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NEWSLETTER

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CONTENT

MEMBER UPDATES

- China Green Purchasing Network: CEC Successive Won the Annual Green Procurement Pioneer Award
- Japan Green Purchasing Network: The 23rd Green Purchasing Awards have been decided!
- Thailand Green Purchasing Network : TEI Held Green Public Procurement Training Activity
- Green Purchasing Network Malaysia: Design of an Integrated Certification System within a Block-chain Eco-system: Ocean Bound Plastic (OBP) as a Pilot Project
- Green Purchasing Alliance Movement: PCEPSDI Green Public Procurement Activity
- Green Council: Enterprises Cherish Water Campaign Awards Ceremony
- TCO Development: Five Mistakes IT Purchasers Must Avoid to Increase Sustainability Impact
- ICLEI: Cities Use Public Procurement to Advance Circular Transition
- ICLEI: Cities Invite Market to Drive Zero-emission and Circular Construction

GLOBAL UPDATES ON SPP

- UNEP Released Factsheets on Sustainable Public Procurement in National Governments
- SPP Programme Support the Global Sustainable Procurement Guidance for Building Materials
- Dutch Circular Public Procurement Best Practice-for Workplace ICT
- Life Style for Environment (LiFE)
- EPA Seeks Input on Inflation Reduction Act Programs to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with Construction Materials and Products





CEC Successive Won the Annual Green Procurement Pioneer Award

China Environmental United Certification Center (CEC) successively won the national Annual Green Procurement Pioneer Award, during its invited participation in China Public Procurement Summit co-organized by China government procurement news and China government procurement news network held on February 16th to 17th. Officials from department of central and local government procurement entity, representatives from government procurement industry and professionals held discussion and exchange on the theme of “Government procurement promote economic stability and pursue development”.

CEC Representative introduced the practical experiences and achievements of China environmental labelling help to green public procurement (GPP), meanwhile constructive suggestions were put forward for China GPP development including the expansion to service industry, localized relevant treasury policy, and constantly enrich and improve national GPP policies toward “carbon peak and carbon neutral” targets.



Awards Certificate



Awards Ceremony



The 23rd Green Purchasing Awards have been decided!

The 23rd Green Purchasing Awards recognize leading examples of companies that contribute to solving social issues through sustainable procurement (consumption and production).



The 23rd Green Purchasing Awards called for and reviewed cases of initiatives that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs through sustainable procurement (consumption and production), such as efforts to realize a decarbonized society and circular economy by promoting the spread of renewable energy, reducing food loss, and promoting green products through collaboration and cooperation with various stakeholders. The judges selected cases of initiatives that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs targets through sustainable procurement (consumption and production). In addition, a "Supplier Engagement Special Category" was established as a special category.

The 23rd Green Purchasing Awards have been decided!

 Prize	Winning Organization (*Category of Application)	 Theme
Grand Prize, Minister of the Environment Award	Tokyu Land Corporation (Large Company Division)	Expanding the use of renewable energy
Grand Prize, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Award	Loop Japan LLC (Small and Medium Enterprise Division)	Circulation-oriented Shopping Platform Loop
Grand Prize, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Award	Saga City (Government and Private Organization Category)	Reduction of CO2 emissions through public procurement of "tree-nurtured paper"
Grand Prize	Zimoti Corporation (Large Company Division)	Zimoti, a local information site to promote reuse
	Nature Innovation Group, Inc. (SME sector)	Umbrella sharing service "Aikasa"
	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd (Supplier Engagement Special Section)	Efforts to Achieve Carbon Neutrality in the Supply Chain
Excellence	KAWASAKI Corporation (Small and Medium Enterprise Division)	Utilization of waste plastic materials, development and sales of sustainable building materials
	Miyagi Sanitation and Environment Corporation (Small and Medium Enterprise Division)	Expanding the use of renewable energy
	Kobe City (Administration and private sector)	Recycling of detergent refill packs



Green label is established as an independent agency providing information about environmentally friendly products and services. We work follow ISO14024 and ISO/IEC17065 which neutral, reliable, as well as taking care of environmental quality control by promoting awareness and preventing pollution that may occur throughout the life cycle of products/services in a systematic and transparent manner. In addition, one of our missions is to encourage the government and the private sector work together to restore and preserve the environment including reduce pollution problems by changing consumption behaviors through the “Green Public Procurement (GPP)”.

