

# CONCRETE DIALOGUE

## The Concrete Initiative

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

### News from The Concrete Initiative!



#### Event: Citizens at the Heart of the Sustainably-built Environment

On 19 November 2015, The Concrete Initiative held its first annual event, Concrete Dialogue 2015, entitled: Citizens at the heart of the sustainably-built environment. This event brought together EU stakeholders for a concrete dialogue roundtable to debate issues of relevance to sustainable construction. Furthermore, a new study on the multiplier effect of investment in concrete and a JRC study on sustainability in construction were presented, providing new insights to further stimulate the discussion. [Read more](#)



#### Thematic lunch: Modernising buildings and infrastructure

On 3 December stakeholders gathered to explore drivers for achieving an energy efficient and sustainable building and infrastructure stock. One of the key points raised included the importance of a holistic view and long-term thinking when making a decision whether renovate or rebuild. [Read more](#)



#### Cement and Concrete Industry: Multiplier Effect on the Economy and their Contribution to a Low Carbon Economy

On 19 November, The Concrete Initiative launched the results of a study by consulting group Le Bipe, focusing on the multiplier effect of the cement and concrete industry on Europe's economy. The study clearly concludes that this important industry contributes to local growth and jobs in a low carbon economy. [Read more](#)



#### Fact sheet: CO2 and the built environment - The positive role of concrete

Concrete is a versatile, durable and resilient building material that is locally available across Europe. What is more, concrete buildings can deliver the lowest overall CO<sub>2</sub> impact. This is because, in order to realistically quantify the CO<sub>2</sub> tag of a construction material such as concrete, it is important to look at the whole-life impact. This includes extraction of raw materials, production & transport, building in use, lifetime and durability, and end of life. [Read more](#)



#### Fact sheet: Policy do's and don'ts for construction and demolition waste

According to the Commission, construction and demolition waste accounts for a third of the EU's total waste production per year, amounting to some 450-500 million tonnes. Given that at least a third of this C&DW is concrete, The Concrete Initiative is working actively on this topic. This paper provides some "do's & don'ts" for successful policy on C&DW. [Read more](#)



#### Fact sheet: Thermal mass - The smart approach to energy performance

Did you know that concrete can store energy and that, later on, this energy is then released? This effect, which is due to the high 'thermal mass' of concrete, makes buildings more energy efficient, lowers CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and improves wellbeing and comfort. Thermal mass is a property unique to heavyweight materials such as concrete, which allows for lower heating and cooling costs in buildings. [Read more](#)



#### From the blog: The future is bright with concrete roads

Readers familiar with The Concrete Initiative will know all about concrete's sustainability benefits in buildings: durability, low environmental impacts, fire safety, to name but a few. Readers may be less aware, however, that all of these advantages have a direct parallel when it comes to using concrete for road pavements. [Read more](#)

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## EU highlights



### Reports identify resource-efficient city

On 10 November 2015, the European Environmental Agency (EEA) published 3 reports which look at what can be considered as a resource-efficient city is and what cities can do to enhance urban sustainability. The objective of these reports is to support policy development and decision-making.

[Read more](#)



### UN Habitat publishes Guiding Principles for Climate City Planning Action

On 4 December 2015, the United Nations Habitat programme launched a publication entitled "Guiding Principles for Climate City Planning Action". This document reviews typical steps in the city-level climate action planning process in light of a proposed set of globally applicable principles. In accordance with these principles, the reports states that city climate action should be ambitious, inclusive, fair, comprehensive & integrated, relevant, actionable, evidence-based, transparent & verifiable. [Read more](#)



### Global Alliance on Buildings and Construction launched

On 3 December 2015, the Global Alliance on Buildings and Construction was launched under the leadership of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It gathers together countries, cities and public and private organizations from the building sector value chain, in order to scale up the implementation of ambitious actions towards the "below 2°C" pathway in buildings and construction sector. [Read more](#)



### BPiE presents renovation policy recommendations

On 2 December 2015, the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPiE) published a report entitled "Renovation in practice – Best practice examples of voluntary and mandatory initiatives across Europe". This document analyses a variety of approaches and solutions available to tackle the renovation challenge in terms of scale, financing, addressing non-technical barriers, level of ambition or achievement of social objectives. [Read more](#)



### WBCSD launches energy efficiency in buildings action plan

On 3 December 2015, 11 companies representing the buildings sector, together with the world Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) launched Low Carbon Technology Partnerships initiative (LCTPi) Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EEB) Action Plan. The aim of this plan is to cut projected energy use in buildings in half by 2030 through energy efficiency approaches that offer favorable economic returns.

[Read more](#)



### EPBD consultation preliminary results

On 3 December 2015, the preliminary results of the public consultation on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) were made public by consultants Ecofys. According to the initial findings, approximately half of those who responded believed the EPBD to be successful. [Read more](#)



### Report evaluates EU Cohesion policy support for energy efficient buildings

On 30 November 2015, the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) together with the Danish consultancy Ramboll evaluated the contributions of the 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy programmes to energy efficiency in public and residential buildings on behalf of the European Commission. [Read more](#)



### Report on delivering energy savings in buildings now available

On 25 November 2015, the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), together with the Global Building Performance Network (GBPN) and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), published a report entitled "Delivering Energy Savings in Buildings" which focuses on key areas for international collaboration on building energy code implementation. [Read more](#)



### Guide highlights best indicator tools for sustainable cities

On 19 November 2015, the European Commission (DG Environment) publication "Science for Environment Policy" published an in-depth report entitled "Indicators for Sustainable Cities", which provides a concise guide to the best indicator tools currently available. [Read more](#)

## EU highlights



### Energy savings thanks to an energy efficient, low-carbon pathway in buildings

On 23 November 2015, the International Energy Agency (IEA) published a report together with the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) entitled "Building Energy Performance Metrics". This report provides an overview of the state of energy performance in buildings. Furthermore, it highlights how an energy efficient, low-carbon pathway can save more than 50 exajoules of energy annually around the world. [Read more](#)



### Study shows how improved energy efficiency increases house prices

According to a press release issued by Copenhagen Economics (CE) on 24 November 2015, energy efficient renovation of buildings pays off. Based on a comprehensive analysis of the Danish housing market undertaken by this consulting group, homes with better energy efficiency ratings are sold at higher prices compared to similar houses with lower ratings. [Read more](#)



### Using innovative materials to reduce road emissions

On 19 November 2015, the DG Environment publication "Science for Environment Policy" published an article concerning a study entitled "Carbon footprint comparison of innovative techniques in the construction and maintenance of road infrastructure in The Netherlands". The article indicates that, according to the authors, carbon emissions from Dutch road networks could be reduced by almost a third if more innovative materials and processes were used. [Read more](#)



### JRC study analyses the sustainable energy action plan of 25 cities

The European Commission's Joint Research Center (JCR) has recently published a study entitled "The Covenant of Mayors: In-depth Analysis of Sustainable Energy Actions Plan". The aim of this study is to conduct an in-depth analysis of selected sustainable energy action plans (SEAPs) as part of the Commission's Covenant of Mayors Initiative. [Read more](#)

## The Concrete Initiative Events

17 November 2016

Mark your diaries for Concrete dialogue 2016!

## Featured case study



### The Forum

The Forum is a £27 million project that comprises municipal and academic libraries, a research and teaching facility, arts venue and café. Both in-situ and precast concrete were used in this project. The post-tensioned concrete slab creates flexible spaces for the long-term adaptability of the building and is also material efficient, using less concrete than other concrete solutions. [Read more](#)

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