



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 this field.

Eco product of the month

Environmentally friendly cement is stronger

Research from the Niels Bohr Institute, Denmark, shows that cement made with waste ash from sugar production is stronger than ordinary cement. The research shows that the ash helps to bind water in the cement so that it is stronger, can withstand higher pressure and crumbles less. At the same time, energy is saved and pollution from cement production is reduced.

Source: Scientific Reports 3, Article number: 2667

Green issue

India's energy action plan gets UNDP aid



Here is some good news on the green energy front. To increase the commercial use of renewable energy on the spot where it is required (on-site renewables), an Indian action plan has received US \$ 64,000 (Rs. 40 lakh) from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). On-site renewables are solar photovoltaic cells and on-site wind and hydroelectric schemes. They reduce environmental and economic impacts associated with fossil fuel energy use.

The Ashden India Renewable Energy Collective, a team comprised of winners of the UK's Ashden Awards, received the grant to prepare the action plan for commercial use of renewable energy in five Indian states. The Ashden Award, popularly known as the "Green Oscar", is a prestigious award given for the promotion and use of sustainable energy. The five states for which the action plan will be prepared are Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Assam and Jharkhand, with the Ashden team being headquartered in Kolkata. This action plan will help increase use of renewable energy for commercial purposes, such as using solar-powered boats and rickshaws. This will also help promote eco-tourism.

The team has also got a grant of around Rs. 16 lakh from GIZ - a German international agency that has developed a rating system for cooking stoves used on a mass scale.

Initiatives in the green energy field

To accelerate the pace of use of renewable energy in the country, the Government of India has announced National Solar Mission under the National Action Plan on Climate Change which envisages a 20,000 MW solar capacity addition by 2022. The Government of Gujarat has taken a proactive initiative to harness clean and green energy. A 590 MW capacity "Solar Park" has been set up at village Charanka, district Patan in Gujarat. Gujarat Power Corporation Limited (GPCL) is the nodal agency for its development.

The West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (HIDCO) authorities are developing Rajarhat New Town as a solar city. LED streetlights will be set up, solar panels fixed on the rooftops of highrises, and solar power used for entertainment and community lighting purposes.

Natural Coir Fibre: An Eco-Friendly Resource



Environmentally friendly natural coir fibre products are 100% biodegradable. "Coconut fibre products are eco-friendly and have great utility. Our aim is to popularise the varied use of these products and also reach out to entrepreneurs who are interested in setting up their yarn manufacturing units to make the products," manager of Coir Board, S. Venkataraman, has said. In order to showcase the many forms of coir products, the Coir Board, is taking out *Coir Kranti Express* across cities from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

<http://www.thehindu.com/>

Eco News

Consumers Prefer Taste of Coffee Labelled 'Eco-Friendly'



The University of Gavle, Sweden, and the University of Chicago, US, have confirmed this with their own study published in *PLOS One*. The study in Sweden shows coffee consumers are willing to pay a premium for brews labeled "eco-friendly" because they're convinced they taste better." An increasingly large number of products are marked with morally loaded labels such as 'fair-trade' and 'organically produced', associated with social or environmental responsibility that speak to our conscience," the study says. "Eco labels not only promote a willingness to pay more for the product but they also lead to a more favourable perceptual experience."

<http://www.plosone.org>

Eco Tip of the month

Reusing packaging material saves more energy than recycling. Also, you can save both energy and landfill space by avoiding extra packaging. Reuse plastic bags, or better still, refuse plastic bags. Carry a sturdy bag made of cloth or jute with you when you go shopping. This way, you will also look trendy.

Go Green and Look Trendy!

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

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