TEI Held Green Public Procure ment Training Activity

Under the knowledge transfer by the training of the Green Public Procurement (GPP) procedures, TEI in cooperating with the Pollution Control Department (PCD), a major responsible agency for green products/services database in Thailand held this training for **Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA)** and **the Publishing House**, the Secretariat of the Senate Thailand.

For MEA, the training is an introduction to green procurement and hiring related policies, eco labelling, criteria for green procurement such as purchasing of the office equipment, e-catalog (files, pens, correction fluid, paper), organizing meetings & seminars services, supply of drinking water, and leasing environmentally friendly printing equipment along with the workshop to implement the green procurement criteria in order to understand and have correct practices in green procurement for their organization in the future.



[For the Publishing House, the Secretariat of the Senate](#), the training courses is to enhance procurement knowledge of products and printing services in environmentally friendly manner as part of the performance development project according to the quality management system based on standard ISO 9001: 2015.

Training content consist of the procurement guideline of eco-friendly products and provide services according to environmental policies, targets, plans, laws and regulations on GPP, the outsourcing. The activities included environmental impact assessment focusing on eco-friendly printing according to green label criteria by arranging the small group discussion to brainstorm on how to reduce the impact of the printing activities under the Secretariat of the Senate. This is to provide the understanding and have proper guidelines for procuring products and services that are environmentally friendly including improving environmentally friendly printing to move towards a green printing office that complies with the green economy policy leading to the sustainable procurement.



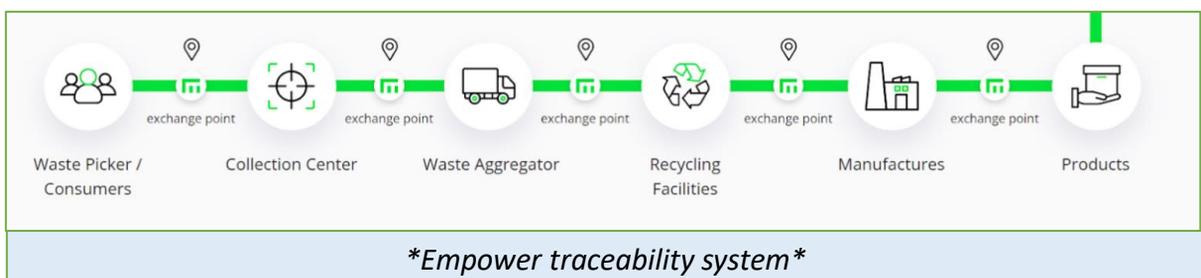


Design of an Integrated Certification System within a Block-chain Eco-system: Ocean Bound Plastic (OBP) as a Pilot Project

The certification of a traceability system that is built on the block-chain provides the necessary transparency and confidence vital to Green Procurement. Supply chain buyers of recycled plastics, requires assurance that the materials and products they received are from the sources declared, and that the data collected can be easily accessed, audited and verified. Block-chain technology constitutes a pivotal innovation for accelerating sustainability in the plastic industry.

GPNM/International GPN Berhad, Empower AS, Norway and Wongpanit Krabi, Thailand are partners to pioneer a pilot project to develop one integrated certification process standards within an existing tracking system, built on a block-chain environment. To provide some focus, the pilot project will start with ocean bound plastics, as our first effort, to promote sustainable practices and to contribute to solutions to help reduce the negative impacts of OBP on oceans marine life, in a cost effective manner. The successful outcome of this pilot project would provide us with the necessary tools to develop new methodologies and design process standards for recycled plastics, in general, and for many other different products working on the supply chains.

