

IV. POLICY AND VOLUNTARY RESPONSES

With few exceptions, trends observed in earlier sections show resource use per capita rising with income albeit at different rates. Though the rate of increase may slow somewhat as countries become more developed and their markets for material-intensive products become saturated, in very few instances has there been a “bending of the curve” to the point where resource use, emissions and waste actually begin to decline while incomes continue to rise.

To make that happen requires more determined effort by all stakeholders. Increasingly, governments, companies, and various groups of civil society are working to find effective measures to delink resource use, waste, and harmful emissions from economic activity.

Governments have been using a number of measures: sustainable procurement; tighter efficiency standards for automobiles, appliances and new buildings; renewable energy portfolio standards and feed-in tariffs for electricity; various subsidies to promote greener products and services; and, in response to the economic crisis, green stimulus spending. Local authorities are both active and innovative in devising measures to promote sustainable cities and communities. In many cases, they are ahead of national governments.

The business sector is increasingly taking into account environmental and social issues, driven by a combination of government regulation, shareholder demands and consumer preferences and civil society pressure. Leading companies have set sustainability targets with timelines and regular reporting on progress, have signed on to voluntary pacts like the Global Compact and the Carbon Disclosure Project, and have engaged in a variety of partnerships with NGOs, academia and the public sector to bring their scientific, technical and managerial expertise and financial resources to bear on societal sustainability challenges.



“ States shall enact effective environmental legislation. Environmental standards, management objectives and priorities should reflect the environmental and developmental context to which they apply. Standards applied by some countries may be inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries, in particular developing countries. ”

— Principle 11, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992.

Civil society organizations have numerous local, regional, and national initiatives to raise consumer and citizen awareness, improve access to information, pioneer new market approaches (such as “fair trade”), and combine public pressure with constructive engagement with the private sector to change business practices.

GOVERNMENTS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

As governments are large consumers of certain products, their purchasing preferences can shape whole markets. Examples include: food, clothing, paper, electronic equipment, motor vehicles, electricity, and buildings.



Canada

A Policy on Green Procurement issued in April 2006 requires that environmental performance considerations be embedded into the procurement decision-making process in the same manner as price, performance, quality and availability. Guidelines, toolkits and training have been made available to facilitate this process. It is estimated that three quarters of government departments or agencies had green purchasing policies in place as of 2006/2007.

European Union

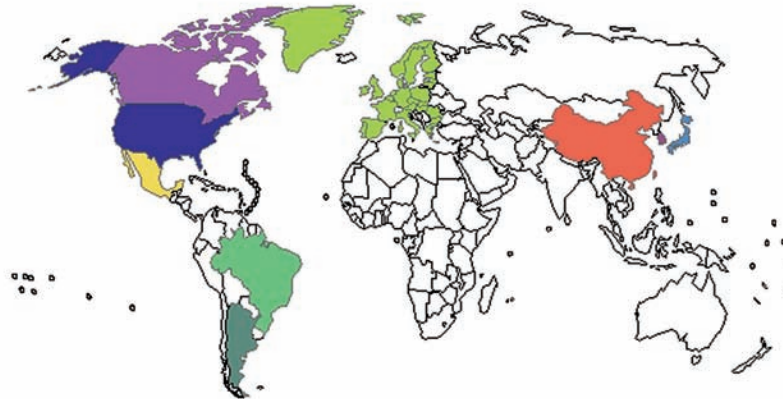
By early 2007, 9 out of 26 EU member-states had adopted national SPP or 'Green' action plans, 5 had drafted a national action plan but it had not yet been adopted, and 2 were in the process of preparing one. In Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and the UK, 40 to 70% of all tenders published on Tenders Electronic Daily incorporated some environmental criteria, although in the remaining 18 countries, this figure was below 30%.

Japan

The 2000 Law on Promoting Green Purchasing makes it compulsory for government institutions to implement green procurement, while encouraging local authorities, private companies and individuals to make efforts for purchasing environmentally sound products and services. All state ministries, departments and agencies have to define procurement targets every fiscal year and make the results of green procurement efforts publicly available. 90% of central government agencies implement green procurement. Although by 2005 all sub-national governments had developed procurement policies, implementation has been slower.

United States

A 2007 Executive Order integrates and updates prior practices and requirements with the goal of increasing federal purchasing of energy efficient, recycled content, bio-based, and environmentally preferable products and services. Federal agencies must also ensure that: at least half of renewable energy comes from new renewable sources; water consumption is reduced by 2% annually through 2015; fleet total petroleum consumption is reduced by 2% annually, use of alternative fuels is increased by 10% a year, and plug-in hybrid (PIH) vehicles are used when available at reasonable costs.



Republic of Korea

The Act on the Promotion of the Purchase of Environment-Friendly Products, passed in 2005, requires public agencies at national and local levels to publish green procurement policies and implementation plans, carry out the latter, and report results. The Environment Ministry is asked to publish guidelines, designated items and evaluation criteria. Although green public procurement is still relatively small (roughly 6% of total public procurement in 2003), it has been growing very rapidly during the last years.

Mexico

The 2007-2012 National Development Plan created the scope for changes in procurement policy that allow for the incorporation of sustainability criteria. Recent changes in procurement law in Mexico include the requirement that all wood and furniture purchased by public agencies possess a certificate demonstrating its legal origin (since September 2007) and paper should have at least 50% recycled content.

Argentina

Argentina has developed an action plan to implement sustainable public procurement (SPP), and carried out research and training activities for procurement officials and policy-makers with the support of the Marrakech Task Force on SPP.

China

From January 2007, the central government and provincial governments are asked to give priority to environment-friendly products listed in a "green product inventory". The list, released in late 2006, includes products ranging from cars to construction materials that have been approved by the China Certification Committee for Environmental Labelling. Products are required to meet the environmental protection and energy saving standards set by the State Environmental Protection Administration in order to obtain the environmental label.



Energy Efficient Public Buildings (France)

The goal of the French government is to reduce the energy consumption of existing buildings by at least 38 percent by 2020. To reach this goal France will start by 2012 the renovation of existing public buildings to reduce their energy consumption by 40 percent and their GHG emissions by 50 percent. As of 2010 the norm for new offices and public buildings will become 50 kWh/m/year.

Water for Everyone (Peru)

Water for Everyone program includes 270 projects in the water and sanitation sector. The upgrading of water and wastewater plants in many parts of the country will ensure the provision of clean water and reduce the time spent in fetching water. The program will deliver potable water to some 49,000 beneficiary families, and sewer service to some 57,000 families.

Sustainable Public Transport and Sport (South Africa)

The South African government is building a new sustainable public transport system for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. The project is being implemented by UNDP, funded by GEF and executed by the South African Department of Transport, and aims to produce measurable environmental benefits including an estimated 423,000 tCO₂ reduction in direct GHG emissions over a ten-year lifespan, air quality improvement and reductions in ambient noise levels.

PromisE — Sustainable housing (Finland)

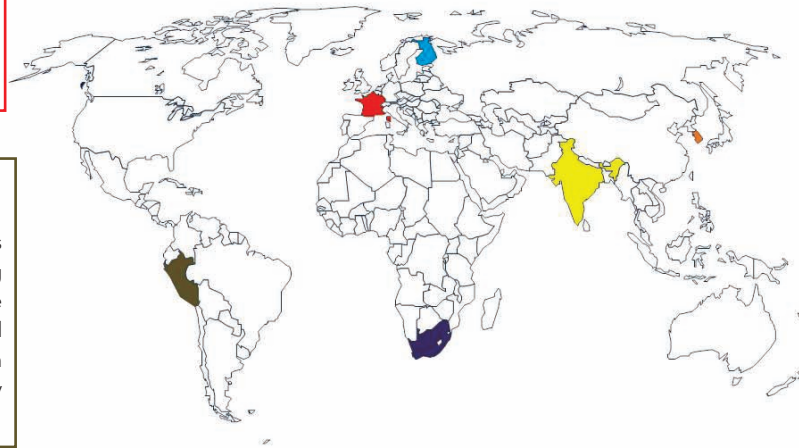
The Finnish Government has been working since the mid 1990s to make construction more ecologically sustainable. PromisE is an internet-based environmental classification system that has been developed to facilitate evaluations of the environmental properties of buildings in Finnish conditions. The system has two main versions: one for evaluating existing buildings and properties, and the other for use in the construction of new buildings. The PromisE system grades properties or individual buildings, and different versions can be applied to assess shops or commercial buildings as opposed to housing. Whole properties are assessed, including areas not built over. Environmental factors are divided into four main groups: health, use of natural resources, ecological impacts and environmental risk management. Each of these main areas includes a total of 35-40 indicators that can be measured numerically or otherwise evaluated. Both the private and public sector use PromisE.

