

The mission of GBCM is to facilitate and to promote a sustainable approach to planning, design, construction and utilisation of the built environment, mitigating their overall impact on human health and the environment.

GREEN BUILDING NEWS



Issue 2, November 2012

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear colleagues,

This year is coming to an end and I have realised that we have not been good at sending out the newsletters.

It is difficult to do so with all the activities we have been organising with only one part-time staff. Everything takes resources. Once again I ask you to see how you can help the council in terms of resources so we can progress at a greater pace.

We have nevertheless managed to achieve a few important things. They are:

- Organisation of the workshop for the World Green Building Week
- Promotion of the Green Apple Day of Service
- Organisation of the 3rd Green Star SA accredited professional course (that was postponed due to some logistics issues)
- The completion of the local context report in the process of modifying Green Star SA building rating tool for use in Mauritius.
- The completion of the framework for Socio-Economic indicators to be included in building rating tools

I can safely wish you all, the compliments of the season, and all the very best for 2013, as I doubt it that we will be sending out another newsletter this year.

Thanks for the support and keep on the good work.

With kind regards,

Tony Lee Luen Len
Chairman

MEMBERSHIP

The GBCM is a membership-based organization, drawing its members from the entire spectrum of the property and construction industry. We are always looking forward to welcome new members.

For more Information visit our [website](#).

WORLD GREEN BUILDING WEEK 2012

The Green Building Council of Mauritius (GBCM) participated in the World Green Building Week, which took place between 17th – 21st September 2012. The WGB week is celebrated annually by Green Building Councils with events and activities to draw attention to the importance of creating greener buildings and communities.

World Green Building Week, now in its third year, shined a spotlight on the central role that green buildings and communities play in reducing the global carbon footprint and saving money, while also creating jobs, reducing poverty and improving lives.

This year, green building councils in more than 90 countries representing over 30,000 organizations got involved – hosting events, running campaigns and more. Collectively they emphasize the importance of this year's theme: 'Green Buildings for Great Communities'.

In Mauritius, the GBCM held a number of exciting events, including a half-day workshop, a radio broadcast, and interviews with supermarkets to carry out a survey about "Greening your supermarkets".

GBCM in collaboration with the Mauritian Research Council (MRC) organised a half-day workshop on "Green Buildings for Great Communities" on Wednesday 19th September. The workshop included a series of informative talks and discussions by knowledgeable speakers: Tony Lee (Ecosis Ltd & GBCM), Denis Madeleine (Permaculture-Mauritius), Devarajen Vithilingum (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development), Anneloes Smitsman (ELIA), Geeta Somaroo (University of Mauritius), and Vinesh Chintaram (ViNARCHZ Ltd).

The presentations can be downloaded from our [website](#).



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MID: HOUSEHOLD COMPOSTER SCHEME

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development announced a [Household Composter Scheme](#) to mobilize the population in environmental conservation and management.

The Initiative will include different activities to inform, increase awareness and form opinions of the public about waste. The Scheme shall appeal to the population to use composters as well as encouraging residents to do their bit for the environment.

THE BUSINESS CASE FOR GREEN BUILDINGS

The World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) is producing an international report on the business case for green building early next year.

This report aims bringing together a range of industry views and the most robust research and current thinking on the topic.

The report will provide evidence to support the uptake of green buildings and sustainable design globally in a clearly written, visually compelling format aimed at industry leaders.

In recent years several studies on the business case of green buildings have been published with varying degrees of accuracy and comprehensiveness.

To address the needs for a reliable and relevant report the WorldGBC has set out to identify the most robust research and the most incisive and credible analysis and synthesize them into a single report.

To ensure that it is both absolutely reliable and relevant to all parts of our sector, the WorldGBC has put together a world-class Steering Committee of experts on the business case for green building.

The World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) is a coalition of national Green Building Councils at the forefront of the global green building movement. One of the key roles of the WorldGBC is to ensure that its member GBCs have the resources to drive market transformation within their respective countries.

GREEN APPLE DAY – WHERE WE LEARN MATTERS

On September 29, 2012 the first annual [Green Apple Day of Service](#) took place. 49 countries with more than 1,250 service projects participated to create healthier, more sustainable and high performance places to learn. The intention of this global movement is to put all children in schools where they have clean and healthy air to breathe, and where energy and resources are conserved.

