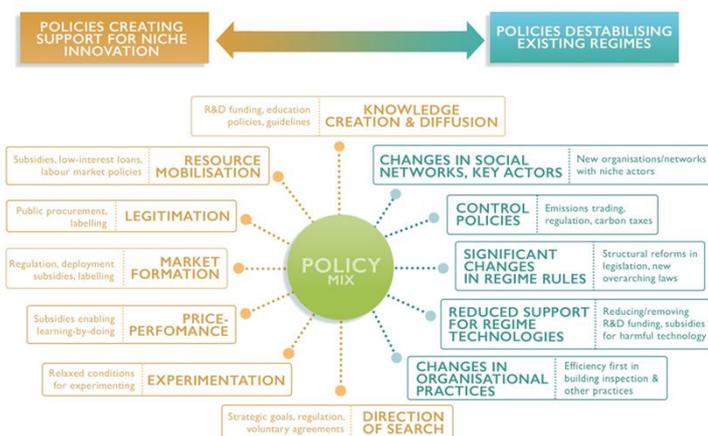
B: Emerging energy service ecosystems

Energy service ecosystems are in an emerging state in Finland. Several ecosystems are developing around integrated energy service companies who are driving value co-creation strategies that benefit multiple ecosystem members. Regional energy innovation ecosystems need visionary orchestrators.



POLICY MIXES FOR BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Many supportive and some destabilising policies are in place, and policy development has been largely consistent and coherent over time. However, the policy mix needs to be redesigned paying attention to the comprehensiveness of the policy mix (both in terms of destabilising policies and filling policy instruments gaps), and coherent policy implementation. In addition, the 'efficiency first' principle needs to be implemented (e.g. through concrete energy efficiency targets, energy saving obligations and inclusive policy processes), for policy to better support the nearly zero energy buildings transition more rapidly.



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