Green construction (South Korea)

In 2009 South Korea announced a green macroeconomic stimulus plan. At a cost of around U\$36 billion over 2009 to 2012, the initiative aims to create 960,000 jobs, with 149,000 jobs expected to be created in 2009, mainly in construction. These low-carbon projects include developing railroads and mass transit, fuel efficient vehicles and clean fuels, energy conservation and environmentally friendly buildings. These measures alone will account for over 1.2 per cent of GDP, whereas the full stimulus plan involves investments of around 3 per cent of GDP.

GRIHA (India)

GRIHA, Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment, is a building 'design evaluation system' which aims to minimize the demand for renewable and non-renewable resources by focusing on reducing water and energy consumption, limiting waste generation through recycling, and reducing pollution. GRIHA emphasizes cost effectiveness and the integration of traditional heritage with scientific tools. GRIHA has 40 registered projects and recently the Government of India has announced that all government buildings must be at a minimum 3-star GRIHA compliant. In addition, the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) has been made mandatory in eight States of India.





Chicago (The United States of America)

In 2007 Chicago set a tax on bottled water, becoming the first major U.S. city to impose such a surcharge. The Bottled Water Tax applies to the retail sale of bottled water in the City at a rate of \$0.05 per bottle (i.e. all brands of non carbonated bottled water intended for human consumption). In addition to producing revenue that can be used to maintain the city's water infrastructure, the tax is designed to encourage citizens to shift their hydration habits from bottled to tap water, which is essentially the same thing you get when you buy most bottled water brands. The tax also helps in reducing the number of plastic containers that wind up in landfills (less than 20% of plastic water bottles in the United States of America are ever recycled) and reducing the greenhouse gas and other pollution created by trucking all that water to retail sites.

The Netherlands

The Netherlands, in 2001, through its Environmental Action Plan, increased energy prices for small-scale consumers by more than one-third by means of a tax levied on gas and electricity. Most of the tax revenues are redistributed to taxpayers through reductions in wage and income taxes, but a portion covers the cost of tax incentives for energy conservation measures. With the introduction of this tax, the price of household electricity has gone up by 15%.

Finland

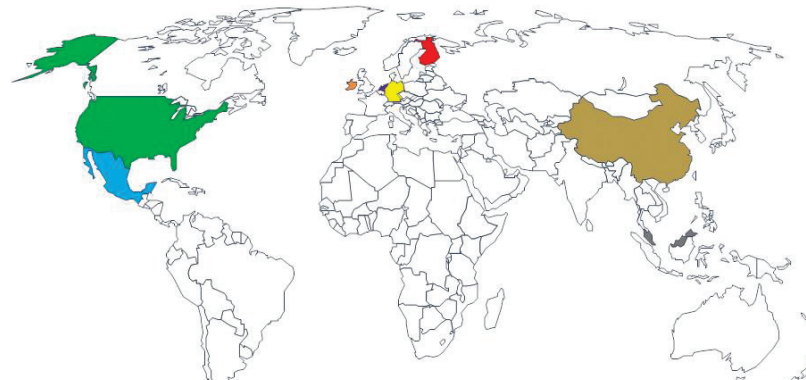
Finland was the first country to implement a CO₂ tax in 1990, which today is among the highest in Europe. Without the impact of energy taxation, emissions would have been 7% higher than the 57 million tonnes recorded in 2000. The share of the carbon tax revenue is circa €500 million annually.

Mexico

In 2002 the Mexican government introduced reforms to reduce residential electricity subsidies. Households consuming between 280 and 500 kWh bimonthly face a gradual and differentiated reduction in their electricity rate subsidy, while households that consume more than 500 kWh will have the subsidy eliminated. The subsidy is retained for low-consumption households (less than 280 kWh), representing 75% of the population. The reduction in residential electricity subsidies is expected to generate revenues of 5 billion pesos. At the same time, a financial support programme will encourage the acquisition of more efficient refrigerators, air conditioners and insulation for consumers who live in hot regions.

Ireland

In March of 2002, Republic of Ireland became the first country to introduce a plastic bag tax, or PlasTax. Designed to rein in rampant consumption of 1.2 billion plastic shopping bags per year, the tax resulted in a 90% drop in consumption. To complete the win-win scenario, approximately \$9.6 million was raised from the tax in the first year, which is earmarked for a green fund established to benefit the environment. Approximately 18,000,000 liters of oil have been saved due to reduced production of bags. Plastic bags are also taxed for example in Italy and Belgium, Taiwan and several Indian cities.



Malaysia

Malaysia was one of the first countries to use effluent charges, having introduced effluent fees, paired with licensing, to control pollution from the palm oil industry as early as 1977. Prior to the introduction of the regulation, crude palm oil was the single worst pollution source in the country. Daily discharge increased by more than 300% from 1965 to 1977. The regulation aims to reduce pollution in 42 rivers that were heavily polluted due to disposal of untreated effluents. A year after the imposition of the regulation, the pollution load fell more than half. Reduction in the pollution load decreased as well in the succeeding years. From 1977 to 1994, organic pollution load in the rivers decreased significantly by about 91%. As of 2006, of 1,064 water quality monitoring stations located within 146 river basins, almost 60% reported clean water while only 8% reported water that was categorized as very polluted.

Germany

In 1999, Germany initiated its Ecological Tax Reform, gradually raising taxes on fossil fuels and electricity without increasing the overall tax burden. Electricity generated from renewable energy sources is exempt from the eco-tax, and electricity used by local public transport enjoys a 50% tax reduction. Some of the revenue is used to provide advice to homeowners on reducing energy consumption and for grants to schools for solar heating, photovoltaic panels and biomass energy systems.

China

China assesses levies on 29 pollutants in wastewater, 13 industrial waste gases, and various forms of industrial solid and radioactive waste. Regulated substances include SO₂, NO_x, CO₂, hydrogen sulfide, dust, mercury, and lead. Plants pay a fee for emissions greater than the regulatory standard for each substance, but when more than one pollutant exceeds the standard, plants pay only for the single pollutant which will result in the largest fee. These effluent charges appear to have helped reduce both water and air pollution intensity during the period of rapid industrial growth in China since 1979. The effluent fees are also a major source of revenue for environmental projects. Of the fees collected, 80 percent are used for grants and low-interest loans for pollution control projects, and the remaining 20 percent refund local administration and monitoring activities.

Voluntary Standards and Labels



EcoLogo (Canada)

Founded in 1988 by the Government of Canada and then transferred to a science-based environmental consultancy (TerraChoice) EcoLogo™ is North America's largest environmental standard and certification mark. EcoLogo provides customers with assurance that the products and services bearing the logo meet stringent standards of environmental leadership. There are thousands of EcoLogo Certified products covering a large variety of products and services ranging from carpets to car washed to motel categories. EcoLogo and GreenSeal are the two North American eco-labelling programs approved by the Global EcoLabelling Network as meeting internationally recognized ISO 14024 requirements.

Energy Star (United States)

© Energy Star is a joint voluntary program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy which was started in 1992 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Energy Star is estimated to have saved enough energy in 2009 alone to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 30 million cars —while saving nearly \$17 billion in utility bills. To date, more than 30,000 commercial and industrial buildings have targeted energy efficiency improvements and more than 3,200 of these buildings have earned the Energy Star. Natural Resources Canada has also adopted the US Energy Star program for Canada.

