

VK:e Updates...

Leisure Town, a residential scheme developed by Wellwisher Homes at Hadapsar, Pune received "GOLD" precertification under IGBC Green Homes.

The project intends to incorporate various measures as cited under IGBC. The key measures are 100% solar water heating system, 100% waste water treatment, use of ecofriendly building materials, adequate daylighting and ventilation and environment Friendly Housekeeping. At post occupancy stage, a Green Homes guidelines shall be handed over to the occupants by the developer to create awareness of the planet friendly initiatives that have been taken by the project and how the occupants can continually contribute towards the same.

Need for well informed advocacy in Pune DP

A structured and well drafted Development Plan is vital for any city to guide its growth and development. Pune city's core area DP is in preparation since 2007. The State Planning Department has now asked Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) to complete the preparation of the draft Development Plan for old city areas of Pune by April, 2013. To meet the challenges of rapid urbanization and for moving towards Sustainability, Pune needs a DP that will address the resource challenges faced today and make provisions for the next 20 years.

Experts and politicians, however, feel that despite the delay, Pune's DP needs proper scrutiny and public participation to ensure its successful implementation.

Energy from solid waste

Municipal Corporation of Delhi has become the first local body in India to get carbon credits for generation of power from garbage / municipal solid waste. 16 megawatt project has been installed at Okhla, New Delhi generating 24 million units (kWh) of electricity so far. It is reported that projects on energy from municipal solid wastes (MSW) are being taken up by the Municipal Corporations in public private partnership mode by tying up with selected private companies.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing a programme for setting up of five new projects on energy recovery from MSW. The programme provides for capital subsidy of Rs.2.00 crore per megawatt with upper limit of Rs.10.00 crore per project. Benefits for Customs and Excise Duty concessions are also provided for projects based on MSW. Project developers are also taking initiatives for getting carbon credits for such projects.

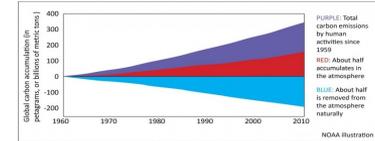
Green movement in India

Green building movement is getting popular and expanding in India. Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) have been bringing India's momentum in the area of green development projects.

<p>The Green Buildings Economy</p> <p>1 How are Green Buildings Certified? These different categories and standards for green buildings. But all of them should have at least the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conform to all environmental and building laws Share energy and water usage for five years from inception Minimise impact on environment 	<p>2 Indian Green Building Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build-up Area: 1.2 billion sq ft No of Buildings: 1600 buildings or complexes Occupied and certified IGBC: 200 million / 250 Pre-certified or certified by GRIHA: 105 m sq ft / 215 Green buildings by 2020: 16 billion square feet 	<p>3 Benefits of 1 billion sq ft Green Buildings</p> <p>Building environment-friendly structures has many advantages. Some of them are...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 million tonnes Reduction of carbon dioxide emissions 15,000 gigawatt Energy savings 45 million litres Water savings <p>SOURCE: Indian Green Building Council</p>
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Municipalities of different states are in process to upgrade their environmental policies towards urban sustainability. To facilitate green movement to the future pillars of India, individual initiatives have taken at institutional level to incorporate green council or zero waste campuses.

Did you know...



The graph depicts **CARBON accumulation (sink), which is proportional to carbon dioxide (CO2) accumulation.**

As carbon emissions by human activities have increased (purple), some carbon has stayed in the atmosphere (red) and some has been absorbed by natural "sinks" on land and in the oceans (blue). Natural sinks, including land ecosystems and the oceans, remove about half of the carbon emitted by human activities back out of the atmosphere. What seems to be happening is our planet is saving us. **The good news is that nature is helping us; the bad news is that carbon sinks can become carbon sources if the current trends continue.** That is when we need to really worry.

Haryana has been awarded the best performance award on Solar Water Heating System for the year 2011-12 in Northern Region. The award was given away today in a National Workshop on Solar Water Heaters at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy.

Experiences to share: Carbon Reporting

At the present fast pace growing economy, clients have to travel frequently to negotiate deals and transfer knowledge. We are well familiar that air travel accounted for a large portion of its carbon dioxide emissions. It also increased the company expenses significantly but all companies have to continue the practice because of its importance to business.

An IT company, Logica, started reporting its carbon emissions, and then made a decision to reduce it by 50% by 2020 against the air travel of baseline of 2008. Logica looked at new ways of talking to its customers. the company started using web cams and recording conversations. The use of remote-meeting technology not only reduced emissions, it also improved work.

In India, only 29% of the top 200 companies listed in Bombay Stock Exchange responded to Carbon Discloser Project (CDP) in 2011. According to the data provided to CDP, Wipro came second best in India among the two indices of CDP, after TCS. Among the top ten were five Tata Group companies.

"Measuring our emissions helped us to go deep into granularities of energy efficiency," says PS Narayanan, head of sustainability, Wipro. "We would not have done that without carbon reporting." ACC has a carbon dioxide reduction target of 27 kg per tonne of cement by 2013, compared to 2009. Tata Chemicals is targeting a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide per tonne of product by 2020, with 2008 as the baseline. Titan Industries has a target of 50% reduction in emissions by 2015, over a base year of 2010.

Increase green cover in Eastern Ghats



"Tamil Nadu has increased its forest cover to 22 per cent and once Eastern Ghats was covered by green, mainly canopy oriented, it can reach to 27 per cent," TN Agricultural University VC K Ramasamy said.

Ambitious initiatives have been taken to protect Western Ghats which runs through Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. Tamil Nadu government has allocated Rs 1,500 crore for developing green cover in the much neglected Eastern Ghats. It has also mentioned that the green cover project would provide secondary income to farmers besides increasing the forest lands.

Latest standards and compliance

ASHRAE is developing **Standard 202P, Commissioning Process** for Buildings and Systems, to identify the minimum acceptable commissioning process for buildings and systems as described in ASRHAE's Guideline 0-2005, The Commissioning Process. The draft is open for public review until Oct. 1, 2012. The proposed standard will benefit the industry by ensuring performance criteria of the built environment, ASHRAE said.

Upcoming Event's

"Training Programme on Green Building rating System, 7th September, 2012, Jaipur"

"World Ozone Day, 16 September, 2012 – Protecting our atmosphere for generations to come"

Conference on "Towards Urban Sustainability- the GRIHA Approach", 12 - 13 October, 2012, Pune.

More Info: <http://www.sustainability-initiatives.org/towards-urban-sustainability-the-griha-approach/>.

Matou says,

" Talking about "green" may be "fashionable", but only voicing concerns about environmental sustainability may not be sufficient to save our planet for future generations.

Passion from the depth of heart with an understanding about these concerns and converting our words into actions in our daily life will give substantial impact in restoring nature. Nature doesn't ask how small or big, your positive action is what it asks."