Key experts and partners will meet in Krabi Thailand from 22-26 May 2023 to review and approve the draft standards and the process to integrate certification and traceability methodology, within a block-chain eco-system. The certification standards and the traceability system on a block-chain (refer to diagram) will be tested and implemented as a pilot project in a waste recycling factory (Wongpanit Krabi). This recycling plant is currently collecting OBP for recycling into plastic bales and flakes. The successful pilot model and experiences gained in Krabi will be promoted for implementation in other countries.





Design of an Integrated Certification System within a Blockchain Eco-system: Ocean Bound Plastic (OBP) as a Pilot Project

As part of this project, we will be researching key issues related to Ocean Bound Plastics, such as:

1. Defining boundaries of OBP, including procedures for data input and verification at each step, from the ocean to the collection organisation.
2. Investigating any need for further verification to determine if the plastic deposited by small collectors is truly an OBP.
3. Obtaining the requisite documentation or information to be exchanged upon the conclusion of the collection process.

We (the Green Purchasing Network Malaysia) welcome comments and suggestions from industry experts, as we believe that this project has the potential to revolutionize the way we approach traceability and transparency in green procurement practices. Together, we can create a more sustainable future for our planet.



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**PCEPSDI
Green
Public
Procurement
Activity**

Fully committed to fulfilling its responsibilities for the different programs and projects this year, the Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. (PCEPSDI) opened 2023 with various local and international engagements, on top of its continuous efforts as the administrator of the National Ecolabelling Programme – Green Choice Philippines (NELP-GCP).

First, as part of the organization’s ongoing Scaling Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) project, implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), PCEPSDI held a planning workshop with the Procurement Service - Department of Budget and Management last February 10. PCEPSDI also co-facilitated the project’s kick-off and planning workshop with the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) and its member agencies, held from February 20-22. These activities are instrumental in identifying the types of assistance PCEPSDI may offer to help the said agencies in establishing their Green Public Procurement programs.



Next, on behalf of the Embassy of Denmark in the Philippines, the Finnish Embassy in Manila, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila, and the Embassy of Sweden in Manila, PCEPSDI carried out the Climate Executive Dialogue: Advancing Sustainable Solutions against Climate Change. The event was held last February 16, 2023, and featured notable guests and speakers from the public and private sectors who tackled existing environmental challenges and how to address them. The partnership also

included a social media awareness campaign on sustainable living, which the organization ran during the months leading to the event.



Finally, PCEPSDI was also tapped to share the organization's expertise in ecolabelling and capacity building in different events. Last March 14, PCPEPSDI held a virtual training session for the Embassy of Canada - Green Committee, where participants

learned about the concepts of sustainable packaging and circular economy. PCEPSDI was also invited by Makesense Philippines, on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to be part of the panel on discussion during the event titled "Mainstreaming Circular Economy: Value Chain Insights from LGUs and Social Entrepreneurs." This was held last March 21 and was attended by students from the Ateneo De Manila University, in addition to other university stakeholders and event partners.

With such a vibrant start to the year, PCEPSDI looks forward to more meaningful engagements and initiatives in the months to come.

Enterprises Cherish Water Campaign Awards Ceremony

commends over 600 Hong Kong commercial and industrial organizations for water conservation

Water yield in both Hong Kong and the Dongjiang River Basin on the Mainland has become unstable due to the climate change impact in recent years. Moreover, the COVID-19 epidemic has changed people's water-using habits leading to an increase in water consumption. Fresh water consumption in Hong Kong has risen from 996 million cubic metres in 2019 before the epidemic to more than 1,000 million cubic metres in 2022, reaching 1,066 million cubic metres.

