**DBP grants 185-M loan biogas plant**

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has granted a PHP 185 million term loan to FDR Group of Companies to build and operate a dry anaerobic digester (DAD) biogas plant in the country. The DBP said that the biogas plant—the first of its kind in the Philippines—will produce electricity using the biodegradable fraction of the mixed municipal solid waste that FDR Group collects and treats from its local government service areas. The DAD biogas plant is a registered project under the Department of Energy’s Renewable Energy Program that will help complete the organic waste cycle while harnessing renewable energy. FDR Group is building the plant in technical partnership with IUT GmbH, a company based in Austria with more than thirty (30) years of experience in waste management. The plant will be commissioned in 2016.

**NHB supports energy efficient homes**

Due to the successful implementation and the increasing publicity of the Energy Efficient Homes Programme, the National Housing Bank (NHB) has refinanced energy efficiency loans of a total value of €50 million. The credit line provided by the German KfW Development Bank to NHB, under the Promotional Programme for New Energy Efficient Residential Housing, the backbone of the EE Homes Programme, has now been fully utilized. So far fifteen Indian construction companies to buy these carbon credits, providing LGUs and landfill operators more financial incentives to upgrade their facilities. Working with LGUs and landfill operators, LANDBANK commits to deliver 1,736,528 carbon credits until 2020.

According to Gilda E. Pico, President and Chief Executive Officer of LANDBANK, the new agreement can help LGUs comply with the emission reductions (CER) which can sell for up to 37,000t CO2. Given the momentum of the promotional incentive scheme NHB decided to continue the programme and further refinance Primary Lending Institutions offering loans for buyers of certified energy efficient apartments.

https://www.ee-homes.com/KfW-credit-line-to-NHB-fully-utilized

**Landbank partners with World Bank to mitigate climate change**

Through its Carbon Finance Support Facility, Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) provides funding and technical assistance for installing methane recovery systems in sanitary landfills. Local government units (LGUs) and operators of sanitary landfills availing of this program can earn “carbon credits” or certificate of emission reductions (CER) which can sell for extra income.

In an agreement signed with LANDBANK, the World Bank commits to buy these carbon credits, providing LGUs and landfill operators more financial incentives to upgrade their facilities. Working with LGUs and landfill operators, LANDBANK commits to deliver 1,736,528 carbon credits until 2020.

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**DBJamaica supports school solar energy PPP project**

The Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) and the National Education Trust (NET) have embarked on an energy efficiency and renewable energy project aimed at reducing the electricity cost to public schools and ultimately reducing the fiscal burden to the Government of Jamaica (GoJ). The project involves the use of photovoltaic (PV) solar systems to generate cheaper electricity for the schools and complements a previous initiative that was undertaken by Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica. The NET initiative is a pilot project with 30 public secondary schools located across the island, selected for participation. If the project is successful, NET will consider rolling out a programme throughout the education sector where it represents good value for money to do so. A Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model is being contemplated in order to minimize the upfront capital requirement for the GoJ and to ensure that the project risks are shared with the right private sector partner. The project will engage several stakeholders in the promotion of energy efficiency and the application of renewable energy technology. It is expected that students will be engaged in learning about energy efficiency and PV technology as part of the schools’ curriculum. Administrators will be engaged in assisting in monitoring project and facilitating access to the system by the concessionaire. The Ministry of Education will be engaged in developing a policy to encourage an energy efficiency culture. Using the PPP modality will ensure that financial and non-financial benefits are obtained much earlier than would be the case if the project were to be funded directly by the government.

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With climate change becoming a buzzword, more and more brands have aligned their strategies in coming up with products and services that are environment-friendly. Many brands are diversifying their ranges to encompass a more ecological product. These brands must show authentic commitment to sustainability to win over modern consumers, writes Bex Bartolo Wicks. The topic of sustainability isn’t going anywhere; growing environmental needs and consumer concern are increasingly steering consumer spending habits," she writes. 

Source: http://www.mediapost.com/

Developing brownfields

Brownfields reuse is the redevelopment of contaminated properties into revitalized productive uses. Redeveloping brownfield sites promotes a smart growth agenda by revitalizing blighted urban areas, supporting local economic growth, and advancing environmental health.

There are a number of questions that should be considered early in the process of selecting a brownfield site for potential redevelopment:

- **Acquiring title** - Who holds title to the property and how will that title be conveyed? Are there any encumbrances on the deed, such as liens held by state, federal, or local agencies?
- **Size** - Is the property size appropriate to accommodate the proposed redevelopment? Is it adjacent to properties that could be assembled to provide a larger redevelopment parcel?
- **Transportation access** - Is the property within proximity of public transportation or within walking or biking distance to services and jobs?
- **Historical districts/empowerment zones** - Is the property within a historical district or a special economic empowerment zone (such as a state approved Economic Target Area (ETA))? Is there funding available to support the restoration and development of those areas?
- **Public benefit** - Will the redevelopment of the property provide a public benefit? Is it part of a larger revitalization project, such as a downtown redevelopment project? Can additional financial or technical support be leveraged?
- **Cost** - Have the project costs and benefits, including public and environmental benefits, been calculated and balanced against all available financial support?
- **Contamination** - Has any environmental information been generated for the site, or surrounding properties? To what degree has the nature and extent of contamination at the site been characterized? What are the costs for bringing the site to a permanent solution and how long will that take?
- **Liability** - What is the liability of the municipality that owns a brownfield if an assessment finds contamination? What is the liability of the private owner? What is the liability of a municipality that acquires a property for failure to pay taxes or other mechanisms? How can the municipality limit its liability? Are there partners that may be interested in sharing the liability as part of a redevelopment venture?

Benefits of Brownfields Redevelopment

The redevelopment of brownfield sites can provide many benefits to a community including:

- **Revitalization of blighted urban areas.**
- **Reduction in sprawl and development of “greenfield” sites.** Redeveloping and reusing abandoned or underutilized property reduces demand to build on undeveloped property.
- **Creation of new jobs.** The reuse of abandoned or underutilized property provides an opportunity for new businesses to locate, for existing businesses to expand, and a new customer base for sites that incorporate residential uses.
- **Healthy neighborhoods.** A neighborhood that is no longer exposed to contamination reduces health risks and improves overall environmental quality.
- **Environmental benefits and open space.** A brownfield located in a densely settled neighborhood can be redeveloped to create open space or a park, providing needed green space and recreational opportunities in dense urban communities. Urban low impact development practices can be installed to improve water quality in adjacent rivers, recharge runoff to groundwater, and increase energy efficiency (e.g. green roof) thereby reducing smog and the urban heat island effect.
- **Environmental justice.** Given that brownfields are often located in low-income communities and communities of minorities, remediation and redevelopment of these sites improves environmental quality and public health and creates new opportunities for environmental assets such as parks and urban forestry.
- **Economic development.** A brownfield redevelopment can create an economic benefit worth 10 to 100 times more per dollar than is paid in.
- **Expand the local tax base.**


ADB to double annual climate financing for Asia-Pacific by 2020

Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Takehiko Nakao announced that ADB will double its annual climate financing to USD6 billion by 2020, up from the current USD3 billion. ADB’s spending on tackling climate change will rise to around 30% of its overall financing by the end of this decade. ADB’s announcement comes against the backdrop of a promise by developed countries to mobilize USD100 billion every year from 2020 to counter climate change in developing countries. Out of the USD6 billion, USD4 billion will be dedicated to mitigation through scaling up support for renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, and building smart cities. USD2 billion will be for adaptation through more resilient infrastructure, climate-smart agriculture, and better preparation for climate-related disasters.