ADB launches new regional center for clean power

A hub to support clean energy innovation and investment in Asia Pacific was launched at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently. Launched at the 9th Asia Clean Energy Forum, the Sustainable Energy for All Regional Hub in Asia and the Pacific is to conduct rapid assessments, build constructive dialogue on policy, catalyze investments and mobilize bilateral and global funds for clean energy development. The hub will be hosted by the ADB at its Manila headquarters and will be operated in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). It hopes to provide universal access to clean and renewable energy by 2030. It also aims to double the annual global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by then.

Source: BusinessWorld, June 19, 2014

BCI launches renewable energy home loan package

To assist local home owners and small businesses to become more self reliant for energy, Bank of Cook Islands (BCI) recently launched its “Renewable Energy Home Loan” package. The launch was held at the Creative Centre, a local charity workshop which has been using solar energy for its hot water for a number of years now. Attending the launch was the Cook Island Energy Commissioner, along with representatives of the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Minister of Finance and invited clients. Well received by the attendees, it showed that there was great interest in this alternative to traditional methods of power supply, with a number of enquiries received about taking up the package. As part of the design of the package, local suppliers were contacted to work out the best type of systems, the alternatives that were available for differing situations, the costing for each model and the potential savings in each situation. Additional costs such as installation costs, government fees, loan fees and security registration costs were then added to the various system costs to come up with a total cost. This cost was then worked into a loan scenario to match the borrowers probable power bill to ensure payments did not exceed their current energy consumption.

IDBI Bank wins 3rd Annual Greentech CSR Award

IDBI Bank has been awarded the 3rd Annual Greentech CSR Award 2013 which was received by Shri B.K. Batra, Deputy Managing Director, at a glittering function held in Chandigarh. IDBI Bank was adjudged winner in the ‘Platinum Category’ by a jury set up by the Greentech Foundation, New Delhi, for its outstanding work in the reconstruction and development of the flood-affected Taru village in Ladakh as a ‘Model Village’ through the Community Based Disaster Risk Management approach and for demonstrating consistent commitment towards the upliftment of socially weaker sections of the society. IDBI Bank received the same award in the SILVER category last year from Greentech Foundation for its Rural Transformation Fellowship Programme (RTFP). The elevation of IDBI Bank by two notches - from silver to the premier platinum category - is public recognition of the Bank’s enhanced stature as a responsible corporate citizen. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Batra said “CSR is a way of life at IDBI Bank, ingrained into our corporate philosophy. As a conscientious corporate citizen, it is our ceaseless pursuit to bring about a meaningful and lasting improvement in the lives of the marginalized sections of the society through appropriate pro-active interventions. We are gratified that our Bank’s efforts in this area are being suitably recognized.”

Benefits of a sustainable procurement program

Sustainable procurement, according to Michael Wilson, Director of Marketing, AFFLINK, is not simply about selecting green products. It’s about finding ways to enhance operational efficiency, realize cost reductions, reduce a facility’s use of natural resources and their overall environmental footprint, and expand relationships between managers and their facility maintenance distributors.

The benefits a facility can reap via implementing a sustainable procurement program are many. Some of the core benefits include:

- Transforming the facility or business into a sustainability leader.
- Creating good PR for the organization.
- Attracting higher-quality and longer-lasting tenants.
- Making the business a more desirable place to work, thereby attracting a higher caliber of workers who share the company’s views on sustainability and environmental issues.

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Developing a sustainable procurement program

How does an organization go about developing a sustainable procurement program? Not surprisingly, the process is very similar to developing a green cleaning strategy or taking other steps to green operations. Some of the components include:

- Clearly defining the word sustainable and what a sustainable procurement program would look like for the organization. In some cases, becoming sustainable refers to the more traditional definition of using products in such a way that does not prevent future generations from having access to the same natural resources. It can also refer to the much broader “triple-bottom line” concept, which prioritizes people and the planet as well as profits.

- Forming a team with the goal of developing a sustainable procurement strategy and action plan that will evolve into the organization’s ongoing sustainable procurement policy.

- Communicating information about the program and why it is being implemented to staff and building users.

- Working with facility maintenance distributors to help select products that meet the new sustainable procurement guidelines.

- Training staff and others regarding how to use any new products selected for the program.

- Verifying the performance of any products selected under the program.

- Creating stewardship, delegating one person or group to ensure that the program is enforced and enabled to evolve, grow, and change as necessary.

Source: http://www.environmentalleader.com/

What is a corporate green team?

Establishing “green teams” is an inspiring way for companies to motivate employees and shift their strategies towards a more sustainable path. This is becoming important as more stakeholders demand companies mitigate their impact on people and the planet—and shareholders and investors rightfully demand profits. In an era where both young professionals and experienced employees wish to find more meaning in their work, giving the green light to employees to find new ideas in rooting out waste, creating improved designs and finding new efficiencies can pay huge dividends.

These eight keys make up a successful green team:

1. Volunteers: Seek out those who are inspired to enact change because of sustainability.

2. Start with the proverbial “low hanging fruit”: Achieve small successes first to inspire confidence. Companies, especially those that are publicly-owned, will not change overnight.

3. Executive sponsors: Remember, numbers resonate with executives. Show the demonstrable results. And if you get finance on board, you are set.

4. Brainstorm, focus, then execute: Find tactical, then group consensus on processes to find new efficiencies or designs—experts advocate a systems-thinking approach to solving tough problems, whether they are in your supply chain or how a product is developed.

5. Retain experts: Passion does not always equate to expertise; be prepared to bring in outside talent.

6. Engage the supply chain: No matter how much is done within the home office or a company’s entire operations, the most significant impact on communities and the environment for most companies is within a firm’s supply chain. Suppliers must be included within this greater “green team” conversation.

7. Celebrate success: Well, this is Employee Engagement 101. Just as sales teams have their rah-rah rallies to announce new big contracts, green teams should do the same in order to excite even more employees.

8. Engage the senior executives: In the end, these are the folks who get paid to make the toughest decisions and their unequivocal buy-in will be crucial at some point.

Source: Leon Kaye is the editor of GreenGoPost.com, http://www.tripledpundit.com/

Did you know?

Some interesting facts about the environment

Here are some things that you may or may not have known about the environment.

- Recycling one aluminum can save enough energy to run a TV for three hours.

- During the time it takes you to read this sentence, 50,000 12-ounce aluminum cans are made.

- An aluminum can may be recycled ad infinitum (forever!).

- We consume over 80 trillion aluminum cans every year.

- The world’s tallest tree is a coast redwood in California, measuring more than 360 feet or 110 meters.

- The world’s oldest trees are 4,600 year old Bristlecone pines in the USA.

Source: www.earthecho.org

What is Greenwashing?

Greenwashing is a term merging the concepts of “green” (environmentally sound) and “whitewashing” (to conceal or gloss over wrongdoing). Greenwashing is any form of marketing or public relations that links a corporate, political, religious or nonprofit organization to a positive association with environmental issues for an unsustainable product, service, or practice. In some cases, an organization may truly offer a “green” product, service or practice. However, through marketing and public relations, one is wrongly led to believe this “green” value system is ubiquitous throughout the entire organization.

Source: www.tripledpundit.com

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- Allowing facilities to meet new regulations or goals concerning waste and natural resource use reduction, while also promoting community wide green and sustainability objectives.

- Selecting products that result in less lifecycle waste, that are both recycled and recyclable, consume less energy, and use less energy to manufacture.

Source: http://www.environmentalleader.com/

Greenbank is a bi-monthly publication of the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP). It features news, ideas and trends for promoting environmental due diligence in banking.