Currently, non-domestic water consumption accounts for about 45% of freshwater consumption in Hong Kong. In view of this, the Green Council and the Water Supplies Department of HKSAR Government jointly organised the “Enterprises Cherish Water Campaign (ECH₂O)” in 2021 to create a collaborative platform for the commercial and industrial sectors to promote water conservation through various activities.



Ms. Linda WP HO, CEO of Green Council, delivered her speech to congratulate all the awardees

Enterprises Cherish Water Campaign Awards Ceremony

commends over 600 Hong Kong commercial and industrial organizations for water conservation



Over 250 participants attended the Enterprises Cherish Water Campaign Awards Ceremony on March 22, 2023

The ECH2O has garnered the participation of 624 commercial and industrial organisations. All participating premises have achieved a significant reduction in overall water consumption in 2022 by 5%, or about 500,000 cubic metres, which is equivalent to 200 Olympic-size swimming pools. Some premises also worked with their suppliers to produce a tailor-made flow controller for their faucets. Many organisations adopted different innovative measures to cherish water including water leakage detection devices, soil moisture sensing automatic sprinkler system, etc.

Recently on 22nd March 2023, which is also the annual World Water Day, the first Award Ceremony of ECH2O was held to recognise organisations and water cherishing managers for their outstanding performance in cherishing water. A total of 180 premises was recognised under the schemes below:

- commercial and industrial premises with outstanding performance in meeting their targets in saving water,
- premises are of high-water usage efficiency in an industry,
- managers with outstanding performance in cherishing water, and
- premises where the installation of water-efficient devices reaches 90% or more.

The ECH2O will continue to invite more organisations to participate in and procure/adopt water saving devices or solutions.

Five Mistakes IT Purchasers Must Avoid to Increase Sustainability Impact



Sustainable IT procurement can seem overwhelming, and it can be hard to know where to start. Here are five common mistakes purchasers should avoid to ensure that their IT tenders support sustainability goals..

IT products have a huge impact on the environment. Our current, linear way of producing and consuming IT products is not sustainable. IT products are also a significant part of the €2 trillion that public authorities, only in the EU, spend every year on the purchase of services, works, and supplies. Including sustainability certifications in procurement policies and tenders, therefore, is an effective way to drive environmental and social responsibility in the life cycle and value chain and contribute to the circular economy.

TCO Certified is the world's leading sustainability certification for IT products. Here is a list of common mistakes made in IT procurement that we identified in our conversations with purchasers:

1. Not including sustainability criteria at all. It may sound obvious, but this is actually still common. It doesn't matter where you start – the key is to start now.
2. To only require compliance with mandatory legislation. Purchasers have the opportunity to encourage the industry to go beyond legal sustainability requirements – use that superpower!
3. Running procurement cycles that are too short. This can lead to frequent product renewals and early disposal of products that are still functional.
4. Thinking all sustainability ecolabels/sustainability certifications are the same. It is important to choose ecolabels/certifications that drive change, with genuine sustainability impacts and independent verification – to avoid greenwashing.
5. Not fully seizing the potential of repairability criteria. When including ambitious repairability criteria, it doesn't make sense also to require that defective products are replaced with new ones.

If you are interested in making your IT procurement more sustainable, begin with our brand new, just-launched guide, **Sustainable IT for Beginners**. If you have already started to make your IT procurement more sustainable, there is an updated **step-by-step guide** that offers practical tips along the way.



Cities Use Public Procurement to Advance Circular Transition

The recently published [Circular Cities Declaration \(CCD\) Report 2022](#) highlights the great steps cities across Europe are taking to support the transition to a circular economy. Among the identified trends is the **increased use of public procurement as a lever to reduce their environmental footprint and enable the take-off of circular solutions and services.**

In Europe, **public buyers spend 14% of the EU's GDP, which means that there is a great potential for public authorities to have positive circular, social and environmental impact with their purchases of goods, works and services.** The CCD report shows that cities increasingly recognise this

potential. With 18 documented actions in the report public procurement is, behind circular infrastructure, the second most represented policy lever, used across many different sectors.



