



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

Eco-friendly battery made of seeds and pine resin

Eco product



Present-day lithium batteries are efficient but involve a range of resource and environmental problems. Researchers of Uppsala University, Sweden, have come up with an eco-friendly battery using alfalfa (lucerne seeds) and pine resin with a clever recycling strategy. They have developed a technique to extract the lithium from spent batteries and combine this with renewable biological material, to create a battery with a similar energy capacity as that of ordinary lithium-ion batteries. The materials used include substances made from alfalfa and pine resin, which are organic and renewable, with the added bonus that, once the batteries are no longer usable, they can be recycled using cost-effective, low-energy methods and relatively harmless chemicals, such as ethanol and water.

Source: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cssc.201402440/abstract;jsessionid=809A7B417008EC55B0D6215AAB63F6FE.f02t02>

New law, fast track green clearances to be facilitated

Green issue



The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has constituted a high-level committee to review environment laws and formulate a new "umbrella" law to streamline the process of environment clearances for development projects.

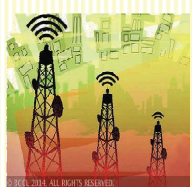
The committee is headed by the former cabinet secretary T.S.R. Subramanian. It will review the key environment laws — Environment Protection Act (EPA) of 1986, Forest Conservation Act (FCA) of 1980, Wildlife Protection Act (WPA) of 1972, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1981 and the Indian Forest Act (IFA) of 1927.

Full-time expert bodies—National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and State Environment Management Authority (SEMA)—are to be constituted at the Central and state levels respectively under the new proposed Environment Loss Management Act (ELMA). They will evaluate project clearance (using technology and expertise), in a time bound manner, providing for single window clearance. GIS reference maps combined with multilayer data captured through satellite imagery would be used for preliminary screening of applications and speedy project clearance.

A "fast track" procedure for "linear" projects (roads, railways and transmission lines), power and mining projects and for "projects of national importance" has been prescribed in the new mechanism. Applicants would be severely penalised for any misrepresentation, deliberate falsehood or suppression of facts. A National Environment Research Institute "on the lines of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education" will be constituted and a new all India service - Indian Environment Service - is to be created.

Source: <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/content/t-s-r-subramanian-panel-proposes-new-law-institutions-fast-track-green-clearances>

DoT urges mobile cos, tower operators to go green



To reduce carbon emissions, the telecom department (DoT) has urged mobile companies and tower operators to step up investments in go-green technologies. DoT's call for faster deployment of green energy technologies comes at a time when the overall profitability of the sector has improved. Go-green laws require cutting carbon emissions by 17% in the next five years and also mandate that companies migrate 50% of all cell towers in rural areas and 20% in urban areas to hybrid power by 2015. Hybrid power has been defined as a mix of grid supplies and renewable energy based on solar, wind, biomass or fuel cells. By 2020, operators will need to run 75% and 33% of cell towers in rural and urban zones, respectively, on hybrid supplies.

Source: http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/45294444.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

India's first net zero energy building

Eco news



The Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, one of the first net zero energy buildings in India, is constructed with solar passive design and energy-efficient building materials. The project is rated under Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment. To reduce energy consumption, the design utilises 75% of natural daylight. The entire building has an access friendly design for differently-abled persons. It is an earthquake-resistant structure with 70% of the total area covered by plantation and grass. Instead of conventional desktop computers, thin-client networking systems have been provided to minimise energy consumption. The building is fully compliant with requirements of the Energy Conservation Building Code of India.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/indias-first-net-zero-energy-building/article6589478.ece>

Pay bills online

If all households pay their bills online and receive e-statements instead of paper, it saves a million trees every year. In addition, it cuts emissions of billion tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and billion pounds of solid waste.

Eco tip

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Consumer Education and Research Centre

"Suraksha Sankool", S. G. Highway, Thaltej, Ahmedabad - 380 054.

Tel : 079-27489945/46, 27450528, 27438752/3/4 Fax : 079-27489947 Email : cerc-env@nic.in, cerc@cercindia.org Website : www.cercenvis.nic.in, www.cercindia.org