Students in Maine learned about recycling in their school cafeterias. Garden cleanups, mural paintings and renewable energy seminars took place in Puerto Rico. And in Ethiopia, Colombia and Jamaica, communities came together to learn about and implement strategies for composting, recycling and energy conservation.

The next Day of Service is on Sept. 28, 2013 and the GBCM hopes to encourage schools and communities in Mauritius to participate with interesting projects.

PRODUCT: PARANS – SUNLIGHT IN EVERY ROOM

Parans are located on the roof or facade of a building. They collect sunlight through solar receivers and channel it inside using flexible fibre optic cables. The sunlight flows into the desired location through uniquely designed luminaries.

Studies have shown that productivity increases by 6 – 16 percent when natural light is added to a workplace. With the Parans System, many more rooms - deep inside buildings, or even under ground - can be illuminated with real sunlight.

Find out more about Parans Systems:

<http://www.limitless.uk.com/parans/>

<http://www.parans.com/eng/index.cfm>

GBCM ON FACEBOOK

Join our page "[GBCM - Green Building Council of Mauritius](#)" on facebook to be kept continuously informed about Green Building and Sustainability topics.



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INTERNATIONAL GBC NEWS

Green Star – Interiors PILOT rating tool

The recently released [Green Star](#) – Interiors PILOT rating tool is considered as a ‘next generation’ rating tool. It is developed by the Green Building Council of Australia and represents a significant evolution for interiors and for the Green Star rating system in general. The Green Star – Interiors PILOT has been designed to operate as an efficient and easy-to-use environmental rating tool that assesses the sustainable attributes of interior fitout projects across a wide range of sectors, irrespective of building use. By consolidating credits, Green Star – Interiors requires significantly less documentation to demonstrate compliance.

Waste Group encourages Qatar residents to compost their household garbage

Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC), organized a seminar ‘Organic Waste Management in Qatar: Problems and Solutions’ to build awareness of organic waste production and the urgent need to tackle this issue. The initiative is endorsed by the Solid Waste Interest Group ([SWIG](#)), an interest group of QGBC. SWIG brings together environmental experts and the public in a programme of national dialogue to deliver solutions for solid waste management and to help create efficient and effective public policy.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Sydney launches \$4.3M project to boost renewable energy

Sydney ([C40 city](#)) will install solar photovoltaic panels across 30 sites with a total electric capacity of 1.25 MW. With the announcement of the launch of the largest building-mounted solar project in Australia, it is expected to reduce the city’s carbon pollution by as much as 2,250 tones.

The solar project will contribute to aim the targets specified in Sydney’s Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision to promote a green, global and connected city.

British Westmill Solar Co-operative Launches World's Largest Community-Owned Solar Park

[Westmill Solar Co-operative](#) owns and operates the first community owned solar farm in the UK.

The 5 MW solar park is located in the south of England near Oxford and consists of 20,260 solar photovoltaic panels. The park was built by an initial group of private investors with the intention of selling it to a community owned cooperative. The park is designed to generate 4.8 GWhr per year providing enough electricity for 1,500 homes and preventing 2,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually. The community project has 1,650 investors, the rest of the funding for the £16.5 million project is financed by Investec Bank.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS

Greenbuild – International Conference and Expo in San Francisco

Greenbuild, the world’s largest conference and expo dedicated to green building, will take place Nov. 13-16, 2012. This year’s host city is San Francisco.

The conference and expo includes inspiring speakers, invaluable networking opportunities, industry showcase, LEED workshops and tours of the host city’s green buildings.

Neighborhoods Go Green! – Exhibition in San Francisco, November 5 - December 14, 2012

This travelling [exhibition](#) explores the construction and certification of green neighborhoods. Topics include: Building a Greener Bay Area, Selecting a Smart Site, Creating Lively Places, Integrating Buildings and Infrastructure, Rating the Neighborhood, Designing a Model Green Neighborhood.

UN Climate Change Conference 2012 in Doha

From November 26 – December 7, 2012 the state of Qatar will host the 18th Conference of the parties ([COP18](#)) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)) and the 8th Meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP8) at the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha.