SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

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Institute for Sustainability Africa
'Advancing Sustainability Initiatives for Africa'

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Renovations, sustainable building materials can boost Europe's green transition

Promoting a culture of sustainability

SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

Renovations, sustainable building materials can boost Europe's green transition

The EEA report 'Addressing the environmental and climate footprint of buildings' assesses the current state of Europe's buildings stock and looks at what is needed to make Europe's buildings more sustainable. Renovating existing buildings with sustainable materials while improving climate resilience and working with nature are key. The report also explores what policy actions are needed to achieve that by 2050.More than 30% of the EU's environmental footprint comes from buildings, making it the sector with the highest environmental impact. About one third of the Union's material consumption goes to construction. The use of buildings accounts for 42% of the total energy consumption and 35% of greenhouse gas emissions. Decommissioning buildings leads to the largest waste stream in the EU by weight. Read more: https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/newsroom/news/renovations-sustainable-building-materials

Promoting a culture of sustainability

Waste management leader EnviroServ reaffirmed its commitment to sustainability and community responsibility with an employee clean-up initiative during September's Environmental Awareness Month.Employees across South Africa, Mozambique and Uganda dedicated an hour of their time to cleaning the streets surrounding their operations. Customers and local food vendors were inspired by the team's commitment, showing community spirit by picking up their brooms to join the clean-up effort and demonstrating a collective dedication to a cleaner environment. This was the company's second employee clean-up event following December's activation for International Volunteer Day, where the team logged an impressive 759 volunteer hours, achieving 36% of its stated sustainability goal. The 2024 clean-up also aligned with World Environmental Health Day on September 26.. Read more: https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/promoting-a-culture-of-sustainability-2024-09-30

Initiative for Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa

Lack of economic opportunity is a root cause of irregular migration. As a major factor that makes people leave their homes, progressing climate change threatens the productivity of Africa's land and deprives farmers of economic prospects. Irregular migration contributes to brain drain in African countries. Those who leave are often the young who, unemployed at home, look for a better economic future elsewhere. COVID-19 is likely to increase youth unemployment in Africa as, according to the World Economic Forum, some 20 million jobs are threatened. With youth unemployment in Africa already double that of adults, the potential for social unrest is heightened. Read more: https://www.ifad.org/en/initiatives/sustainability-stability-security-africa

Sustainability – How are African universities faring?

A recent study suggests that although there is a notable focus from African academics on tackling climate change challenges on the continent, higher education institutions need to increase their efforts to enhance the work of their professors and researchers and take steps to encourage greater involvement by public authorities and private sector actors.The study, "The role of African universities in handling climate change", published in the July edition of Environmental Sciences Europe, aimed to identify the extent to which higher education institutions in Africa are engaging in efforts to deal with the challenges posed by climate change. Read more: https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20240926104941635

Sustainable future pathway: COP29, real estate and NDCs

WHILE we live in the same world, we definitely live in different worlds. Climate change is real and impacts the world in many ways, but the treatment is different, depending on a country's focus and priorities. The opportunity to discuss the way forward is presented at the Conference of the Parties (COP), and currently, the world is gearing up for the 29th edition of COP. Zimbabwe is poised to play a critical role in shaping a sustainable future for its citizens and the global community. COP29 offers Zimbabwe a timely opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to sustainability and accelerate progress towards its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Read more: https://www.newsday.co.zw/theindependent/opinion/article/200032858/sustainable-future-pathway-cop29-real-estate-and-ndcs

ABOUT INSAF

INŚAF is an independent multi-disciplinary sustainability think tank organisation working towards a sustainable Africa. The Institute is a registered Independent Trust (MA1218/2012) in Zimbabwe.

OUR VISION

Advance Sustainability Initiatives for Africa

OUR MISSION

Foster Sustainability Initiatives and innovations towards Green Economy, Sustainable Development and Sustainable Living through applied research, programs and technical support services and across sectors.

OUR VALUES

◇ A non-partisan research institute
◇ An agent for change that promote transformation towards sustainability
◇ Committed to rigorous and objective research and analysis to support policy and decision making across sectors
◇ Capable of handling complex economic, environmental, developmental, and social issues honestly
◇ Committed to environmental sustainability principle, practices and values

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