



GREEN ALERT



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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 Centre focuses on 'Eco-labeling and Promotion of Eco-friendly Products'. This bi-monthly e-bulletin features latest news, developments and innovations in the field.

Plastic bags yield petroleum products



A research team at the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center has successfully converted plastic shopping bags into diesel, natural gas and other useful petroleum products. Naphtha (a solvent), gasoline, waxes and lubricating oils, such as engine oil and hydraulic oil, also can be obtained from the bags. Brajendra Kumar Sharma, a senior research scientist at the centre, led the research. He said it involved a process called pyrolysis which is essentially heating the bags in an oxygen-free chamber. A report of the new study appears in the journal *Fuel Processing Technology*.

Source: http://news.illinois.edu/news/14/0212bags_oil_BrajendraKumarSharma.html

Eco product of the month

Post-2015 Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Green issue

The concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, in 2012. The objective was to produce a set of universally applicable goals that balances the three dimensions of sustainable development: the environmental, social, and economic. The SDGs are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member-states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years. There are 17 proposed goals along with 169 targets prepared by representatives of 70 countries. UN had also launched an online 'My World' survey asking people to prioritise the areas they would like to see addressed in the goals.



Environmental sustainability is at the heart of the post-2015 agenda which embraces equality, human rights, poverty eradication and human well-being, while respecting the earth's resources and needs of future generations. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recommended how to (1) achieve a balanced, ambitious and inclusive framework that integrates the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; (2) accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP); (3) ensure a clean and healthy environment; and (4) ensure green and decent jobs for poverty eradication.

Some of the other specific components of SDGs are accelerating the promotion of gender equality and focus on the special problems of young girls; provision of quality education, life skills and early child development; ensuring universal healthcare; ending hunger and malnutrition; addressing demographic and urbanization challenges; building of more resilient infrastructures; better handling of migration; ensuring peace, security and more responsive governance processes; stricter enforcement and adherence to human rights; and renewed global partnership.

Source: <http://www.unep.org/unea/sdg.asp>

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/mdg_goals/post-2015-development-agenda.html

Eco news

Indian scientists find way to make fuel cells more efficient

Researchers of CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata have found a new way to make fuel cells more efficient. They used an iron-based substance to act as a catalyst to speed up energy generation in a hydrogen peroxide-based fuel cell. The fuel cell combines hydrogen with oxygen to produce electricity, heat, and water. Eventually, with more technological breakthroughs, hydrogen peroxide fuel cells, which are eco-friendly, should be able to power automobiles using oxygen from the air. They are now considered the best option for use as a power source.

Source: http://zeenews.india.com/news/science/eco-friendly-cars-running-on-air-indian-scientists-show-the-way_1591587.html

Trap rats the eco-friendly way

To remove rats from the fields, rodentologists have advised farmers to use eco-friendly methods instead of relying on harmful pesticides that cause harm to plants and pose a danger to farmers. Bow traps, snap traps, box and cage-type traps with proper locking mechanism can effectively entrap and kill rodents. Bow traps are usually placed in the field without any bait inside. One hectare of land requires around 50 bow traps. Owls can be trained and used to drive away rats. Training the bird may prove time-consuming but once you train it, it makes use of ultrasonic sounds to drive away rats.



Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/Use-eco-friendly-methods-to-trap-rats/articleshow/47355046.cms>

Save paper; save trees

Replace paper napkins with cloth napkins. Reuse envelopes, wrapping paper, the front of gift cards (as postcards) and other paper materials you receive whenever possible.

Eco tip of the month

Visit CERC-ENVIS website www.cercenvis.nic.in and <https://www.facebook.com/EcoProductsEcoLabeling> to know more about our activities.

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