

Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative

Promoting policies and practices for the built environment

Who is UNEP-SBCI?

The United Nations Environment Programme-Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) is a partnership of major public and private sector stakeholders in the building sector.

Why Buildings?

Globally buildings account for approximately 40% of annual energy consumption and up to 30% of all energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Yet, the building sector has also been shown to provide the greatest potential for delivering significant cuts in emissions, at least cost, in developed and developing countries.

40% of global energy is used in buildings

Collectively the building sector is responsible for about 40% of global resource use, including 12% of all fresh-water use and it produces up to 40% of our solid waste. The sector also employs, on average, more than 10% of our workforce. With urbanization increasing rapidly in the world's most populous countries, building sustainably is essential to achieving sustainable development.

Mission

UNEP-SBCI's mission is to present the common voice of building sector stakeholders on sustainable buildings and climate change. It draws on the UNEP's unique capacity to provide a global platform for collective action.

Common Platform

UNEP-SBCI Donors and Partners are working together to:

- Make submissions on means and methodologies for supporting the building sector in its efforts to reduce GHG emissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Inform policy-makers about the urgency, and benefit, of adopting sustainable building policies.
- Engage stakeholders and leading experts in the building sector through international symposiums, workshops, and side-events at UNFCCC conferences.

Goals

To achieve its mission and promote the worldwide adoption of sustainable buildings and construction practices, UNEP-SBCI has four key goals.

1. Provide a common platform for dialogue and collective action among building sector stakeholders.
2. Develop tools and strategies for achieving greater acceptance and adoption of sustainable building policies and practices worldwide.
3. Establish baselines which are globally recognized and based on a life-cycle approach, with an initial focus on energy efficiency and GHG emissions, and expanding to include additional indicators such as materials and water.
4. Demonstrate through pilot projects and inform policy developments of the important role buildings have to play in mitigation and adaptation to climate change at local, national and global levels.



UNEP

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Promoting Policies and Practices for Sustainability

- Cooperate with other international organizations such as the UNFCCC and the World Bank to facilitate discussion on improving, and creating additional, flexible financing mechanisms for the building sector.
- Develop a Common Carbon Metric (CCM) to measure energy use and report GHG emissions from the operational phase of buildings.

PERFORMANCE BASELINES

A key barrier to the adoption of sustainable building practices is the lack of performance baseline data to inform policy-making and industry innovation. UNEP-SBCI has responded to this challenge by producing several baseline studies including:

- Regional Baseline GHG Emissions and Reduction Potential of Buildings reports for Mexico and South Africa; and a similar report is in development for the US.
- State of Play report for India, and similar reports are in development for France, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam.



TOOLS & STRATEGIES

UNEP-SBCI is developing tools and strategies to enable the adoption of sustainable building policies and practices, including:

- Web-based Quick-Scan Tool, which helps policy-makers identify policy packages that can cost effectively deliver major reductions in building related GHG emissions.
- Sustainable Buildings Reporting Protocol for the building sector, which accounts for common core performance indicators including energy, GHG emissions, water, materials, waste, biodiversity, and economics.

IMPLEMENTATION

Working with the UNEP provides a unique opportunity to develop tailored projects and leverage international funding. Projects currently underway include:

Sustainable Urban Housing Initiative (SUSHI)
Drawing on the findings of UNEP-SBCI research and expertise, SUSHI is a unique methodology developed to increase the use of sustainable (resource and energy-efficient) building solutions in social housing programs in developing countries.

Sustainable Policies in Developing Countries (SPOD)
Employing the Quick-Scan Tool, SPOD aims to help African countries develop and implement policies that improve energy-efficiency, and reduce GHG emissions from the building sector.

Common Carbon Metric (CCM)
CCM is a protocol for measuring energy use and reporting GHG emissions from the operational phase of buildings. It was launched in response to the need for a globally harmonized methodology to define the climate impact of buildings.

It will result in the establishment of baselines; enable measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) reporting; and, help unlock the potential for significant reduction in GHG emissions in the building sector.



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Get Involved

VALUE

UNEP-SBCI is supported and guided by its partnership. UNEP-SBCI Donor and Partner benefits include:

- Working with global experts.
- Gaining first-hand access to developments in the building sector.
- Helping to shape global policy on sustainable buildings.
- Participating in strategy development, research, projects, pilot testing, and campaigns.
- Raising your organization's sustainability profile and visibility.

PARTNERSHIP

1. Request a commitment form from the Secretariat and return it completed.
2. Complete, and satisfy, UNEP due diligence screening requirements.
3. Make your contribution.

The partnership is structured as follows:

- Donor USD 20,000 to 50,000
- International Partner USD 15,000
- National Partner USD 10,000
- Partner USD 5,000

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