



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 product

Cigarette butts a 'green' energy storage solution

Scientists from South Korea have converted cigarette butts into a high-performing material that can be integrated into computers, handheld devices, electrical vehicles and wind turbines to store energy. The cellulose acetate fibres found in most cigarette filters could be transformed into a carbon-based material using a simple, one-step burning technique called pyrolysis. The resulting material contained a number of tiny pores, increasing its performance as a super capacitive material. The material can store more electrical energy than commercially available carbon, graphene and carbon nanotubes. This study is published in the journal *Nanotechnology*.



<http://iopscience.iop.org/0957-4484/25/34/345601/>

New Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to protect the environment

United Nations agreed on post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. Welcoming the agreement, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: "The agreement encompasses a universal, transformative and integrated agenda that heralds an historic turning point for our world. This is the people's agenda, a plan of action for ending poverty in all its dimensions, irreversibly, everywhere and leaving no one behind. It seeks to ensure peace and prosperity and forge partnerships with people and planet at the core. The integrated, interlinked and indivisible 17 sustainable development goals are the people's goals and demonstrate the scale, universality and ambition of this new agenda."

New goals have been set to replace Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) including new environmental commitments. The UN has finalised the 17 new goals to set an international agenda for the next 15 years to end poverty, promote the well-being and prosperity of peoples everywhere, and to protect the environment. It is coming into effect on 1st January 2015 and running until 2030.

Specifically, the goals include targets that promise a major boost to the environment and global green economy, such as commitments to "ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all", "ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns", "take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts", "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", "protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification", and "halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss."

The preamble of the 29-page text, "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", states that: "We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet".



Green issue

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7891TRANSFORMING%20OUR%20WORLD.pdf>

Eco news

Eco-friendly way of treating waste water

A low-cost and eco-friendly waste water treatment plant based on a technology called 'SHEFROL' (sheet flow root level) is invented by students of Pondicherry University. SHEFROL is a bio-reactor which uses the water hyacinth to absorb nutrients, pathogens and micro organisms from water. The plant consists of sand bags placed in pits and channels, a sedimentation tank and a non-permeable sheet which ensures waste water does not seep into the ground. It costs around Rs.15,000. The plant takes only six hours to treat waste water. So it can be customised to be used for one house or a large suburb. The plant has low maintenance and can be easily dismantled and set up in a new place.



<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/ecofriendly-way-of-treating-water/article7506187.ece>

Three Indian Americans honoured for their innovations

US President Barack Obama honoured three Indian Americans among others for their innovative and path breaking startups which have had a major impact on people's lives. They are – Ms. Privahini Bradoo from San Francisco, Ms. Ann Marie Sastry from Michigan and Dr. Suma Reddy from New York. Ms. Privahini founded BlueOak an electronics recycling firm that harvests the valuable precious metals out of old smartphones and TVs. Ms. Reddy co-founder of Waddle a fun and useful product that would allow friends to help each other discover great places to go. Dr. Sastry's company Sakti is using materials science to develop the next generation of solid state lithium batteries that will power mobile phones, computers, and even cars.



<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/08/04/new-details-president-obama-hosts-first-ever-white-house-demo-day>

Eco-Beauty

Go green with daily beauty products. Buy economy-size shampoo and conditioner bottles rather than smaller ones to cut down on trash.

Eco tip

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

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