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A good example are [Haarlem's](#) (The Netherlands) ambitious circular procurement objectives. **The city aims for 50% of its purchases to be circular by 2025, and has a target of 100% by 2030.** These targets don't stand on their own; in its circular economy action plan [Haarlem Circulair 2040](#), the city has identified circular procurement as a key tool for implementing the circular economy and has made its circular objectives but are a central feature of its strategic procurement policy. The policy was derived partly from the Roadmap for Circular Procurement and Commissioning, acknowledging that commissioning plays a major role in achieving circular procurement goals.

Other examples in the report show how **cities have been adopting and developing circular economy strategies, setting goals for local purchasing, circularity and socially responsible public procurement for tenders.** These strategies are often aligned with international or national frameworks, such as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and allow interventions in many different sectors. [Torres Vedras](#) (Portugal) has for example implemented circular practices in its purchasing of school meals, while [Helsinki](#) (Finland) used circular principles for finding the best technical solution to renovate one of its main streets. [Copenhagen](#) (Denmark) is working on textile public procurement to stimulate demand for the output from the city's own textile recycling efforts.

Cities Invite Market to Drive Zero-emission and Circular Construction



ICLEI Members are among the growing [Declaration of Intent of the Working Group on Circular Construction](#).

key documents, both of which contain ambitions and commitments to leverage public procurement to make construction zero-emissions and circular.

Organisations are invited to join the growing list of signatories of these two documents, namely the: [Joint Statement of Demand of the Working Group on Zero Emission Construction Sites](#) and the [Joint](#)



Construction contributes massively to cities' carbon emissions, and is a field where local governments spend a lot of public money," explains **Mark Hidson**, Deputy Regional Director, Sustainable Economy and Procurement, ICLEI Europe. *"Leveraging cities' purchasing power thus has enormous potential both to push the industry to be greener, and to make large gains in emissions reductions to help Europe reach its climate goals."*

The Joint Statement of Demand contains a number of ambitions to move to fossil fuel free construction machinery by 2025 and to gradually increase the use of emission free machinery to at least 50% by 2030. This statement, which has been signed by ICLEI Members Copenhagen (Denmark), Oslo (Norway), Helsinki (Finland) and Vantaa (Finland), is a clear signal to the market that there is a demand for emission free construction machinery, should it be made available by manufacturers. Signatories of the JSoD commit to:

- ✘ Require fossil-free construction machinery in own public projects from 2025, with at least 20% emission-free machinery, where available.
- ✘ Require fossil-free construction machinery in own public projects from 2030, with at least 50% emission-free machinery, where available.

Cities Invite Market to Drive Zero-emission and Circular Construction



For its part, the Joint Declaration of Intent demonstrates an unmet need in the field of road construction, in particular asphalt pavements. It aims to provide Public Buyers and the market with a recommended direction for investments in road construction, with a view to tendering approaches and to addressing ongoing challenges that require further analysis, such as identifying risks and potential for broader use of circular asphalt. ICLEI Members Haarlem (the Netherlands), Rotterdam (the Netherlands), Lisbon (Portugal), Vienna (Austria), Zürich (Switzerland), and Nantes Métropole (France) are among the public authorities who have signed this Declaration.

The aim of the Joint Statement and Joint Declaration is to make future demand predictable and help other public buyers across Europe use procurement to effectively support innovation, while ensuring sustainability and high quality.

