

# Buildings & Climate Change

## industry call to action



**UNEP-SBCI is a partnership between major public and private sector building industry stakeholders and UNEP. Since 2006 SBCI has developed a common platform for discussing and reaching consensus on buildings and climate change issues.**

**We, representatives from the real estate and building industry, its key stakeholders, international research and advocacy networks, and major private-sector enterprises are committed to taking immediate action to mitigate and adapt to climate change.**



The building industry has the greatest potential for delivering greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions cuts, at the least cost, using available and mature technologies.



Buildings are responsible for approximately 40% of global energy use and up to 30% of global GHG emissions.



Countries must support the building industry to meet their existing commitments to Kyoto Protocol and to the Bali Roadmap.



The building industry can deliver significant cost savings and improvements in energy and resource use. It can also create jobs and improve local economies.



# BUILDING INDUSTRY REQUESTS

the assistance of parties to the convention

**Copenhagen's climate change framework can facilitate GHG emissions reduction in the building industry by...**

**1.** ... Recognizing the building industry as a top priority for achieving GHG emissions reductions.

**2.** ... Enabling market-based measures that can support investment in building projects that are energy efficient and reduce GHG emissions.

**3.** ... Building capacity and transfer technology to enable improvements in energy efficiency of buildings.

**4.** ... Supporting reform of flexible mechanisms to encourage investment in projects that improve energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions from new and existing buildings.

**5.** ... Encouraging UNFCCC to establish working groups to develop specific measures for the building industry prior to the next commitment period.

**6.** ... Encouraging governments to inventory and set performance goals for GHG emissions from national building stocks.

## THE KYOTO PROTOCOL AND BUILDINGS

Current Kyoto protocol does not exploit the GHG emissions reduction potential of buildings.

Only 12 of the 4500 projects in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) pipeline (as of April 2009) seek to reduce energy demand in buildings.

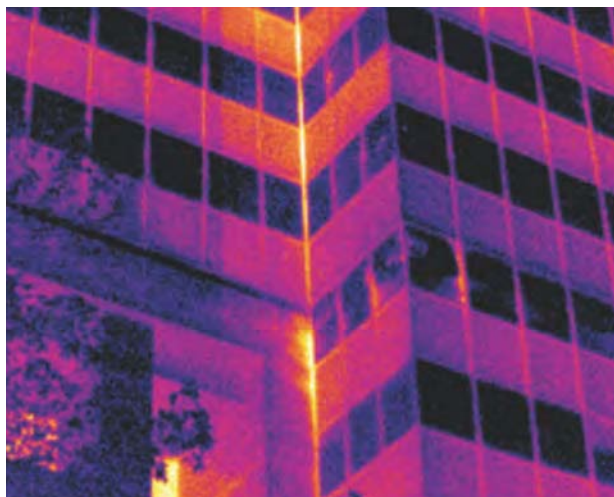
The building industry is the largest single industrial employer, representing approximately:

- 10 to 40% of countries' Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

- 10% of country-level employment; and
- 74% of employees in developing countries with 90% in companies with less than ten employees.

Measures to improve energy efficiency in buildings lead to direct, indirect, and induced jobs created directly in the real estate and construction industries.

Governments gain quality control of building industry transactions by supporting energy efficient and low GHG emissions measures in buildings.



# THE COMMITMENT OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

to address climate change

In anticipation that the text of a global climate change protocol being negotiated at COP15 will recognize the importance of buildings in tackling climate change, UNEP SBCI members, partners, and supporters commit to take the following actions to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the building industry.



## PRIVATE SECTOR

- Work to introduce a carbon trade mechanism for buildings.
- Renovate buildings we occupy to reduce direct and indirect GHG emissions and improve climate adaptability.
- Dedicate research & development to climate neutral, net-zero energy buildings, work with governments on policy development and educate our supply chain.



## PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- Make publicly owned buildings climate neutral.
- Measure baseline GHG emissions to develop and enforce meaningful energy & sustainability codes and standards that achieve:
  - 40% improvement in energy efficiency by 2020 for existing buildings and
  - 40% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020 for new buildings and the necessary skills and performance standards for those skills.
- Support the development of GHG emissions standards for building types, location and use.

## MUNICIPALITIES

- Mandate net-zero energy performance for all new public buildings & support the same process in developing countries and transitional economies with climate adaptive measures and goals through twinning programmes.
- Develop climate change strategies and action-plans with strategic goals to be achieved by 2020 including making publicly owned buildings climate neutral.
- Agree on a common assessment and evaluation process to monitor progress on tackling climate change.



## NGO & CIVIL SOCIETY

- Advocate communication and information-sharing, quality assurance, and support standard-setting.
- Facilitate leadership and bridge efforts.
- Train building industry professionals and trade people, as well as educate the next generation on green building principles.

## RESEARCH & EDUCATION

- Renovate and build schools to reduce GHG emissions and foster long term responsible lifestyles.
- Implement interdisciplinary curricula and conduct research on energy, GHG emissions and social performance.
- Collaborate to provide a data repository and ongoing analysis of the climate impact of buildings.



## UNEP SBCI

Sustainable Buildings & Climate Initiative

**For more information**

**on how to join us in this call,  
VISIT our website at:  
[www.unepsbci.org](http://www.unepsbci.org)**

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# UNEP SBCI

## Sustainable Buildings & Climate Initiative