Good Environmental Choice (Australia)

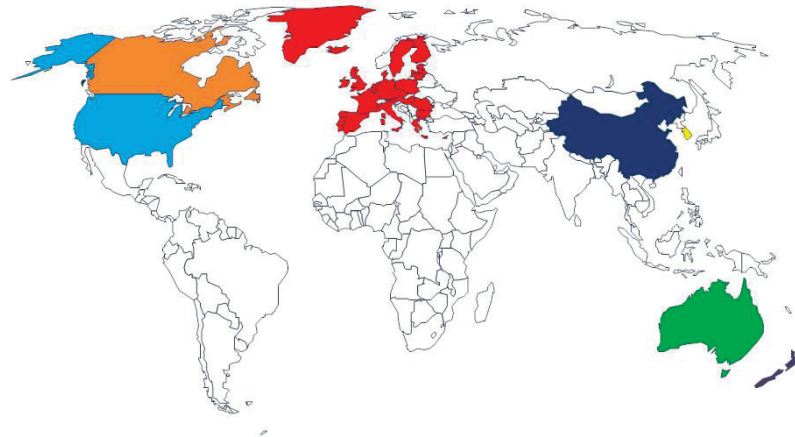
The Good Environmental Choice Label is the only environmental labelling program in Australia which indicates the environmental performance of a product from a whole-of-product-life perspective for consumer goods. The label is awarded to products that meet voluntary environmental performance standards which have been created and assessed in conformance to international environmental labelling standards.

Ecolabel (EU)

The European Ecolabel is a voluntary scheme, established in 1992 to encourage businesses to market products and services that are less damaging to the environment. Products and services awarded the Ecolabel carry the flower logo, allowing consumers — including public and private purchasers — to identify them easily. Today the EU Ecolabel covers a wide range of products and services, with further groups being continuously added. Product groups include cleaning products, appliances, paper products, textile and home and garden products, lubricants and services such as tourist accommodation.

Energy Label (Taipei, China)

To promote deployment of energy efficiency technologies and application of market incentive mechanisms, as well as to encourage manufacturers to invest in research and development of high energy efficiency products, the Bureau of Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs, initiated the voluntary “Energy Label” program in 1992. The basis for determining the energy efficiency criteria of energy labeled products is to evaluate the energy performance of products on the market and select the middle to top performers on the efficiency distribution curve. The efficiency criteria are then periodically reviewed and revised to reflect the market conditions. These measures ensure creditability of energy label in denoting high energy efficiency products. The energy label is issued to individual product models only, not to the manufacturing system or corporation as a whole, and currently the label program covers 28 product categories and 4336 products with 258 brand names.



Eco-Label (South-Korea)

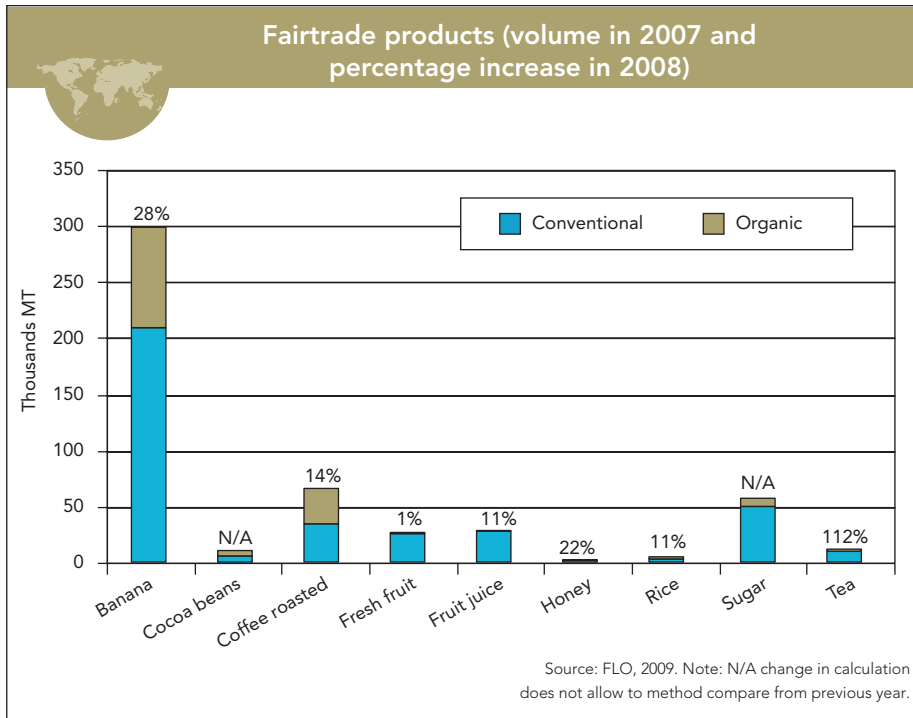
The Korea Eco-labeling Program is a voluntary certification program designed to encourage firms to provide consumers with a choice of environmentally sound products by displaying the designated logo (Eco-Label) and brief description. The purpose is to reduce consumption of energy and resources and to minimize generation of polluting substances in each production step. The Eco-labeling Program has been in place since 1992, and currently the scheme has 767 different categories of products such as batteries, wood products, beds and air-conditioners. In 2008 some 5,450 products of 1,179 companies had the label.

Environmental Choice (New Zealand)

The New Zealand Ecolabeling Trust is a multiple specifications based environmental labelling programme, which operates to international standards and principles. It was initiated and endorsed by the New Zealand Government in 1990. Currently there are 14 product categories for products such as paints, office paper and stationery and thermal insulants amongst others. Environmental Choice New Zealand has over 1500 products that are registered as using the label.

The GreenLabel (Singapore)

Singapore's GreenLabel programme was launched in May 1992 by the Ministry of the Environment as part of the country's national environmental management plan. It is a voluntary ISO Type I programme that is open to local and foreign companies conforming to the specified product criteria. As of January 2002, the programme applied to 29 product categories, covering a broad range of products, but excluding food, drinks and pharmaceuticals, as well as services and processes. More than 700 products currently have the GreenLabel, involving over 130 different manufacturers.



By the end of 2008, there were 746 certified Fairtrade producers worldwide, and over 2,700 companies are licensed to use the Fairtrade Mark on products. The estimated retail value of Fairtrade products rose 22% to almost € 2.9 billion while fairtrade sales grew by 50% or more in seven countries, despite the recession, and no markets fell back. Tea saw the largest 2008 growth rate (112% from 2007), albeit from a very small base. In addition to products illustrated in the figure, over 27 million items made of Fairtrade certified cotton were sold, almost double the sales of 2007. Sales of bananas grew by 28% to almost 300,000 metric tons and those of honey by 22%. Almost nine million litres of Fairtrade wine were consumed — an increase of 57%. Standards have now been established for olives and olive oil, soybean, haricot beans, chickpeas and lentils. Several revised standards allow more farmers of mangoes, bananas, pineapple and vanilla to enter the market as well. These growth rates are expected to continue. The first ever global consumer survey on Fairtrade was conducted in 2008 and found that half of the public are now familiar with the Fairtrade Mark. The survey found that ‘active ethical consumers’ make up more than half the population (55%) in the countries surveyed.⁷

“The needs of small farmers, whether they grow coffee [in the South] or produce [in the North], may be quite similar. Both groups need better access to and more control over the market. That can only happen if consumers use their market power to vote for fair prices to the grower, better access to financing for small farmers, and more environmentally sustainable production.”

— Rink Dickinson, Co-Director, Equal Exchange

Mandatory Standards and Labels



Energy labels (EU)

According to several different EU Directives most domestic appliances, light bulb packaging and cars must have an EU Energy Label clearly on display when it is offered for sale or for rent. The Energy Rating label enables consumers to compare the energy efficiency of appliances. It is also an incentive for manufacturers to improve the energy performance of their products. The energy efficiency of the appliance is rated in terms of a set of energy efficiency classes from A to G on the label, A being the most energy efficient, G the least efficient. Recently A+ and A++ grades were introduced for refrigeration products.

Regulating greenhouse gas emissions from cars (United States of America)

In 2010 the White House finalized rules on the first U.S. greenhouse gas emission standard for automobiles, which would raise average fuel economy 42 percent by 2016 in a bid to slash oil imports and fight climate change. The higher mileage requirements will reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 900 million metric tons and save 1.8 billion barrels of oil over the life of vehicles built during the 2012-2016 model years, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The vehicle emissions standards will be phased in starting with the 2012 model year, raising fuel economy to an average 35.5 miles per gallon by the time the 2016 models are ready compared with the current 25 mpg.

