

UNITED KINGDOM

University buildings receive environmental award

Bradford University has beaten off competition from Harrods, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Ministry of Defence to be named Carbon Champion of the Year at the CIBSE Building Performance Awards 2012. The University carried out a sustained and comprehensive programme of energy efficiency that not only reversed their buildings' previous trend of rising energy use and emissions, but actually reduced them by 8 percent since the start of the programme in 2005. The university's latest £40 million (US\$63 million) student village was hailed as the 'greenest' building in the world when it was opened last year.

GERMANY

Siemens receives innovation award

Siemens has received the German Industry's Innovation Award in the large companies category. The award was won by the Siemens H-Class gas turbine, which holds the world efficiency record at 60.75 percent in combined cycle duty. A single gas turbine of this type can supply, in combined cycle mode, a major city like Berlin with eco-friendly electricity. The award, which is listed as the world's first innovation award, was made under the patronage of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research.

MOZAMBIQUE

UN-HABITAT and BASF announce new energy centre

UN-HABITAT will collaborate with the municipality of Beira, Mozambique and the BASF Social Foundation to improve living conditions of slum dwellers in Munhava slum, in the city of Beira, by building a Multifunctional Clean Energy Centre (MCEC). The new infrastructure will allow increased access to clean energy, better sanitation and safe drinking water for those people living in the Munhava slum. The facility will also provide employment opportunities for vulnerable youth who will be responsible for its daily operation and management.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Energy efficient programme unveiled for leading retail chain

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is promoting energy efficiency in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a €5.4 million (US\$7 million) loan to finance implementation of advanced energy saving measures at Bingo, one of the leading retail chains in the country. The proceeds of the loan will be used to install water-to-water heat pumps, LED lighting, chillers, high performing refrigeration with heat recovery, as well as insulation panels in Bingo's outlets.

SOUTH AFRICA

First nation in Africa to phase out inefficient lighting

The South African government is the first nation in Africa to announce a comprehensive phase-out policy for inefficient lighting. The plan is linked to a global initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), aimed at combating climate change through the transition to energy efficient lighting. "If a global temperature rise is to be kept under 2 degrees Celsius, we need to act on multiple fronts, including voluntary and legally binding actions," said Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director. "Fast tracking more energy-efficient lighting is without doubt one of the low hanging fruit offering not only emissions saving but cost savings to a company or a household's budget."



Photo: LED Lighting SA

South Africa will only use efficient lighting sources

The UNEP/GEF en.lighten initiative was launched in September 2009 to accelerate the transition to efficient lighting and mitigate climate change

The phase-out of inefficient lighting is one of the quickest, easiest and most effective ways to save energy and combat climate change. Electricity for lighting accounts for close to 20 percent of total global electricity production and 6 percent of worldwide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, according to the International Energy Agency.

"This UNEP/GEF Global Partnership is switching off old bulbs and switching on a path to a more low-carbon, resource-efficient Green Economy," added Steiner. "The aim of achieving a global phase-out by 2016 is not only possible but infinitely do-able."

The UNEP/GEF en.lighten initiative was launched in September 2009 to accelerate the transition to efficient lighting and mitigate climate change. It is a partnership between UNEP, GEF, and private sector partners Osram AG, Philips Lighting and the National Lighting Test Centre of China (NLTC).

"en.lighten is the latest initiative funded by the GEF in partnership with UNEP to accelerate market transformation of efficient lighting technologies on a global scale," said Monique Barbut, CEO and chairperson of the Global Environment Facility. "Through this initiative, we are building a brighter future today and for the next generations to come."



Under the RE:FIT scheme, 400 buildings in London will be made more energy efficient

UNITED KINGDOM

London to retrofit 400 public buildings

The Mayor of London's programme to make public buildings more energy efficient will bring savings in CO₂ emissions equivalent to removing 60,000 cars from London's roads. Schools, libraries, town halls and hospitals are among nearly 400 public buildings set to get an energy efficiency retrofit through the RE:FIT scheme launched by London mayor, Boris Johnson. This represents more than £50 million (US\$80 million) of investment in the redevelopment of the buildings.

"The key benefit of the project, for us, was that we only paid once we'd seen returns," said Kai Kin Lee, Capital Design project manager at Newham University Hospital NHS Trust. "The project exceeded the investment requirements set out in the RE:FIT scheme, and delivered additional operational benefits over and above energy and carbon reductions."

Based on previous international studies, it is estimated that energy efficiency activity at this scale could represent the creation of up to 700 jobs. At a time when organisations are facing reduced budgets, RE:FIT is set to see 100 buildings completed or signed up with finance in place by May this year.

This is all part of the mayor's plan to retrofit London's buildings, responsible for 70 percent of the capital's carbon emissions, with measures such as photovoltaic solar panels, low-energy lighting systems and new, efficient boilers on an unprecedented scale, whilst also boosting the economy and creating new jobs. The mayor's target for 100 public sector buildings to use RE:FIT is expected to be met by May 2012 with hundreds more to follow. Work is already finished or very near completion on 86 buildings, which is estimated to save £1.3 million of taxpayers' money through reduced energy bills each year.

"Retrofitting London is a win-win, not only does it make perfect economic and common sense by cutting energy costs but it also reduces carbon emissions and stimulates the capital's burgeoning low-carbon economy, creating jobs and boosting skills," said Boris Johnson. "The ranks of public organisations opting to use RE:FIT is growing by the day and I urge others to also sign up and reap the financial rewards it delivers."

Detailed preparation is underway to sign up a further 297 buildings in the next 12 months. These include schools, town halls, libraries and museums, leading to estimated savings up to £6 million on energy bills and 36,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions each year.

DUBAI

World Energy Forum will take place in Dubai

Dubai will be the venue for the World Energy Forum 2012 (WEF), the first to be organised outside the headquarters of the United Nations in New York under the theme of 'A Forum for World Leaders'. The event will take place over 22-24 October 2012 at the Dubai International Convention Center.

SRI LANKA

Green rating system introduced in Sri Lanka

A locally developed green rating system has been introduced for the first time in Sri Lanka for built environment, taking up the challenge to create sustainable buildings for the future. The Green Building Council Sri Lanka (GBCSL) has joined hands with the Institute for Construction Training and Development (ICTAD) in implementing this novel rating system. The new rating system will be introduced with close coordination with the government. The Environment Ministry, Construction, Engineering Services, Housing and Common Amenities Ministry and Power and Energy Ministry have been working together with the GBCSL on this initiative.

INDIA

Ministry of Power recognises landmark C40-CCI project

A project developed in collaboration with C40 and the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) has received a National Energy Conservation Award from India's Ministry of Power. The project to retrofit the Inorbit Mall Malad, one of India's largest indoor shopping malls, picked up second place for 'Excellence in Energy Conservation and Management'. Inorbit Mall owner K. Raheja Corp Group (KRC) is one of the largest property developers in India and also one of the country's strongest proponents of energy efficient buildings.

INDIA

Chennai is best city for green buildings

Chennai possesses more green buildings than any other city in India. Chennai is home to 42 of the 212 structures in India that are certified as eco-friendly by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC). Among the green buildings in Chennai are the Turbo Energy office complex in RA Puram, Menon Eternity in Alwarpet and Shell Business Service Centre, all with platinum certification, the highest rating. The ratings are based on sustainability, waste management, use of natural resources and indoor environmental quality.