

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

# GREEN BUILDING NEWS



Issue 3, June 2013

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Greetings,

First and foremost, on behalf of the GBCM staff and board, I wish you a happy World Environment Day. I trust that today you will consciously do something for the Environment.

We, at the World GBC Policy Task Force, are working on a series of 'state of play' papers. The first set of the 'Global Snapshot' has been completed on Schools. We have met several times with the Sustainable Development Project Manager of the Ministry of Education to discuss work we can do with them.

Another important document that has been published, the culmination of years of research, is finally out - The Business Case for Green Building. We will be holding a breakfast event at the end of this month to discuss the findings in more detail, and at the same time have insight on Mauritius green buildings.

Several local tenders are now requesting consultants to be Green Star accredited professionals. We will be running another course next month. Green Star, as you may be aware, will be the preferred rating tool to be used in Mauritius.

We look forward again to your support through participation to our events and our subcommittees... and more so, in your daily actions and non-actions.

Happy reading.

With kind regards,

Tony Lee Luen Len  
Chairman

## World Environment Day – WED 2013

[WED](#) is celebrated annually on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. This year's host country is Mongolia, and focuses on the new UNEP and UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) campaign Think.Eat.Save.



The theme is an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that intends to encourage people to reduce their footprint. According to FAO, every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted, which is equivalent to the same amount produced in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. If food is wasted, it means that all the resources and inputs used in the production of all the food are lost as well.

WED 2013 invites you to **think** before you **eat** and help **save** our environment!

## GBCM EVENTS

### Green Star SA Accredited Professional (AP) Training, Assessor and Faculty Member Training – 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July

The AP training provides practitioners with an understanding of the [Green Star SA](#) Green Building rating system and the ability to apply Green Star SA tools to projects.

For those of you who have already successfully completed the AP course, will have the opportunity to attend an Assessor and Faculty Member Training.

Contact us to get detailed information about the programs and make a reservation.

### Workshop "Sustainable Housing"

GBCM will hold a workshop on Sustainable Housing to address the problems of Affordable Green Housing in our country later this year. The event will include presentations, discussions and solution finding.

Contact us to register your interest.

## GBCM EVENTS

### Breakfast Event on 21<sup>th</sup> June

GBCM is organising a Breakfast event on Friday 21<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The event will focus on "The Business Case for Green Building" released by the World Green Building Council. Furthermore the case of Green Building in Mauritius will be outlined. For those who are interested to attend the event, please email us ([info@gbcm.mu](mailto:info@gbcm.mu)) or call us on 4640455.



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## CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: CLIMATE PROTECTION CONCEPT

Worldwide cities consume about 80% of global resources. The [“Renewable Wilhelmsburg’ Climate Protection Concept”](#) includes several project models in Hamburg (Germany) to supply metropolitan regions with energy from renewable sources. This concept illustrates how urban planners, architects, the public and builders can make creative use of energy savings, energy efficiency and renewable energies potential and is currently demonstrated at the [IBA](#) exhibition and showcase area in Hamburg. This pilot projects aims to achieve carbon-neutrality for all construction projects associated with the IBA exhibition.

The overall target is a more environmental compatible city. In order to achieve this, stringent new-building and refurbishment standards are designed to drastically reduce energy consumption in the future. Furthermore CHP plants and energy clusters will enhance energy efficiency. The potential inherent in renewable energies on the Elbe Islands will be extensively exploited, going as far as “100 percent renewable”. The involvement of the civic population as full partners in any action programmes and financial incentives will be used to motivate it.

## GREEN SCHOOLS

### THE CENTER FOR GREEN SCHOOLS



The Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council was established to drive the transformation of all schools into sustainable and healthy places to live, learn, work and play. The center promotes the design and construction of green schools. By greening the operations and maintenance of existing schools, a tremendous impact on student health, school operational costs and the environment can be made.

A Green School includes the following elements amongst others: It conserves energy and natural resources, toxic material are removed from places where children learn and play, a Green School employs daylighting strategies, improved classroom acoustics and indoor air quality, recycling is encouraged, moreover it conserves portable water and employs sustainable purchasing.

The Center of Green Schools’ [website](#) provides more information about the characteristics and benefits of a green school, as well as toolkits to give guidance for individual green school project.

## GREEN SCHOOLS IN MAURITIUS

Also Mauritius is moving forward in terms of greening our schools.

The Maurice Ile Durable concept includes environmental programs in schools to raise awareness and create a healthier and more sustainable environment for students. Education is the key starting point and Green School Programs help to develop responsible and green habits. Projects in schools are the following: School Waste Segregation Project, Composting, Sustained Sensitisation Campaigns, School Endemic Garden, Tree Planting, and the Green Productivity Program.

Furthermore a Solar Photovoltaic Scheme provides funding for implementing solar PV in schools. This will help to reduce schools’ electricity consumption and contribute to decreasing their carbon footprint. Governmental schools will soon benefit from producing their own electricity.

In order to reduce their demand of portable water 10 schools are using rainwater harvesting, and further ten schools will be implementing a rainwater collection system soon.

The Government of Mauritius is currently working on the design of a Green School. GBCM is assisting in the design phase with input on sustainable building practice. The construction of the new governmental school aims to be Mauritius first green school.

## GBCM ON TWITTER

Follow us on twitter and stay up to date about GBCM and green building topics  
[@gbcmauritiu](#)





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### WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL NEWS

#### The Business Case for Green Building

WorldGBC released a new comprehensive report, highlights that there are a large number of compelling benefits from green buildings received by different stakeholders throughout the life cycle of a building.

