

Earth Day, 2012



Mobilize the Earth

The April 22, Earth Day, was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson, and was first organized in 1970 to promote ecology and respect for life on the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the deteriorating environment. The day was celebrated with the theme “**Mobilize the Earth” and saying to join Billions of Green pledge.** The voice of saving the planet has to come in one loud voice so that it may stand together for sustainable future. Different activities were organized to mark the day like colour festival, rallies, painting, quiz competition, rallies, film screening showing the appreciation of Earth and to aware the gradual degradation of earth. TERI launched a book “**Enviro-Challenge**”, a compilation of quiz questions on various aspects of the environment by renowned polar explorer Sir Robert Swan.

Fruitful News

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted 99% monsoon of the long period average this year. With this prediction farmers can look forward to good rain for the crops. The complete forecast will report on the month of June.

India has most Green building after US



CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre Hyderabad

Now India has the largest number of green building after US with 1 billion sq.ft. US is ahead with over 3 billion sq.ft. with green building cover. There is milestone for the country with its 1st Green Building certification on 2003 with small area of 20000 sqft. However with the increase awareness of long term cost saving, market preferences, sustainable living and environment importance, stakeholders and buyers are preferred to go for more eco-freindly construction and development. Now Central and local Government of India are keen to promote green building movement. **India Green Building Council (IGBC)** has 1550 Green Building registered, out of which 223 are certified and fully working.

Water supplies and Energy



A man irrigates with an electric pumps

International Water Management Institute characterizes nine states in India, including Gujarat, as having "critical" groundwater condition. For the past 3 decades, many crops and dairy farm have remained green inspite of less semi-arid and prone to droughts, receiving rain during the monsoon season between June and September. That's because there is huge used of electric pumps that run on cheap power to extract water from deep aquifers. Groundwater tables have fallen precipitously, 600 feet below the ground in some places, requiring even more powerful pumps to bring water to the surface. In India, water cut and scarcity problem is growing in both rural and urban areas. The largest groundwater user in the world, increased agricultural electricity consumption more than 25-fold between 1970 and 2009, more than twice the pace of overall electricity consumption. It shows that there is unsustainable relation between water and energy.

Source: The National Geographic, Energy

Did you know...

- In 2009, as other economic sectors declined around the world, existing renewable capacity continued to grow at rates close to previous years, including grid-connected solar PV (53 per cent), wind power (32 per cent), solar hot water/heating (21 per cent), geothermal power (4 per cent), and hydropower (3 per cent).
- Of the world's 774 million illiterate adults, 64% are women. There are more girls in school today than ever before, but of the 72 million children worldwide who are not in school, 57% are girls.
- The Ecological Footprint (the amount of the earth's surface that it takes to provide everything each person uses) of the average person in the United States is about 12 times larger than the footprint of the average inhabitant of India. So the 4.1 million babies born in the United States this year will have almost the same impact on the earth as the 27.6 million babies born in India.

Energy Efficient City



Masdar City

Masdar City, Abu Dhabi has been designed as a test innovation model with every aspect of the urban planning and architecture with sustainability as a key criterion which provide lower environmental footprint. They used C3's energy and emission management technology to optimize energy, water, sustainable transportation and waste. They track all resources use – low carbon – low waste city. C3 analysis confirms 56 percent reduction in electricity demand versus the ASHRAE 90.1-2004 standard, and a 70 percent reduction versus the average Abu Dhabi multi-unit residential building. Masdar City is partnering with Siemens to run a Smart Grid pilot across the first phase of its development.

Source: The National Newspaper

Green house gas emission



UN Headquarters in New York

UN has launched its 'Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN' report for 2010 on Earth Day, 22 April, 2012. It shows that the UN's total greenhouse gas emissions were 1.8 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. This is the same amount of carbon sequestered annually by 383,795 acres of pine or fir forests, an area of size 1400km². Over 50 percent of the UN's greenhouse gas emissions are from air travel (4.2 tonnes per capital) making this the biggest challenge for the organization in reducing its overall emissions. The inventory for 2010 emissions includes data for 54 UN organizations. This reports acknowledges that still much to be done in future to make their country and office sustainable.

Source: United Nation Environment Program

Wood to fuel production



Wood Waste

Wood has been the major source of energy in rural and urban household. There is rural areas where no commercial electric connection. Wood waste to fuel will reduce the energy crisis in rural areas with some innovative technology. Biomass Gasification Technology converts wood waste into methanol and can be transported to remote, off-grid sites. The methanol can then be reformed into hydrogen to power fuel cells to produce electricity. Methanol is one of the simplest alcohol types, which even preceded ethanol for vehicle use, and is easily converted to clean hydrogen. This clean technology will benefit to remote areas which are devoid of public electric connection.

Source: Energy Environmental Research Center

Upcoming events...

- >All India Seminar on 'Green Building and Sustainable Technology', May 5 – 6, 2012, Jaipur
- >National Conference on 'Environmental Technologies: Today & Tomorrow' 18 th May, Ahmedabad India
- >Workshop on GRIHA at Nashik on 17 – 19 May, 2012
- >Roof India, 2012, May 25 – 27, Chennai
- >International workshop on "Energy Simulation of Buildings for LEED and ECBC", 22 – 25 May, 2012, IIT Hyderabad

Shabari says...

"Water shortage has become a social distress issue throughout the country. Let's forget about the future generations, if we can't care less but atleast try to be concerned for our present.

'Decide' to save every droplet of water & use minimum required for all your daily activities. All big savings start with a penny kept aside. Think about it!"

Source: Various Newspapers and Websites