

CONCRETE DIALOGUE

The Concrete Initiative

'Concrete Dialogue' - providing you with the latest sustainable construction news from across Europe!

News from The Concrete Initiative!



Closing the loop: What type of concrete re-use is the most sustainable option?

Commissioned by The Concrete Initiative, this study by the European Cement Research Academy (ECRA) looks at the different options for recycling concrete. This study uses LCA (life-cycle analysis) to evaluate the impact of producing new concrete with either primary raw materials or recycled concrete aggregates, or using the waste concrete in road construction. A comparison is made to find the most sustainable option. [Read more](#)



Concrete Dialogue 2016

Mark your diaries for the second edition of Concrete Dialogue, The Concrete Initiative's annual event.

- When? 17 November 2016
- Where? The Square, Brussels

Watch this space for the latest content & speaker information!



From the blog: Healthier buildings - healthier citizens?

According to news outlet Euractiv, the European Commission plans to tackle healthier indoor environments as part of the energy performance of buildings legislation. Could this be a move towards taking a much broader approach to sustainable construction? I, for one, certainly hope so. [Read more](#)

EU highlights



The strategic importance of Europe's construction sector

18 million direct jobs. 9% of GDP. These are just some of the key figures highlighted in a new European Commission report on the importance of Europe's construction sector. However, as indicated in the report, the contribution of Europe's construction industry goes way beyond these economic and growth priorities. [Read more](#)



Brighter times ahead for construction?

The tides may be about to turn: after several years of sluggish growth, there is a glimmer of hope for the global construction industry. According to a new study from Timetric's Construction Intelligence Center (CIC), the depression caused by the global financial crisis seems to slowly be easing off. [Read More](#)



Nearly zero-energy buildings by 2021: are we on track?

2021: this is the year by which the EU hopes that all new buildings will be constructed in such a way that they will consume virtually no energy (Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings). To achieve this goal, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive requires Member States to draw up national plans. So where are we today? [Read more](#)



Sharing knowledge to become more energy efficient

With the aim of reducing the fragmentation of data and knowledge in the field of energy efficiency, the European Commission Joint Research Center (JRC) has recently launched the European Energy Efficiency Platform (E3P). The platform plans to use a collaborative approach to tackle the issue of energy efficiency in six areas. [Read more](#)

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EU highlights



Heating & cooling strategy focuses on energy leakage from buildings

On 16 February 2016, the European Commission adopted a Strategy for Heating and Cooling. This strategy forms part of the Sustainable Energy Security Package, and is accompanied by a staff working document. The strategy provides a framework for integrating efficient heating and cooling into EU energy policies, and focuses, in particular, on action to prevent energy leaking from buildings and maximising the efficiency and sustainability of heating and cooling systems. [Read more](#)



Climate change: Adapting our urban environment

Within the context of climate change, it is important that our urban environment is able to with stand extreme weather events, such as flooding. Against this background, the European Topic Centre on Climate Change impacts, vulnerability and Adaptation (EIONET) has recently published a report which looks at what actions are being undertaken at national level in order to support urban adaptation across Europe. [Read more](#)



Climate change: Study evaluates how buildings impact on health

On 21 January 2016, the DG Environment publication "Science for Environment Policy" provided an overview of the conclusions of the following study: "Impact of climate change on the domestic indoor environment and associated health risks in the UK". According to the article, the study concludes that, not only will climate change have an impact on the external environment, it will also affect conditions within buildings themselves. [Read more](#)



Tackling the energy efficient renovation of buildings challenge

Renovation is one of the ways in which we can make buildings across Europe more energy efficient. However, there are still many challenges and hurdles which need to be overcome. For example, the building sector is relatively fragmented which makes it difficult to identify and offer holistic solutions for deep renovation at an acceptable cost and quality. [Read more](#)



Energy efficiency: Encouraging investment in building renovation

In order to increase the amount of buildings which are renovated in a way which makes them more energy efficient, financing and investment needs to be made available. With this in mind, the "Investor Confidence Project Europe" (partially funded by Horizon 2020) aims to identify ways in which financing for the building renovation market can be unlocked. [Read more](#)



Reducing building emissions through national renovation strategies

With the aim of encouraging 'national renovation strategies', Green Building Councils from across Europe have joined forces and set up BUILDUPON, an EU project partially funded by Horizon 2020. Its mission is to support governments, industry and civil society in delivering 'national renovation strategies' over the next 12 months. [Read more](#)



Incorporating intelligent aspects into the built environment

On 8 February 2016, the World Economic Forum (WEF) published a report entitled "Intelligent Assets: Unlocking the Circular Economy Potential". The aim of this report is to illustrate opportunities for innovation and creativity across a broad spectrum of industries and sectors. One of the areas analysed is that of how we build and transform our buildings. [Read more](#)



Commission publishes report on macro-objectives for resource efficient buildings

In early January, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission published a Working Paper entitled 'Identifying macro-objectives for the life cycle environmental performance and resource efficiency of EU buildings'. This Working Paper is linked to the Commissions Communication on Resource Efficiency opportunities in the Building Sector, adopted in 2014. [Read more](#)

EU highlights



BREEAM paper focuses on strategic approach to selection of construction products

On 11 January 2016, the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology (BREEAM) published a briefing paper entitled "Strategic approach to the selection and procurement of construction materials and products". This briefing paper outlines the way in which BREEAM encourages a whole building consideration of materials "through the use of robust and science based approaches during the design and procurement of buildings, infrastructure and others aspects of the built environment". [Read more](#)



Circular economy: developing the knowledge base

On 18 January 2016, the European Environment Agency (EEA) published a report entitled "Circular economy in Europe - Developing the knowledge base". According to the authors, fundamental changes throughout the value chain (from product design and production processes to new business models and consumption patterns) are required in order to create a circular economy. [Read more](#)

The Concrete Initiative Events

17 November 2016

Mark your diaries for Concrete dialogue 2016!

Featured case study



Martin Luther School

The school is designed to meet stringent PassivHaus standards for thermal performance and use of minimal energy for space heating. The building has a highly insulated envelope, and a south-north orientation, with the classrooms and event hall in the south and the ancillary rooms in the north.

[Read more](#)

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