

UN HABITAT

CONFERENCE ON PROMOTING GREEN
BUILDING RATING SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

For building industry professionals
and national and local government officials
who want to promote green building practices in Africa.



4-6 May 2010

United Nations Complex, Nairobi, Kenya

What are green buildings?

Green buildings emit fewer greenhouse gases, consume less energy, use less water, and offer occupants healthier environments than do typical buildings. Green buildings use salvaged, recycled or low carbon materials; they support rainwater harvesting, bicycle commuting, solar heating, natural ventilation, and/or many other environmentally friendly practices.

How does one rate the environmental performance of buildings? Who develops rating tools?

Green Building Councils (GBCs) are non-profit, member-based coalitions recognised by the World GBC that develop objective, voluntary tools for rating the environmental performance of buildings. GBCs also support the building industry through capacity building. By using objective measurement to inject an element of friendly competition, these Councils and their rating tools can exercise a catalytic, transformative impact on the building sector in a given country. GBCs exist in a number of countries around the world – yet to date, with the exception of South Africa, this model has experienced little uptake in Africa. Other approaches to rating buildings and encouraging green building practices are also possible.

What are the objectives and expected outcomes of the conference?

The conference will:

- Encourage the spread of green building practices through Africa by promoting the use of green building rating systems.

More specifically, drawing on relevant, real-life experiences, using expert speakers, panel discussions and interactive forums, the conference will:

- Familiarise participants from across the African continent with the nuts and bolts of setting up and operating successful green building councils.
- Help participants to explore other models for advancing green building practices, to find the approaches that work best in the African context.
- Assist interested parties to form a network, to support each other in navigating through the several step process of establishing a GBC, or otherwise developing or adopting green building rating tools.



What are the benefits of attending?

- ✓ Share knowledge
- ✓ Understand changing markets and new market niches
- ✓ Participate in a regional network
- ✓ Develop professionally

Who should apply?

Successful applicants will have relevant experience with the building industry and the built environment, and be interested in spearheading the spread of green building practices in their professional communities of practice. Candidates will include but are not limited to: developers, builders, architects, engineers, quantity surveyors, building owners, facility managers, building materials suppliers, government officials who work in the housing, environment or other relevant sectors, and academics.

How to apply?

Attendance is through application and invitation only. Applications will be accepted via electronic submission between 3 March and 2 April 2010. See application procedures below.

Costs?

There is no cost for attending the conference and workshop; however attendees must cover their own travel and accommodation costs. Subsidies for these costs are available for a limited number of persons from particular countries in Africa – for details please see the Application Form below.

Questions?

Send an email to: GreenBuildingRating@unhabitat.org. Put “question” in subject line of email.

Stabilised Compressed Earth Block housing project, East London, Republic of South Africa ©UN-HABITAT/ Jean D’Aragon





Housing in the "City of Tomorrow" in Malmö, Sweden. These units use highly insulated building materials to control heat exchanges; likewise buildings are oriented and designed so as to take full advantage of natural ventilation and lighting© UN-Habitat /Vincent Kitio

Conference and Workshop Program (Tentative): Highlights

Tuesday, 4 May

- Welcome
- Interactive session/icebreaker: Introductions by participants
- The building sector in the context of climate change and sustainable urban development
- What are green buildings? With best practice examples from around the world
- The many and varied benefits of green buildings
- What are green building rating systems and how do they work?
- An introduction to Green Building Councils (GBCs) and the World GBC
- A network approach to supporting emerging GBCs

Wednesday, 5 May

- The steps in becoming an established GBC
- How do GBCs get started? Experiences from various countries
- From stakeholders to governance and funding: what's involved in running a GBC

- How big a building sector is required to support a full-fledged GBC?
- Alternative approaches to promoting green building practices
- Interactive session: Challenges and context for Africa GBCs and green building practices
- Development of green building rating tools
- Green buildings, rating systems and building codes: How can government policies take advantage of these rating systems to encourage green building?

Thursday, 6 May

- How rating systems can address low-cost housing and low-cost building materials
- Possible linkages to / synergies with relevant UN programmes
- Facilitated session and breakout sessions: strategies for promoting green building practices in Africa
- Statement of commitment by participants in promoting green building practices in their countries and in Africa
- Conclusions, next steps and wrap-up

UN-Habitat seeks to invite a core group of motivated, active professionals with varied building backgrounds from countries in Africa. Seating is limited; attendance will be by application and invitation only.

How to Apply

You may apply in one of two ways:

(1) To apply on-line (preferred): Go to www.unhabitat.org and click on "Events". Click on the listing for this event, then follow application instructions. The period for on-line application opens on 3 March and closes on 2 April 2010.

(2) To apply via email: Fill in the application form below, scan it, and send completed application materials to GreenBuildingRating@unhabitat.org. Put "Application" in the subject line of the email. Submit your application by 2 April 2010.

Successful applicants will be notified on a rolling basis, but no later than 9 April 2010.

Personal Information

First Name:

Last Name:

Gender: Male Female

Country:

Nationality:

Date of Birth:

I am a (check maximum of two):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Developer | <input type="checkbox"/> Building owner/manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Builder | <input type="checkbox"/> Building materials supplier |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architect/engineer | <input type="checkbox"/> Government official |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic/student | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (briefly describe): _____ |

Company/Organisation:

Designation/Job Title:

Professional Affiliations (spell out):

Address: City:

Region/State:

Postcode:

Country:

Email:

Phone (landline):

Phone (cell):

Date:

Statement of Experience

On a separate page, summarise your experience in the building industry, with green buildings and sustainable development if applicable (required, 200 words maximum). In addition, you may also submit a CV/resume (optional).

Statement of Motivation

On a separate page, provide a statement as to why you would like to participate in this conference and workshop (200 words maximum).

Request for Sponsorship

At present a limited amount of funds are available to sponsor needy participants, with a priority for professionals from the following countries: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Senegal. (At present we are also seeking additional funds to sponsor needy participants from other African countries.) These resources may be used to cover the costs of transport, accommodation and other expenses. Please indicate the level of sponsorship requested:

- No sponsorship is requested
- Travel (including airfare) costs only
- Accommodation, meals and incidental expenses only
- Both travel as well as accommodation, meals and incidental expenses

Please be aware that applicants who are fully or largely self-funded (that is, that do not require sponsorship), as well as early applicants, stand a greater chance of acceptance.

Application for Visa Entry

For accepted applicants, upon request and where applicable, an official letter will be sent to you for visa purposes.

How did you find out about this conference?

UN-Habitat direct contact (if so, who): _____

Professional Association (if so, which): _____

Other: _____



First green building in South Africa that was certified by GBCSA: Nedbank II. ©GLH Architects.

UN HABITAT

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