Eco-Labeling (India)

To increase consumer awareness, the Government of India launched the eco-labeling scheme known as 'Ecomark' in 1991 for easy identification of environment-friendly products. Any product which is made, used or disposed of in a way that significantly reduces the harm it would otherwise cause the environment could be considered as Environment-Friendly Product. The criteria follow a cradle-to-grave approach, i.e. from raw material extraction, to manufacturing, and to disposal. The 'Ecomark' label is awarded to consumer goods which meet the specified environmental criteria and the quality requirements of Indian Standards. As a continuation to Ecomark, starting in January 2010, it will become mandatory for certain products to carry eco-labeling in India. Firstly four products — refrigerators, air conditioners, distribution transforms and florescent lamps — will be covered. By summer 2010 three more product lines (color TVs, LPG stoves and electric motors) will need to carry the mandatory eco labeling.

Phosphate reductions in laundry detergents (Sweden)

Phosphorus emissions from sources such as detergents and cleaning agents contribute to eutrophication in lakes and seas. In 2008 the Government of Sweden introduced a ban on retail sales of laundry detergents containing phosphates. The Government intends to introduce a ban on phosphates in dishwasher detergents for private use from 1 July 2011. The ban means that it will not be permitted to manufacture or market dishwasher detergents with a phosphorus content of more than 0.5 per cent by weight.

Energy Performance Certificate (England and Wales)

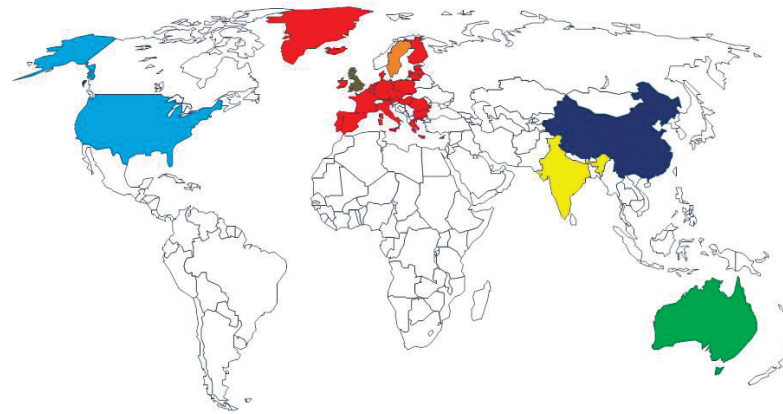
The Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) was first introduced for the sale of existing homes, as part of the Home Information Pack. Since 1 October 2008, when buildings are built, sold or rented, an EPC has been required. From April 2008 this was extended to newly built homes and large commercial properties. The certificate provides energy efficiency A-G ratings and recommendations for improvement. The ratings — similar to those found on products such as fridges — are standard so the energy efficiency of one building can easily be compared with another building of a similar type.

Energy Label (China)

China is now one of the world's largest producers and consumers of household appliances, lighting, and other residential and commercial equipment. In 2005 China started a mandatory energy information label, the Energy Label. It includes five categories of efficiency, from 100% (meeting the minimum standard) to 55% of the minimum standard. The label initially covered two products and in 2007 was extended to cover four products including air conditioners, household refrigerators, clothes washers, and unitary air conditioners.

Energy efficiency light bulbs (Australia)

In February 2007 Australia announced a plan to establish energy efficiency standards for light bulbs that would ban incandescent bulbs by 2010, with both regulatory and persuasive measures used to induce a shift to compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). According to the Federal Government, up to 95 per cent of the energy each standard light bulb uses is wasted, while compact fluorescents use only 20 per cent as much electricity to produce the same amount of light. It is estimated that household lighting costs will be reduced by up to 66% and that CO₂ emissions will be reduced by 800,000 tonnes per year for the 2008-2012 period. Cuba and Venezuela also have national programmes to replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents. Similar measures were taken in the European Union in 2009.





United States of America (Portland, Oregon)

Rated as the greenest city in America, half of Portland's power comes from renewable sources, a quarter of the workforce commutes by bike, carpool or public transportation, and the city has 35 buildings certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. Portland aims to be a "20 Minute City" where residents spend 20 minutes or less traveling from home to work, shop or play.

United Kingdom (Beddington Zero Energy Development)

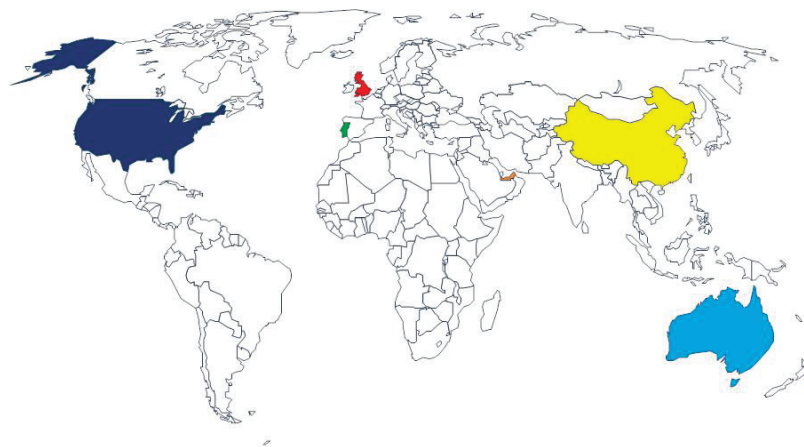
Beddington Zero Energy Development is the UK's largest mixed use sustainable community of 100 households. It was completed and occupied in 2002. 86% of BedZED residents buy organic food and 39% grow some of their own food. The residents only use 72 litres of mains water per day, topped up by 15 litres of recycled or rainwater.

China (Panyu Jinshan, Guangzhou)

This will be a community of 8,000 homes along with a community centre and some retail units. The aim is to achieve 65% reductions in energy demand and 50% reduction in water demand. The plans for Panyu Jinshan include developing a 'cultural street' and space for local Cantonese Opera, and solar hot water panels on all the possible roof areas in the development.

Green Building in US and the world

The floor area registered and certified to the LEED green building rating system in 2009 is estimated to grow by over 40 percent compared to last year's totals, for a cumulative total of over 7 billion square feet worldwide since the standard was launched in 2000. Non-U.S. green buildings reached nearly 800 million square feet of registered projects in 2009, representing more than a fourth of all project square footage. Non-U.S. LEED projects could show a 30% increase in registration this year, thanks in large part to green building booms in China, India, and the Middle East. Green building is also growing quickly in Europe, notably Germany and Italy.



Barangaroo (Australia)

Barangaroo is a 22 ha site in the heart of Sydney whose construction towards a sustainable community is due to start in December 2010, with 350,000m² of commercial space and 500 residential units planned for development. The aim is to reach a 75% reduction in energy demand compared to business as usual, a 20% reduction in embodied energy, 87% diversion from landfill of operational waste, with a 100% reduction in greenhouse gases and a 4% car use modal split

United States of America (Sonoma Mountain Village, California)

Full construction started on site in 2009 with first residents moving in during 2010. This 200 acre (81 ha) site will accommodate 1,892 homes, and 825,000 square feet (76,645 m²) of office, retail and commercial space. An 83% reduction in total household direct carbon emissions is targeted.

Portugal (Mata de Sesimbra)

An integrated sustainable building, tourism, nature conservation and reforestation programme. The 5,300 hectare site will contain a 4,800 hectare nature reserve and native pine, cork and oak forest restoration project, alongside a 500 hectare tourism development comprising around 5,000 units. The development will go on to meet 'zero waste' targets, while 50 per cent of food will be sourced from local sources. The site will use 100% renewable energy and the transport network is designed virtually to eliminate private cars.

