

The focus of Environment Information System (ENVIS) is to disseminate environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and researchers across the world.

The CERC-ENVIS Resource Partner focuses on 'Environment Literacy - Eco-labelling and Eco-friendly Products' This bi-monthly e-bulletin features latest news, developments and innovations in the field.

Eco product

Eco friendly way to reduce road noise

Road noise is one of the main sources of high-level traffic noise which depends not only on tyres but on the pavement also. The LIFE SOUNDLESS project is seeking different ways to modify stone mastic asphalt mixes to improve the noise attenuation of pavements. A selection of mixes with different additives were created, with some waste materials. The selection was done as per traditional mechanical parameters. It was carried out on two roads in Seville, Spain. The difference was the traffic density and the average speed. The noise level has since been reduced by 3 dB and 7 dB on both sites. This project was led by the General Directorate of Infrastructures of the Junta de Andalucía (DGI) and the construction company Eiffage Infraestructuras.

Source: <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-298/6/4/48/htm>



Environmental noise: An unwanted sound

The health impacts of noise are a growing concern. Healthy life years are lost every year from traffic-related noise. Noise is regarded as a pollutant under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and defined as unwanted sound.

A study by WHO 'Burden of disease from environmental noise' collated data from various large-scale epidemiological studies of environmental noise in Western Europe, collected over a 10-year period. It analysed environmental noise from planes, trains and vehicles, as well as other city sources, and then looked at links to health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, sleep disturbance, tinnitus, cognitive impairment in children, and annoyance. They found that at least one million healthy years of life are lost each year in Europe alone due to noise pollution

Exposure to elevated sound levels may lead to adverse effects in humans or other living organisms. Sound levels less than 70 dB are not damaging to living organisms, regardless of how long or consistent the exposure is. Exposure for more than 8 hours to constant noise beyond 85 dB may be hazardous.

Two major settings where noise occurs - community and industries. Community noise, also called environmental noise, residential noise or domestic noise, is a noise emitted from all sources. Major sources are automobiles, construction work, loudspeakers, recreational activities, fireworks, etc. To control the generation of noise in the environment, the Central Pollution Control Board, under the MoEF&CC, Govt, has set standards of sound for different categories of areas for day-time and at night separately.

Code	Category of Area	Limits in dB(A)	
		Day (6 AM - 9 PM)	Night (9 PM -6AM)
A	Industrial Area	75	70
B	Commercial Area	65	55
C	Residential Area	55	45
D	Silence Zone*	50	40

*Silence zone is an area comprising not less than 100 meters around hospitals, educational institutions and courts, religious places or any other area which is declared as such by the competent authority.

Plants are efficient absorbers of noise, especially of higher frequency. Green belts can help to improve the environmental quality which would effectively reduce the noise and consequently improve human health.

Source: <http://vikaspedia.in/energy/environment/know-your-environment/pollution/noise-Pollution>,
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3968587/>

Green Issue



Eco news

Airports on 'Silent Mode'

The Environment Ministry has fixed noise standards within the boundary for various airports i.e. 75 dbA (decibels) from 6 AM to 10 PM and 70 dbA from 10 PM to 6 AM. The specified limit excludes aircraft landing and take-off noise. New advances in technology allow airports to easily adopt the practice. Noise-mapping is a scientific method to understand existing and projected noise levels in a particular area. The mapping is done by calculating noise levels in different scenario, help in making action plan for mitigation measures. The National Physical Laboratory and the Airport Authority of India will do 'noise-mapping' of all airports with assistance of local airport authority. Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and a few smaller airports have become 'Silent Airports'. Less noise creates a calm, relaxed ambience and promotes stronger mental health.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/Environment/pollution/noise-mapping-at-every-airport-to-check-noise-pollution/articleshow/58501284.cms?from=mdr>



Noise level regulations for generators

Central Pollution Control Board has laid down the permissible noise level for generators across India for different regions/areas. The maximum permissible noise level for new generators with up to 1000 KVA rated capacity is 75 dB (A). There should be an acoustic enclosure for a diesel generator. These enclosure aids in treating the room acoustically. The enclosure is made of generator soundproof materials that cut noise pollution to ensure that the neighbours are undisturbed. The acceptable generator noise level of DG sets used for domestic purposes is 85-90 dB (A). Generators are now indispensable and applicable almost everywhere from homes, offices to industries. Noise due to its operation can be detrimental to the human ears which lead to several problems. Before buying, people must know about these permissible noise limits.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/productline/power-generation/generator-noise-level-regulations-permissible-limits-and-different-types-of-gensets/articleshow/69094804.cms?from=mdr>



Reduce noise pollution before it reduces the hearing capacity!

Be kind towards our future generations Keep the noise down to keep your health up.

Eco tip

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Consumer Education and Research Centre

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