
CII spearheading the climate change movement in Indian industry

Sunday, 11 Oct, 2009

While, policy makers around the world are negotiating an effective post 2012 international framework to deal with climate change, many Indian companies under stewardship of CII are adopting technologies, practices and approaches that will help to build a carbon constrained economy. Most of the Indian companies have been adopting carbon mitigation actions to reduce their cost and gain reputation and a competitive edge.

Through the services of its centres of excellence the Green Business Centre in Hyderabad and Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Development CII has been able to contribute to an emission reduction of 44,29,000 tonne of CO₂ per annum.

Both the Centres have been providing key services such as energy audit, energy management, green building consultancy, water management, technology incubation, renewable energy services among others towards building increased climate responsiveness amongst the Indian Industry.

In the Green Building space, CII has successfully facilitated certification of several LEED Platinum rated buildings, which are now being built across India. As a remarkable commitment, K Raheja a real estate developer has proposed all his future projects to be LEED certified. MNC's like HSBC, ABN, AMRO, WalMart, Microsoft, Gillette and Carrefour among others are opting for green complexes in India. The available statistics indicate that over 45 million square feet of green building space has already been registered, while the target is of 1 billion square feet of registered space by 2012.

Indian Industry has also achieved remarkable progress in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Average energy intensity in key sectors such as cement and iron & steel has been declining consistently. 1050 detailed energy audits by CII-Green Business Centre across various industry sectors, have led to big quantum of GHG emission reduction in addition to enhancement of efficiencies. These efforts have led to recurring saving worth USD 44 million.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee director general of Confederation of Indian Industry said that "Indian Industry is poised to combat climate change as an opportunity than as a threat. Collaborative approach between Indian government and industry that also factors-in issues such as energy security and economic development will play a critical role in formulating a pragmatic response to challenges ahead."

Going forward, CII is taking its action against climate change to the next level. The Confederation has now started working with state governments by estimating carbon foot-print of states reviewing existing state-level industrial policies and regulatory framework from climate change standpoint and by proposing modifications in the state policies to reduce GHG emissions. Another key initiative being undertaken is on Clean Coal, particularly Carbon Capture and use in algae cultivation and methanol production.

Evidently, Indian companies, under stewardship of CII, are pro-actively shaping new norms that may eventually become rules when the Government ratifies in building a climate constrained world.

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