



Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative

Promoting Policies and Practices for Sustainability

Sustainable Buildings are the most cost effective solution to climate change

UNEP's Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) provides an international platform for stakeholders to carry out activities supporting sustainable development and provides direct input to other initiatives, governments, and global bodies making recommendations and decisions affecting sustainable development in this sector.

UNEP-SBCI's Mission: to represent the common voice of the buildings sector, using UNEP's unique capacity to provide a global platform for collective action.

Goals

To achieve its mission of promoting a worldwide adoption of sustainable buildings and construction practices, UNEP-SBCI is implementing its objectives through four overarching goals:

1. Provide a common platform for stakeholders;
2. Establish baselines;
3. Develop tools and strategies; and
4. Implementation through pilot projects.



UNEP-SBCI has produced fundamental studies and reports in response to the lack of data in this sector that is required to properly inform policy-making and industry innovation.

WHY BUILDINGS?

Globally, buildings are responsible for 40% of annual energy consumption and up to 30% of all energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The building sector has also been shown to provide the greatest potential for delivering significant cuts in emissions at no cost. This sector is responsible for one-third of humanities resource consumption, including 12% of all fresh-water use, and produces up to 40% of annual solid waste. The building sector employs more than 10% of our workforce. With urbanization increasing in the world's most populous countries, building sustainability is essential in achieving sustainable development.

UNEP-SBCI MEMBERS



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COMMON CARBON METRIC

The **Common Carbon Metric (CCM)** was developed as a universal method for measuring the energy use and reporting the GHG emissions from building operations. Released in December 2009, the CCM's purpose is to give this sector a way to measure, report and verify reductions in a consistent and comparable way.

Energy consumption in both new and existing buildings could be cut by an estimated 30-50%

by 2020 through readily available technologies, design, equipment, management systems, and alternative generation solutions. The CCM provides the methodology to build a solid foundation to establish consistent performance baselines, national targets, and to set a level playing field for carbon trading. It allows performance measurement at the building level to verify performance estimates at the regional or national level.

Reporting is done in weight of carbon dioxide equivalent emitted per square meter per year

Carbon Intensity
= kgCO₂e/m²/year

TESTING: Since May 2010, UNEP-SBCI, with support from World Resources Institute (WRI), is engaging participants to test and experts to review these tools. The data collected through this method will allow policy-makers and owners to understand the performance of their building stock, which is critical to setting targets and choosing appropriate incentives, strategies and/or policies to improve performance.

BENEFITS OF ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS: Additional benefits include: employment generation, upgrading skills of existing workforce, energy security through reduced energy demand and international technology transfer.

CONTACT UNEP-SBCI SECRETARIAT

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Call for Pilot Participants in Testing the UNEP-SBCI Common Carbon Metric for Building Operations

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of UNEP's Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI), I am pleased announce the launch of the UNEP-SBCI Pilot testing of the Common Carbon Metric for Building Operations and invite you to participate. The intent of the Pilot is to "test drive" the effort to build the data foundation necessary to establish global, national, regional, and corporate baselines for the sector that contributes one third of the global energy-related emissions.

Currently, there is no globally recognized tool for measuring the energy intensity and reporting the greenhouse gas emission intensity (CO₂e) of building operations. To fill this critical gap, UNEP-SBCI released the Common Carbon Metric in December 2009.

To participate in the Pilot, contact Donna McIntire (donna.mcintire@unep.org) to register and visit our website for more information. On behalf of Maria Atkinson, UNEP-SBCI Board Chair, the UNEP-SBCI Board and WRI, we look forward to joining you in this important venture!

Yours sincerely,

Arab Hoballah

Chief, Sustainable Consumption & Production
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