The report reveals that green buildings can be delivered at a price comparable to conventional buildings and investments can be recouped through operational cost savings and, with the right design features, create a more productive workplace.

Furthermore the report concludes that by greening our built environment at the neighborhood and city scales, the green building industry can deliver on large-scale economic priorities such as climate change mitigation, energy security, resource conservation and job creation, long-term resilience and quality of life.

The key findings as well as the full report can be found at the WorldGBC [website](#).

### WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL NEWS

#### Global Snapshot Reports

The World Green Building Council released its first Global Snapshot Report. In the first Snapshot WorldGBC looks at green schools.

The report outlines the several characteristics and benefits of a green school and how Green Building Councils around the world influence the design, construction, operation and maintenance of schools towards greener and healthier places to live and learn. Business cases of outstanding Green School projects are presented in the Report.

The Report can be downloaded from the [WorldGBC website](#).

### GREEN BUILDING PRODUCT: LIGHT SHELVES

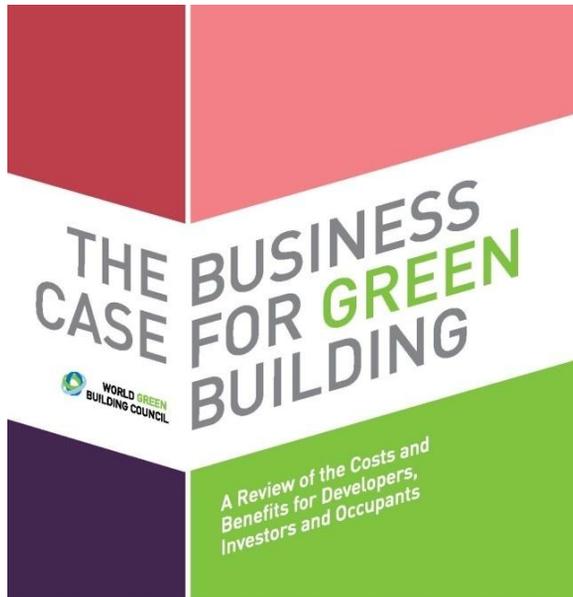
Light shelves are elements which are mounted horizontally about 2.1 meters high on the internal or external side of a window.

A Light Shelf directs the sunlight coming through a window upwards towards the ceiling, which reflects it back down deeper into the room. The ceiling of the room should be painted with reflective paint to bounce the light back.

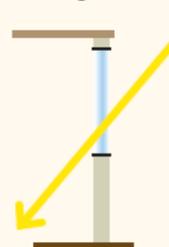
In order to provide a more diverse coverage area on the ceiling the shelves can be painted with a rougher material for a more diffuse spread of light.

Blinds are installed so that users can adjust the brightness in the room.

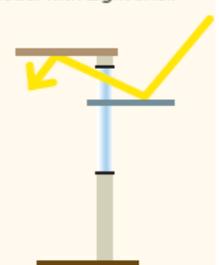
Light Shelves reduce the need for daytime overhead lightning, and reduce glare on desks and monitors. Furthermore the heat energy which is normally added to a room by direct sunlight is reduced.



Model with No Light Shelf



Model with Light Shelf



### 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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## GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL NEWS

### **Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI) – Creating a Green Building Support System for Cities**

WorldGBC's [SCI](#) is a task force enabling direct assistance from GBCs to cities around the world. The aim of the initiative is to create partnership in order to rapidly accelerate the uptake of green building in cities around the world. The SCI focuses on four policy priority areas: Green Codes and Standards, Policies and Incentives, Benchmarking and Data Transparency, and Sustainable Urban Development. The resources and learnings will be shared throughout the GBC network also for cities outside the partners' networks.

### **Dominican Republic: Green Community Project**

Dominican Republic GBC has launched the "Monte Plata Green Community" project which includes a school, a common kitchen, common laundry area with washing machines, a terrace to study, crafts, and meeting area for the community.

The project will also focus on ecotourism due to nearby located housing alternatives for visitors and students, all of which will generate revenues for long-term sustainability of the community. The campaign includes the construction of greenhouses using principally bamboo, a durable and functional sustainable material.

## INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

### **Germany: Plus Energy House with Electric Mobility**

The [Surplus Energy House in Berlin](#), constructed by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development meets the energy needs of its occupants and furthermore stores energy which is either fed into the grid or used to charge an electric car.

This experimental house is home to a four-member family to test it under real-life conditions. For a span of two years the Plus Energy House will produce data to calculate whether such a building is economically viable, as energy efficient as expected and whether it is easy to maintain and provide its occupiers with living comfort.



## UPCOMING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS

### **Fifth International Conference on Climate Change – Mauritius**

This year's annual Climate Change conference will take place from 18 – 19 July in Port Louis, Mauritius.

[Climate Change](#) is an international forum for building and sharing knowledge through an annual conference, a scholarly journal, book series, and online community.

### **Sustainability Week – South Africa**

[Sustainability Week](#) will be held at Sandton Convention Centre from 24 – 28 July 2013 and will feature a 5 day exhibition with the first 3 days focussed on trade visitors and running alongside the various conferencing activities, and culminating in the Green Home Fair over the weekend.

### **WorldGBC Congress and GBCSA Conference 2013 – South Africa**

This year's [WorldGBC Congress](#) will take place from 16 to 18 October in Cape Town, South Africa. Updates on policy frameworks and investment forecasts will give GBCs new insights to share with members and stakeholders back home. At the same time the [GBCSA's annual Convention](#) (South Africa's leading green building conference and exhibition) will take place in Cape Town. It provides an inspirational platform for world-class education, knowledge sharing and decision-maker networking around sustainability and the built environment.