GREEN ALERT

January - February 2017 Vol.3 Issue. 6

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

The 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.

Eco product of the month

An alternative for jet fuel

Water and carbon dioxide (CO_2) can be converted into 'solar thermo-chemical fuel' using energy from the sun and very high temperatures. A new study has analysed the production of this fuel and found that, under favourable future conditions, costs could be as little as €1.28 per litre, with close to zero life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions. Although suitable as a substitute for any hydrocarbon fuel, it could be particularly useful as a much needed alternative for energy-dense jet fuel. This study shows the potential for solar thermochemical jet fuel which, although in its early stages of development, could aid the move away from fossil fuels.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/fuel_sunlight_co2_water_alternative_jet_fuel_469na1_en.pdf

Green issue

Towards A Green India

With a population of more than 1.2 billion, India is the world's largest democracy. Over the past decade, the India's integration into the global economy has been accompanied by economic growth. The growth has come at a severe cost to the country's environment in the form of deforestation, pollution and threats to endangered species. According to the World Wildlife Fund, overall industrial roundwood usage in India could surpass 70 million square meters annually by 2020. A report by World Bank in 2014 finds that environmental degradation costs India $80 billion per year or 5.7% of its economy. In the survey of 178 countries whose environments were surveyed, India ranked 155th overall and almost last in air pollution exposure. The survey also concluded that India's environmental quality is far below all BRIC countries [China (118), Brazil (77), Russia (73), and South Africa (72)]. If the country wants to break the cycle of environmental loss and resource depletion, it must further embrace clean technology and sustainable policies, the World Bank said. The report said that sustainable policies and technology is affordable. A low-emission, resource-efficient strategy would be particularly helpful.

India has started to invest in clean technology on a massive scale. Ministry of New & Renewable Energy reported the country has an operational solar power capacity of over 4 GW. India's solar energy capacity has largely been fueled by the country's National Solar Mission and the endeavour put India on pace to be one of the top 10 solar markets in the world. Many investors and venture capitalists are now seeing India as the 'next big thing' for clean technology investments.

The National Mission for Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). It aims at protecting; restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures. It envisages a holistic view of greening and focuses on multiple ecosystem services, especially, biodiversity, water, biomass, preserving mangroves, wetlands, critical habitats etc. Along with carbon sequestration as a co-benefit. This mission has adopted an integrated cross-sectoral approach as it will be implemented on both public as well as private lands with a key role of the local communities in planning, decision making, implementation and monitoring.

http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/03/06/green-growth-overcoming-india-environment-challenges-promote-development,
http://www.azocleantech.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=551

Eco news

Draft policy to make small buildings eco-friendly

According to the draft issued by the Environment Ministry buildings coming up being small in size, should be eco-compliance. A built-up area of over 5,000-20,000 square meters, will have to comply with environmental conditions like installation of natural drainage, water conservation, rainwater harvesting and solid waste management, among others. Ministry has proposed that local by-laws and the revised National Building Code should incorporate these environment conditions so that even smaller-sized buildings are eco-compliant. The states adopting these objective and monitorable environmental conditions in their building by-laws and relevant laws should not require a separate environmental clearance for individual buildings.

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/government-issues-draft-policy-to-make-small-buildings-eco-compliant/articleshow/52204554.cms

Google will be on 100% renewables

Internet search and cloud services giant Google will be buying enough clean power on an ongoing basis to account for the electricity needs of both its 13 data centres (so far) and offices in more than 150 cities around the world. It wants to ensure more of the electricity it actually uses can be traced to renewable generating sources. It insists on "additionality" — that is, any project it supports must be adding more clean power to the grid. Google describes itself as the largest corporate renewable energy purchaser in the world, although its two biggest rivals in corporate cloud computing services — Amazon Web Services and Microsoft — are doing their best to catch up.

http://go.greenbiz.com/R00T8GiJiS0000i0NtYYhV0

Eco tip of the month

Go solar

Powering your home with solar panels can reduce your electric bills, shrink your carbon footprint and increase your home's value.

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