United Arab Emirates (Masdar city)

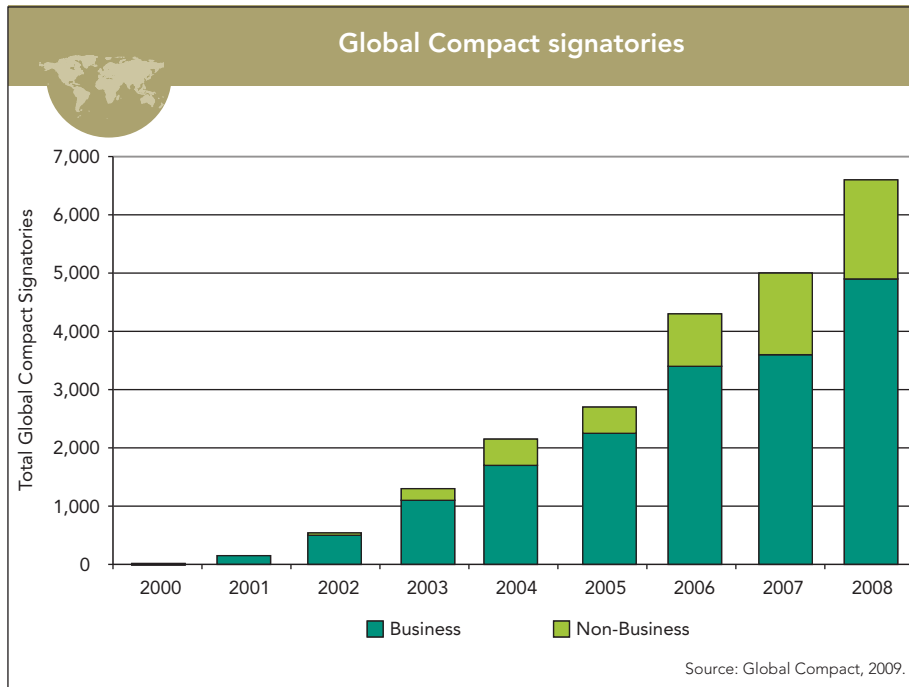
This will be the world's first zero-carbon, zero-waste, car-free city. The city's electricity and cooling will be provided by renewable energy generated on site. Water consumption will be reduced by over 50% compared to the Abu Dhabi baseline. Masdar City will cover 6 km² and house 50,000 people and 1,500 businesses. An expected 40,000 workers will commute to the city daily. The first phase is scheduled to be complete and habitable in 2009, with full completion due around 2016.

BUSINESSES

Corporate environmental and social responsibility has become a higher profile management concern in recent years in many countries. Membership in a number of global initiatives reflects this, including the Global Compact, the Global Reporting Initiative, the Carbon Disclosure Project and ISO14000 certification of corporate environmental management systems as well as the development of ISO26000.

All these are voluntary initiatives. The first stresses adherence to common principles of corporate conduct and regular reporting, the next two emphasize information disclosure, while the last uses international certification to convey in summary form information about environmental management.

The number of Global Compact signatories and the number of GRI reporters have both increased sharply since the middle of the past decade. As of 2008, GC signatories exceeded 6,000 and there were 5,300 active business participants from more than 135 countries.



“Companies that take the lead on sustainability will be market makers rather than market takers.”

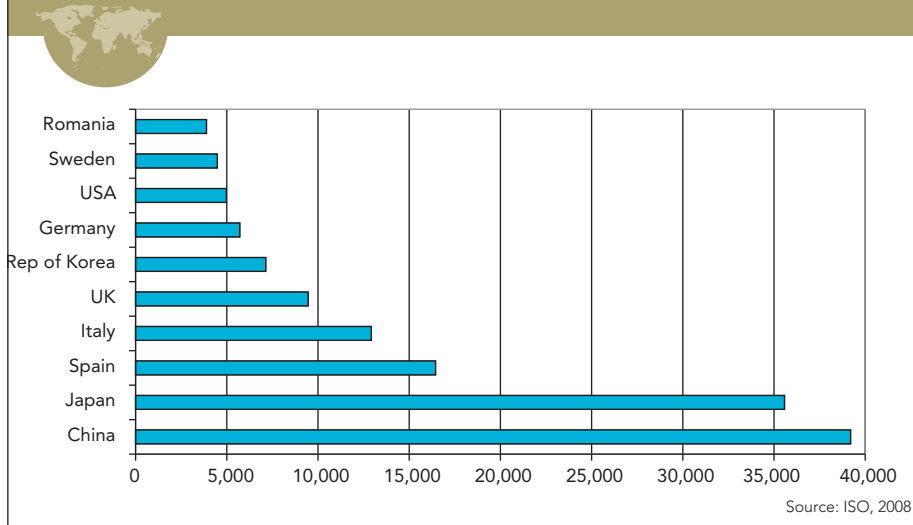
The business case for sustainability, World Economic Forum, January 2009

The International Standards Organization (ISO) provides a widely recognized set of standards for products and processes, including environmental management processes of enterprises. ISO 14001 certification signals potential customers or partners that a company meets certain standards with respect to internal controls on materials use, energy use, pollution and waste, and that it is committed to continuous improvement.

The number of enterprises certified to ISO 14001 has been rising steadily, from under 40,000 in 2001 to almost 160,000 in 2007. It is a particularly well utilized practice for exporters to obtain ISO 14001 certification as a means of informing consumers in their export markets of their environmental performance. This is one reason for the large weight of China and Japan in the total number of certificates issued.



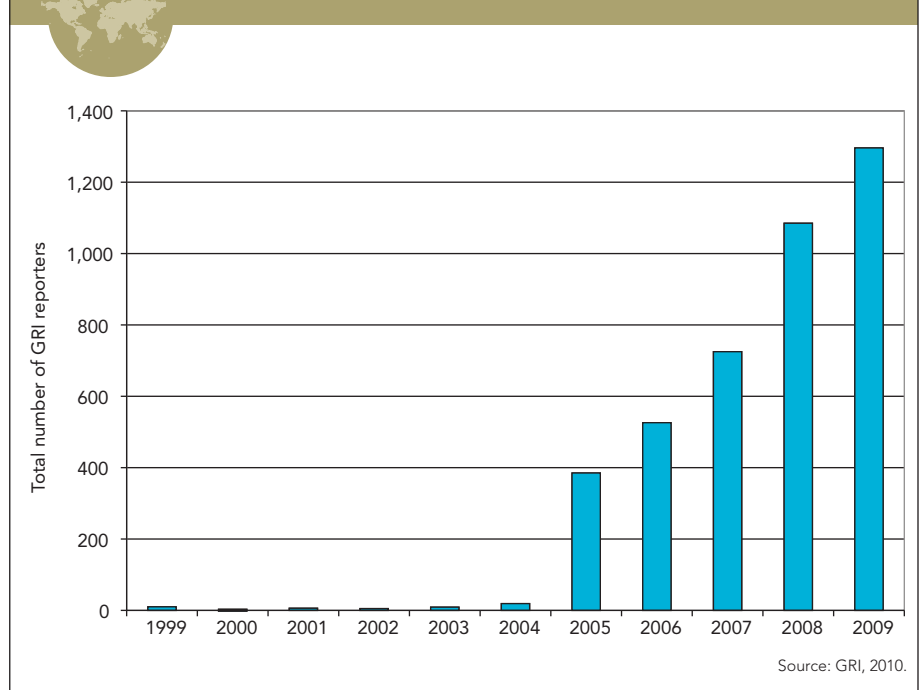
Top ten ISO14001 countries in 2007



As of 2009, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) counted over 1,200 organisations worldwide, many private corporations, that issued sustainability reports based on its GRI G3 Guidelines — an increase of 46% over 2007.

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is a network-based organization that has developed the world's most widely used sustainability reporting/disclosure framework through a consensus-seeking process with participants drawn globally from business, civil society, labor, and professional institutions. This framework sets out the principles and indicators that organizations can use to measure and report their economic, environmental, and social performance. The aim of the GRI is that disclosure of these performance become as commonplace and comparable as financial reporting, and as important to organizational success.⁸

GRI: Number of firms and other organizations reporting



“ Business is the force of change. Business is essential to solving the climate crisis, because this is what business is best at: innovating, changing, addressing risks, searching for opportunities. There is no more vital task. ”

Richard Branson, Founder, Virgin
<http://www.mjcsustainability.com/>



Electrolux (Sweden)

The biggest environmental impacts from appliances occur during the use phase. Developing and selling energy and water efficient appliances is therefore the most important contribution Electrolux can make to meet the climate challenge. Electrolux's 2009 target to reduce energy use in operations by 15% compared to 2005 was exceeded, and it is now aiming at more stringent target of reducing energy use by close to 30% by 2012 compared with 2005.