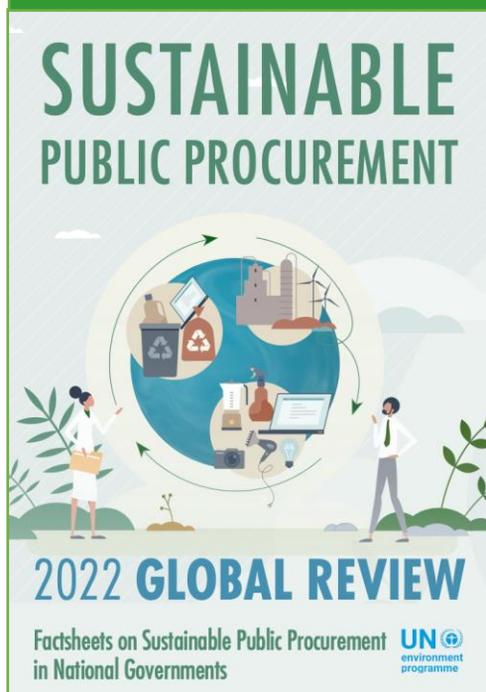
These documents were composed and agreed upon by the members of Working Groups on [Zero Emission Construction Sites](#) and on [Circular Construction](#), respectively. Both Working Groups are convened by the [Big Buyers for Climate and Environment Initiative](#), coordinated by ICLEI Europe and Eurocities on behalf of the European Commission. The Big Buyers Initiative establishes such Working Groups of public purchasers to focus on unmet public procurement needs, in order to drive market demand for innovative and sustainable products and services in Europe.

To sign and learn more about the Joint Statement of Demand of the Working Group on Zero Emission Construction Sites, [click here](#).

To sign and learn more about the Joint Statement of Demand of the Working Group on Circular Construction, [click here](#).



UNEP Released Factsheets on Sustainable Public Procurement in National Governments



The [‘Factsheets on Sustainable Public Procurement in National Governments’](#) is a supplement to the 2022 Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Global Review. It features 45 country Factsheets that illustrate the current state of sustainable public procurement among national governments around the world. The main research aim of the 2022 SPP Global Review is to provide an overview of the current sustainable procurement landscape at the global level, while highlighting significant trends or shifts in the evolution of sustainable procurement since the last edition of this publication in 2017. Chapter 3 of the 2022 SPP Global Review focuses specifically on ‘Sustainable procurement in national governments’, evaluating progress in sustainable public procurement (SPP) policy development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation activities among national governments. This supplement complements Chapter 3 of the 2022 SPP Global Review by providing detailed information on the state of SPP among national governments.

SPP Programme Support the Global Sustainable Procurement Guidance for Building Materials

Globally, chemicals have a significant environmental footprint, and the buildings and construction sector is one of the largest end markets for chemicals. Public procurement provides a powerful tool to address this challenge, but research suggests that more support is needed for procurers to manage and reduce the impacts of chemicals in this sector. Under the framework of the GEF-funded project 9771 [“Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management \(SAICM\)”](#), the [United Nations Environment Programme, Bioregional](#) and [Sustainable Global Resources](#) are currently developing a Global Sustainable Procurement Guidance for building materials. The guidance is developed under the auspices of the [Sustainable Public Programme of the One Planet network](#). Currently, the online consultation and soliciting suggestions on the Sustainable Procurement Guidance for building materials are undertaking.



Dutch Circular Public Procurement Best Practice -for Workplace ICT

Tackling challenges

Public entities across the globe increasingly face two challenges:

- ❑ “The digital workplace is crucial for my organization and my employees. How can I apply green/circular thinking to this essential part of my organization, without creating risks, complexity or high costs?”
- ❑ “How can my workforce become more aware - in a tangible, safe and pragmatic way - that green/circular thinking is relevant for all of them, today?”.

These two challenges can be tackled in one go.

To do so, national governments, large private organizations, cities and NGOs on three continents use a service called ‘waste compensation’. The service is used to make workplace devices such as phones and laptops waste-neutral, which means that the procurement of one new device is ‘compensated’ by the collection and recycling of an equal amount of scrap that would otherwise not be recycled.

Why is it needed for public organizations?

