



# 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 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.

## Vitamin-Driven Battery, an eco friendly approach



A team of researchers at the University of Toronto, Canada, has created a battery that stores energy in a biologically derived unit. It is similar to many commercially-available lithium-ion batteries with one important difference – it uses flavin from vitamin B2 (riboflavin) as the cathode, the part that stores the electricity that is released when connected to a device. It uses bio-derived polymers – long – chain molecules – for one of the electrodes, essentially allowing battery energy to be stored in a vitamin-created plastic, instead of expensive, harder to process, and more environmentally-harmful metals such as cobalt. The study was published in the journal *Advanced Functional Materials*.

Source: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/adfm.201602114/abstract>

## Eco product of the month

## NITI Aayog mooted tax cuts for eco-labelled products

The Centre's NITI Aayog has mooted tax incentives and viability gap funding for eco-labelled products as part of the government's green procurement policies to substantially improve resource efficiency.

Resource Efficiency is a key element of Sustainable Development. This is reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 12 which aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Eight other SDG goals (2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 15) also have a bearing on resource efficiency.

The Aayog has said in a strategy paper on "Resource Efficiency" that incentives should be provided through tax benefits for eco-labelled products to encourage consumers to purchase such products. Its principal advisor Ratan P Watal said "A comprehensive and well-designed green procurement policy (GPP) can be a key instrument to promote resource efficiency in the economy."

As part of the action plan to achieve resource efficiency, the Aayog has laid out a detailed short-term and medium-term action plan spread over the next five years. It has laid emphasis on promotion, regulation and institutional development as the key areas to work upon. "Focusing on designing cross-cutting policy instruments such as sustainable public procurement, standards, eco-labelling and certification for promoting resource efficiency in the use of critical materials in the hotspot sectors (key industrial and strategic sectors) of the economy is the key," the policy paper said.

Laying the roadmap for achieving resource efficiency, the Aayog has proposed that a start be made with a small range of products, for which the market is already reasonably well-established, followed by a gradual expansion as the programme matures.

There is a global commitment to achieving resource efficiency in order to establish sustainable consumption and production patterns. It is also a priority for the government and is reflected in various policies and programme announcements like Make in India, Zero Effect-Zero Defect Scheme, Smart Cities, Swachh Bharat and Ganga Rejuvenation Mission.

NITI Aayog in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH had prepared a Strategy Paper on Resource Efficiency. This paper is available on website for public comments.

Source: [http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/document\\_publication/Strategy%20Paper%20on%20Resource%20Efficiency.pdf](http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/document_publication/Strategy%20Paper%20on%20Resource%20Efficiency.pdf)

## Road Map for Achieving Resource Efficiency

- NITI Aayog, as part of the action plan to achieve resource efficiency, has laid out a detailed short-term and medium-term action plan spread over the next five years
- NITI Aayog has sought suggestions on the policy paper, following which it will finalise the green procurement policy

Resource efficiency or resource productivity is the ratio between a given benefit or result and the natural resource required for it

Incentives should be provided through tax benefits for eco-labelled products to encourage consumers to purchase such products... A comprehensive and well-designed green procurement policy can be a key instrument to promote resource efficiency in the economy

NITI Aayog, in a strategy paper on resource efficiency

## Eco news

### BioFuel Bus an eco-friendly solution



The Goa government launched first biogas-run bus as a pilot project on the occasion of Independence Day. They will launch approximately 40 such buses in the state by February 2018. This is a 36-seater multi-axle Scania bus. It will be sustained through biogas generated at the solid waste management

plant at Saligao, the Goa governor, Mridula Sinha said. Scania also provided two more buses running on ethanol. These buses were also launched on this occasion. These three buses will be a part of the state-run Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL)'s already existing fleet during the three-month pilot project in Goa. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari also emphasizes on switching to biofuels such as ethanol and methanol, besides biogas, will make India pollution-free and generate employment.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/goa-government-launches-indias-first-biofuel-bus/articleshow/60071341.cms>

### HC orders to develop eco-friendly ways to dispose of stubble



The stubble burning is a major cause of air pollution during the autumn and winter months. The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to develop environment-friendly farming practices to reduce stubble burning. A bench of Justices S Ravindra Bhat and SP Garg issued the direction to the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, forest & climate change and Department of Science and Technology asking them to coordinate with educational or technical institutions. The court also asked the Central Government to explore possibility of creating a fund for innovation in farming techniques. It also issued directions to Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and the Delhi Governments to file status reports every alternate month on steps taken to educate and create awareness among farmers and agricultural workers against the ills of stubble-burning.

Source: <http://www.dailypioneer.com/city/develop-eco-friendly-ways-to-dispose-of-stubble-hc.html>

### Decorate differently

Adorn your apartment with plants to improve air quality, or use old blankets, silk scarves or old garments to reupholster couch pillows.

### Eco tip of the month

Visit CERC-ENVIS website [www.cercenvs.nic.in](http://www.cercenvs.nic.in) and <https://www.facebook.com/EcoProductsEcoLabeling> to know more about our activities.

**Consumer Education and Research Centre**

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