Philips digital Dictaphone (The Netherlands)

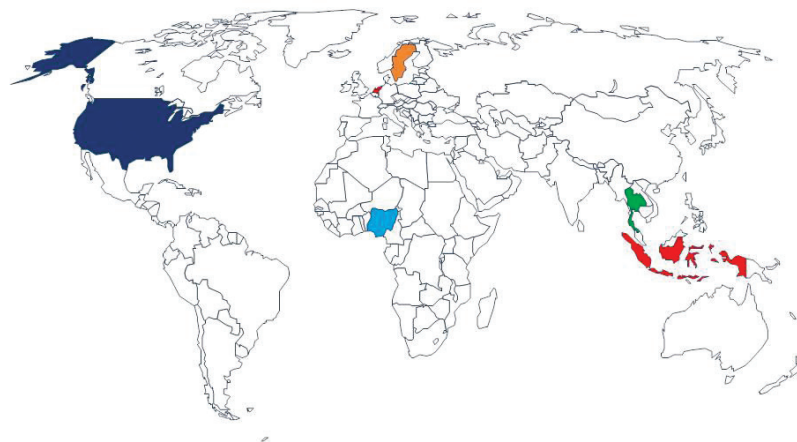
A good example of product eco-design is Philips' new Digital Pocket Memo® 9600/9620. Its life cycle assessment was carried out in accordance with ISO 14040, and significant energy savings were realized due to interaction of state-of-the-art components and an improved firmware and energy management. The new model allows up to 17 hours of dictation without recharging the batteries. The possibility to charge the rechargeable batteries by connecting the device to a USB helps to reduce Standby Energy consumption. The LCA shows significant reduction in Global Warming Potential (GWP): depending on the mode of operation, up to 86.1% reduction is possible in comparison to the previous model.

AkzoNobel (The Netherlands)

AkzoNobel is the largest global paints and coatings company. AkzoNobel is now partnering with maritime classification society Lloyd's Register to introduce China's largest shipyards to the Performance Standard for Protective Coatings (PSPC), offering shipyards step-by-step advice on how to go about meeting the requirements of the new standard. They are advising the shipping industry on, for example, antifouling coatings which make shipping more efficient by preventing organisms such as barnacles and weed from building up on the underwater hull, slowing the ship and decreasing fuel efficiency. It is estimated that the use of antifouling coatings saves the shipping industry around US\$30 billion and reduces CO₂ and SO₂ emission levels.

Voluntary Green Standards (US)

The Electric Utility Industry Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance has developed a set of voluntary standards which define best practices to help non-fuel suppliers assess the environmental performance of their companies and utilities, and the environmental performance of their supply chain operations. The Alliance is also developing voluntary environmental standards for products and services purchased by electric utilities, starting with wood poles, transformers, and wire and cable.



Diageo (Nigeria)

Two decades ago, all the grain for Diageo's breweries in Africa was imported. The imports required precious foreign currency and represented a lost business opportunity for local farmers. Diageo joined a project to develop the cultivation of a beer-friendly variety of sorghum in Nigeria. The project identified a usable sorghum cultivar and trained farmers to grow the crop. Sorghum farmers reported a 35-50% increase in yield from their land. Today, Diageo breweries in Nigeria source 95% of their grain from local farms, sustaining around 27,000 jobs. Diageo is a signatory to the UNDP's Business Call to Action (BCTA) which seeks to accelerate progress toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by encouraging private sector investment in base of the pyramid markets.

Sustainable Palm Oil Roundtable (Indonesia)

The Sustainable Palm Oil Roundtable, a non-for-profit organization, develops standards for sourcing sustainable palm oil in what is both a highly important industry for developing economies and, currently, one that is highly destructive of tropical forests. Vegetable oil production worldwide totals 95 million tonnes per year, of which over 28 million tonnes is palm oil, the world's second largest oil crop after soy oil.

The Green Label Scheme (Thailand)

The Thai Green Label Scheme was initiated by the Thailand Business Council for Sustainable Development and formally launched in August 1994 by the Thailand Environment Institute and the Ministry of Industry. The Green Label certificate is awarded to products that are shown to have minimum detrimental impact on the environment in comparison with other products serving the same function. More than 137 products in 18 categories have received the Green Label certificate.



■ UNIDO/UNEP Cleaner Production Centers (Global)

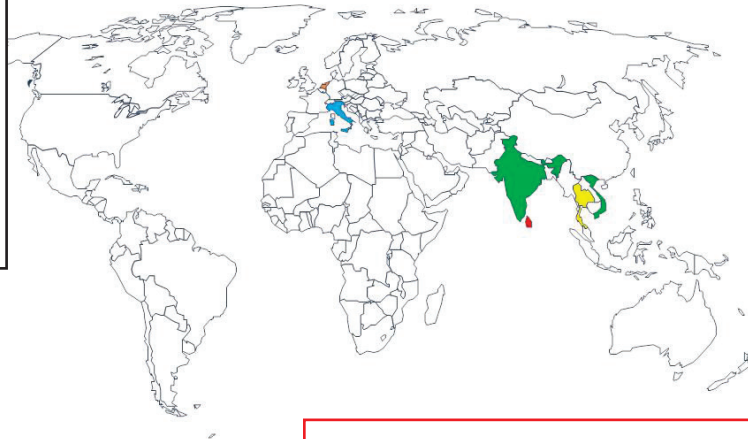
UNIDO in cooperation with UNEP started, in 1994, to set up National Cleaner Production Centers and Programs. Since then, 43 centers and programs have been established in developing and transition countries, with others in the planning stage. The centers and programs train enterprise leaders in cleaner production helping them to adopt and adapt practices to local conditions. The programs also aim to foster dialogue between industry and government and enhance investments for transfer and development of environmentally sound technologies to bridge the gap between competitive industrial production and environmental concerns. With the program, costly end-of-pipe pollution control systems are gradually replaced with a strategy that reduces and avoids pollution and waste throughout the entire production cycle, from efficient use of raw materials, energy and water to the final product. Successful programs have been implemented in, for example, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Cuba, India, and Nicaragua.

■ Education on sustainable small-scale farming (The Netherlands)

Learning AgriCultures is a learning resource particularly useful for educators seeking support material for explaining about sustainable agriculture in their courses, at a university or college level, in special NGO training courses or elsewhere. The series aims to stimulate learning about sustainability issues for small-scale farmers through a systems thinking perspective.

■ E-textile toolbox (Vietnam and India)

Partner organizations from Asia and Europe have joined hands to develop an on-line toolbox to help make textile production more efficient, reduce production costs, improve product quality and achieve a better environmental performance. The integrated toolbox consists of an on-line capacity building module to acquire competitive knowledge, a performance management tool and a catalogue of technical solutions and examples of their application.



■ Sustainable livelihoods (Asia and the Pacific)

Green Growth is a policy focus for Asia and the Pacific that emphasizes ecologically sustainable economic progress to foster low-carbon, socially inclusive development. There has been an increasing number of requests for capacity development assistance from governments in the region. To meet such needs, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has designed a unique training package on Green Growth policy tools for the area. This tool has evolved to emphasize the Sustainable Livelihoods approach (SLA). ESCAP's Training of Trainers (TOT) Programme works to assist in building individual and organizational capabilities to ensure Green Growth goals can be defined and realized at the national level. By engaging internal and external expertise in trainings, the programme increases its value-added. Training is targeted towards middle-level government managers, ministerial officials, private-sector decision makers, NGOs, academics and other actors, i.e. all stakeholders involved in the country's transition to green growth. The method emphasizes new forms of training such as group exercises, brainstorming, case studies and role playing amongst others.

■ Responsible Environmental Marketing Communications (Global)

To help marketers and advertisers avoid the mistakes of vague, non-specific or misleading environmental claims, the International Chamber of Commerce has produced a global Framework for Responsible Environmental Marketing Communications. The framework includes a practical checklist aimed at the creators of marketing communications campaigns, as well as a chart that provides an easy reference to relevant provisions of the global advertising code and offers more detailed interpretations on current issues related to environmental marketing.

■ Education for sustainable consumption (Global)

Considering the role of education as a key instrument to achieve sustainable development, Italy set up an international task force on education for sustainable consumption. Under the Marrakech Process it has produced a set of recommendations and guidelines to introduce education for sustainable consumption in the formal education sector.

■ Food and Beverage Industry (Sri Lanka)

The SWITCH ASIA programme focuses on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and directly contributes to sustainable growth and the fight against poverty in Asia. The Food & Beverage industry is a very important sector of Sri Lankan economy that contributes around 10% of GDP and generate an annual export revenue of US\$1.4 bn. This project, under SWITCH ASIA, improves the environmental performance of the Food & Beverage sector through promotion of best practices of sustainable production among Small and Medium Enterprises.