Public entities in Europe especially have ambitions on circular public procurement (CPP). But most struggle to get internal support to proceed to circular implementation. This is mostly due to lack of awareness amongst their colleagues, due to the complexity of changing procurement processes/agreements and due to the expected negative effects of CPP (e.g. expected cost increase, expected reduction of freedom of choice).

The service, used by several parts of the Dutch government, applies circular thinking to devices used daily by every civil servant: their mobile devices (e.g. phones/laptops). This is done in a very simple, safe and low cost way; an easy starting point for CPP.

The Dutch government has done all of the CPP work (defining, testing, legal work etc), which led to this - publicly available - CPP criteria:

<https://www.mvicriteria.nl/nl/webtool?criterion=4890#compensatie//7/1//en>.

Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)



On the occasion of the UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP26), Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the mission of "**LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment)**" to engage individuals in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change.

This initiative encourages a lifestyle that focuses on mindful and deliberate utilization of resources and aims to change the prevalent 'use and dispose of' consumption habits. The idea behind is to encourage individuals to adopt simple changes in their daily life that can contribute to climate change.

Another part of the LiFE mission is to use the strength of social networks to bring a change in the climate landscape. The mission also plans to create a global army of environment enthusiasts who shall be known as 'Pro-Planet People', committed to adopting and promoting environment-friendly lifestyles.

Following are areas that are grouped under the three pillars of LiFE.

Focus on Individual Behaviors

Awareness about the harmful effects of single-use plastic; knowledge about sustainable modes of transportation such as bicycles, e-bikes, e-cars; consciousness about wastage of water; knowledge about environment related labels (organic, plastic-free, no harm, energy star labels, etc.); consumption habits and making them greener – assessing personal carbon footprint; use of natural energy (wind energy, solar power, hydraulic energy); knowledge about conscious dressing (giving up leather, fur, animal tested products) etc.

Co-create Globally

Scalable ideas for change on a global level. For example, knowledge about adverse impacts of carbon-polluting industries, awareness about planet-friendly investments, implementing smart energy consumption etc.

Leverage Local Cultures

Awareness about community gardens, knowledge about creating products from waste, literacy about clothes recycling, importance of urban farming (hydroponics farming), reducing food wastage, community strengthening activities, environment lessons to be taught at education institutions, youth involvement etc.

EPA Seeks Input on Inflation Reduction Act Programs to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with Construction Materials and Products

On January 23rd, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the first opportunities for public input on new programs focused on lower carbon construction materials made possible by a \$350 million investment from President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. The Agency will hold three public webinars and will accept written feedback on establishing new grant and technical assistance programs, and a carbon labeling program for construction materials with substantially lower levels of embodied greenhouse gas emissions.

"The Inflation Reduction Act represents a historic commitment to build a new clean energy economy, powered by American workers and manufacturers in partnership with states, Tribes, communities and organizations," said EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pollution Prevention Jennie Romer. "These actions will immediately influence Federal procurement, drive significant emissions reductions over the next decade, and lay the groundwork for long-term decarbonization of manufacturing sectors. We're eager to engage with stakeholders and experts to spur the development and adoption of more environmentally preferable construction materials necessary to build the infrastructure of the future."

EPA's new programs will provide grants, technical assistance, and tools to help states and Tribal Nations, manufacturers, institutional buyers, real estate developers, builders, and others measure, report, and substantially lower the levels of embodied carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production, use, and disposal of construction materials and products. These new programs, funded by the Inflation Reduction Act, will build upon EPA's work in the ENERGY STAR Industrial Program and the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program, among others, to protect human health and the planet.

EPA will hold three public engagement webinars to solicit feedback from experts and stakeholders, including institutional buyers, developers, builders, manufacturers, and representatives from states, Tribal Nations, non-profit organizations, trade associations, and others.

[Learn more about these new programs funded by the Inflation Reduction Act.](#)





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Photoes used were provided by the IGPN members

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