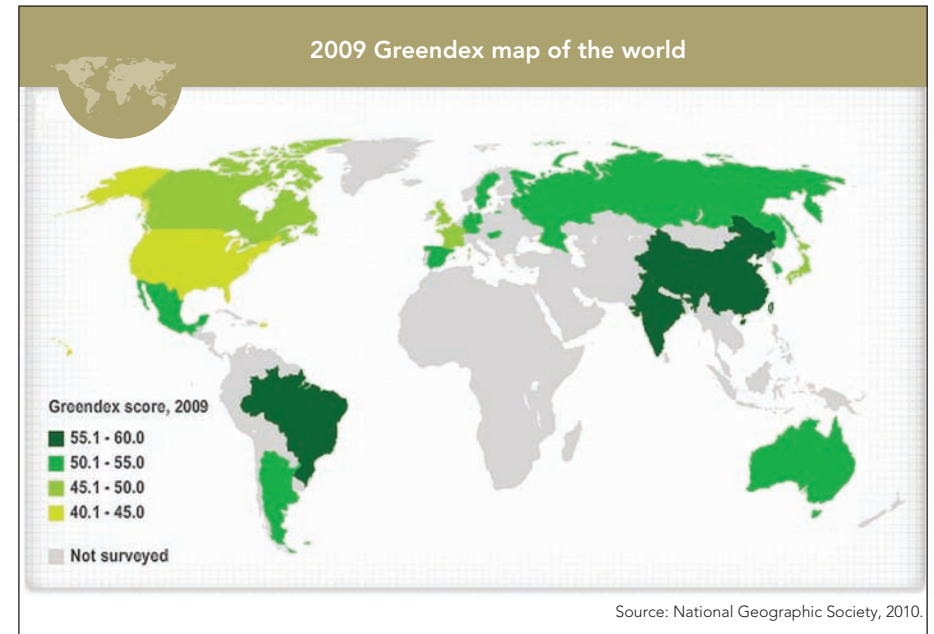
CONSUMER-CITIZENS

National Geographic and GlobeScan have launched a quantitative consumer study of 17,000 consumers in a total of 17 countries (14 in 2008) asking questions about such behavior as energy use and conservation, transportation choices, food sources, the relative use of green products versus traditional products, attitudes towards the environment and sustainability, and knowledge of environmental issues. These are the behaviors that were most critical to investigate based on a group of international experts. A composite measure of environmentally sustainable consumption called the Greendex was developed to score each respondent based on the consumption patterns s/he reports in the survey, and compares average scores by country for 17 countries.

The Greendex is composed of 65 measurements of consumer behavior in the areas above. Each respondent earns a score reflecting the environmental impact of his or her consumption patterns within each, leading to corresponding "sub-indices". The overall Greendex score is a number out of 100, based on their performance within the sub-indices. The highest score was 59.5 out of a 100 for India and the lowest 43.7 for the USA.

The top-scoring consumers of 2009 (where higher scores are "greener") are in the developing economies of India, Brazil and China. Argentina and South Korea, both new additions to the survey, are virtually tied for fourth, followed by Mexico, Hungary and Russia. Ranks ninth through thirteenth, the latter a three-way tie, are all occupied by European countries, as well as Australia in twelfth. Japanese, U.S. and Canadian consumers score lowest.

An increase was reported in environmentally friendly consumer behavior in 13 of the 14 countries surveyed in both 2008 and 2009. Survey results suggest that both cost considerations and environmental concerns may have motivated consumers to adopt more environmentally sustainable behavior over the past two years.



“Current global consumption patterns are unsustainable...it is becoming apparent that efficiency gains and technological advances alone will not be sufficient to bring global consumption to a sustainable level; changes will also be required to consumer lifestyles, including the ways in which consumers choose and use products and services.”

— Sustainable Consumption Facts and Trends from a Business Perspective, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 2008

Changing Consumer Behaviour



■ PERL (Global)

The Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living (PERL) is a network of about 100 higher education institutions from 40 countries. It is based on six years of experience under the Consumer Citizenship Network mainly in Europe. It started in 2009 and will run till 2012. PERL is a partnership that aims to examine and stimulate the incorporation of sustainability in daily actions, including consumption choices, and the creation of sustainable and responsible lifestyles by:

- Researching social innovation and responsibility;
- Giving visibility to creative communities that collaboratively invent new ways of living;
- Promoting education for sustainable consumption;
- Stimulating consumer citizenship;
- Developing teaching methods and materials;
- Providing references and guidance;
- Producing recommendations for sustainable lifestyles and education for sustainable consumption.

Already teacher training modules, courses and educational toolkits have been developed to help trainers and individuals to understand and communicate on sustainable lifestyle.

■ Sustainable Connections (United States)

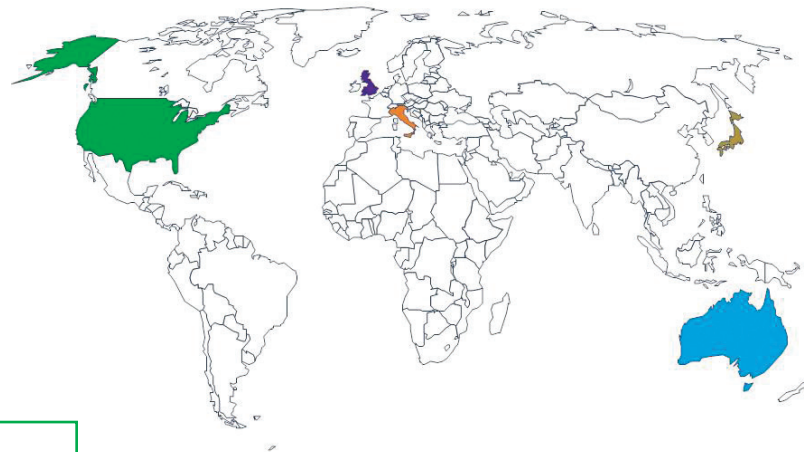
Sustainable Connections works as the local forum where businesses come together to transform and model an economy built on sustainable practices. For example, it supports a community of innovators in green building, sustainable agriculture and renewable energy. Since its start in 2002 Sustainable Connections has grown to 650+ local, independently owned business members and an annual budget nearing \$1m. Sustainable Connections worked with the city of Bellingham, Washington and, in 2009, the National Resources Defense Council named Bellingham the #1 small city in urban progress toward sustainability.

■ Carrotmob (Global)

Carrotmob is a type of consumer activism in which businesses compete at how socially responsible they can be. Then a network of consumers spends money to support whichever business makes the strongest offer. The goal is to harness consumer power to make it possible for the most socially-responsible business practices to be the most profitable choices. It is the opposite of a boycott. Since 2008 over 50 Carrotmob events have been organized worldwide.

■ Nudging (Global)

Nudging is about making it easier to make the sustainable choice. The default choice is the sustainable one, and consumers have to opt-in to the unsustainable one. One example is moving plastic bags at the grocery store under the counter and training cashiers to wait until they are asked to give a bag, instead of offering them automatically and having them in view. This simple change has proven to reduce significantly the number of bags used. Nudging also changes what people perceive as acceptable behavior — in many areas it is embarrassing to ask or be seen with a plastic bag.



■ The 10:10 (The United Kingdom)

The 10:10 campaign is an ambitious project to unite every sector of society behind one simple idea: all commit to reduce CO₂ emissions by 10% in 2010, then work together to make it happen. The target was set based on studies that showed that 10% reduction a year starting this year is the kind of target that will give us the best chance of a safe future for our children and grandchildren. Already, 60,000 people, 2,300 businesses, 500 schools, colleges and universities, 1,300 organisations have signed on in the UK. And the campaign is rapidly spreading around the world with campaigns already up and running in Ireland, Norway, France, Portugal, Ghana, and the Netherlands.

■ Slow Food (Italy)

The slow food movement challenges consumers to think about how consumption choices form part of an interdependent network within a social economy — the pleasures of food preparation and consumption among friends and family helps develop social and cultural capital. An important component of the Slow Food movement is the commitment to educate children about the origins and taste of food — to help them to have a connection to the food they eat. The Slow Food movement has its origins in the 1980s in Italy and currently has 65,000 members in 42 countries.

■ LivingSmart (Australia)

Living Smart is a program offering information on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at home and in daily travel. The program works with selected communities to achieve savings for households and large reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The program aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions 1.5 tons per household a year. (Australians on average emit 14 tons per household.) This will save participants up to 10 percent in their gas, electric, water, and petroleum bills.

■ Eco-Action Points (Japan)

Since 2008, the Ministry of the Environment has promoted the Eco-Action Point model projects, in which citizens can earn points in exchange for their environment friendly actions — including purchase of energy-saving products/services — and redeem those points for a range of awards, such as train tickets, daily goods and donations to help protect the environment. There are three nationwide Eco-Action Point model projects and nine local projects.

Major Groups

Business and Industry (Global)

The Responsible Care® Global Charter addresses sustainable development and public health issues with respect to the use of chemical products. It highlights the industry's commitment to continuous improvement and greater transparency in environmental, health and safety performance. Responsible Care is currently implemented by 53 industry associations.

Business and Industry (Global)

The air transport industry is exploring opportunities offered by technology such as revolutionary new plane designs, new composite lightweight materials, radical new engine advances, and the development of sustainable biofuels for aviation. Airlines will spend \$1.5 trillion on new aircraft by 2020. Some 5,500 aircraft will be replaced by 2020, or 27% of the total fleet. With adoption of these new technologies there could be a 21% reduction in CO₂ emissions compared to business as usual.

Farmers (Albania)

In the face of severe erosion threats, Albanian farmers have identified and implemented good agricultural practices to maintain soil productivity, conserve water and lower production costs. These practices include adequate crop rotation, intercropping, zero or minimum tillage, mulching, effective irrigation systems and rain collection systems, selection of resistant varieties, composting and biological pest and disease control. In order to stop further land degradation, the development of agricultural good practices includes afforestation, the setting up of barriers to protect the arable land, and the improvement of irrigation systems.

NGOs / Trade Unions (Global)

About 10 years ago, various trade unions and social justice and environmental NGOs worldwide started the international flower campaign. The aim of the campaign is twofold: to improve conditions for workers in the flower industry and to stimulate sustainable production of cut flowers. The collaboration between unions and NGOs resulted in the International Code of Conduct for the Production of Cut Flowers (ICC). The standards of this Code are based on International Labour Organisation criteria and international conventions and/or treaties. The International Code of Conduct has already been accepted by the international industry united in Union Fleurs. The International Code of Conduct provides a concise statement of minimum labour and human rights.

The joint efforts of industry, NGOs and trade unions represent the most effective way to improve working conditions and sustainable production. An independent body, established to provide independent verification of compliance with the code and to assist companies to implement the code, will provide an auditable checklist of practices and conditions that are consistent with the standards set forth in the code.

Farmers (Peru)

Farmer members of the National Coffee Board (Junta Nacional del Café) of Peru are currently working on the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices. These are put in place in 30% of the total area under coffee managed by the Board and include the implementation of soil conservation practices and reforestation projects that increase productivity and reduce pressure on forests.

Youth (Mali)

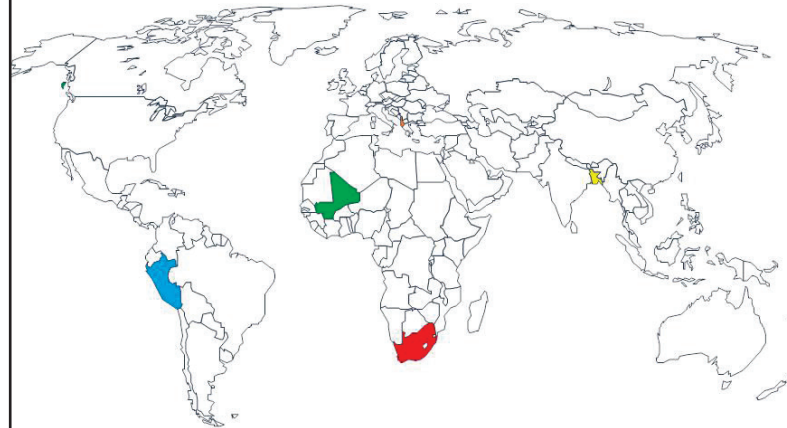
As part of a decade-long initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the multi-functional platform project provides decentralized energy to rural villages in response to requests from local women's associations in Mali. The small size and dispersed locations of villages in Mali make off-grid decentralized mechanical and electric energy supply the only viable option. The multi-functional platform is a 10-horsepower diesel engine that was purposefully designed to take into account multiple end uses for energy in rural economies.

Women (Bangladesh)

Women in Bangladesh Make Battery-Powered Lamps. The project aims at improving the lighting and indoor air quality of rural households by replacing the traditional kerosene lamps with modern fluorescent battery-powered lamps, which have a reduced risk of fire and do not give off smoke and other emissions harmful to human health. Funded by the World Bank Energy Sector Management Programme (ESMAP), it has been running on the remote island of Char Montaz in the south of Bangladesh since 1999.

NGOs (Southern Africa)

Farming for Energy, for Better Livelihoods in Southern Africa (FELISA) is both a concept and a project that promotes the production and use of bioenergy, particularly biodiesel. With FELISA, it is projected that countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) can satisfy a significant portion of liquid fuel needs, hence making them less dependent on foreign exchange, by allocating less than 10% of their cropland to energy crops.





Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (US)

Energy efficiency standards and labels (S&L) for appliances, equipment and lighting are a cost-effective means to help countries limit energy demand. CLASP seeks to serve as the primary international resource for policymakers and practitioners of energy efficiency standards and labeling for residential, commercial and industrial equipment and lighting worldwide. It promotes the cost-effective adoption of S&L throughout the world. Since its initiation in 1999 CLASP has supported the development of 24 new minimum energy performance standards and/or energy labels, and has provided S&L technical assistance to over 50 countries.

Refrigerants, Naturally! (US)

Refrigerants, Naturally! is a global initiative of companies committed to combat climate change and ozone layer depletion by substituting harmful fluorinated gases (such as CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs) with natural refrigerants. The goal is to promote a shift in the point-of-sale cooling technology in the food and drink, food service and retail sectors towards natural refrigerants with a low or zero Global Warming Potential.

Methane to Markets (US)

The Methane to Markets Partnership is an international initiative that advances cost-effective, near-term methane recovery and use as a clean energy source. The goal of the Partnership is to reduce global methane emissions in order to enhance economic growth, strengthen energy security, improve air quality, improve industrial safety, and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The Partnership currently focuses on four sources of methane emissions: agriculture (animal waste management), coal mines, landfills and oil and gas systems. The Partnership grew from 14 Partners in 2004 to 31 in 2009 and its supported projects are reducing emissions by more than 27 MTCO₂e per year.

Water Improvements (Philippines)

In the 1990s water and wastewater services in Manila were unsafe, unreliable and most residents were underserved, while others had no access to the systems at all. In 1995, the Philippine government enacted legislation which allowed Manila's water agency to enter into a public-private partnership and agreement was made with Maynilad Water Services, Inc. As of 2009, there were a total 790,000 households in Manila served by Maynilad, an increase of approximately 75% since the concession agreement. Of that number, approximately 60% have access to 24-hour water service, while an estimated 74% receive water at 7 pounds per square inch (psi), or strong pressure. The numbers represent a significant increase from the previous numbers, 32% with 24-hour service and 45% with 7 psi, seen under the prior ownership (the government).

Sustainable Water (Somalia)

The newly rehabilitated water system in Berbera, Somalia, is managed under the public-private partnership approach, which involves the community, the Water Authority and the private sector in ensuring sustainable service delivery. The water board, which was established specifically for this project, represents the various stakeholders and helps monitor and improve the water management system. UNICEF and the European Union introduced this approach in Somalia in 1997. Since then, several other key donors have come on board to support similar projects. Today, 10 such projects are being implemented to bring safe water to Somali communities across the country.

The SEED Initiative (Kenya)

The global SEED Initiative nurtures and publicizes exceptional, entrepreneurial multi-stakeholder partnerships for locally-led sustainable development. The initiative focuses on 'business as unusual' — innovative action delivering real solutions through project cooperation among small and large businesses, local and international NGOs, women's groups, labour organisations, public authorities and UN agencies, and others working in the field of sustainable development.

