



The Environmental Information System at Eco-Auditing Laboratory, National Botanical Research Institute is focussed on "Plants & Pollution". This is the E-mail Publication that Feature News, Information and Events Related to Plants & Pollution.

The Focus of ENVIS has been on Providing Environmental Information to Decision Makers, Policy Planners, Scientists and Engineers, Research Workers, etc. all over the World.

Eco-Auditing Group is Involved in R & D on Eco-Monitoring, Environmental Impact Assessment, Eco-Friendly Models that are Technologically and Economically Feasible for Phytoremediation of Polluted Lands and Polluted Waters etc.

News

The Reign of Recycling

IF you live in the United States, you probably do some form of recycling. It's likely that you separate paper from plastic and glass and metal. You rinse the bottles and cans, and you might put food scraps in a container destined for a composting facility. As you sort everything into the right bins, you probably assume that recycling is helping your community and protecting the environment. But is it? Are you in fact wasting your time? In 1996, I wrote a long article for The New York Times Magazine arguing that the recycling process as we carried it out was wasteful. I presented plenty of evidence that recycling was costly and ineffectual, but its defenders said that it was unfair to rush to judgment. Noting that the modern recycling movement had really just begun just a few years earlier, they predicted it would flourish as the industry matured and the public learned how to recycle properly. [Read more...](#)

Date: 3 October 2016

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com>

Going green, the Puja way

The year was 2007. Then state environment minister, Sailen Sarkar, was having an informal chat with a few environment experts and some senior Kolkata-based journalists over a cup of tea in his chamber one evening. The topic of discussion was as informal as the meeting — what could be done about the rising pollution levels in the city? Experts and journalists pointed out that with no checks and balance, the pollution was shooting up every day. The levels were particularly high during the festival. During Durga Puja, thousands of lights gild the pandals in and across the city. These consume thousands of units of power which comes mainly from the coal-based thermal power plants. This further contributes to rising pollution levels. The idol-makers of Kumortuli were, at the time, using paints laced with lead and other toxic chemicals. As the idols were immersed in the Hooghly, the toxic chemicals melted into the water leading to pollution. Furthermore, the random and unrestricted use of plastics, sound and crackers added to the environmental hazard. [Read more...](#)

Date: 07 October 2016

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com>

Let's Regreen our Cities Vertically

Urban areas almost always come at the expense of natural environments. Where clusters of houses rise and stand ever thicker on the ground in densely populated urban areas, trees and vegetation invariably disappear with nothing but little parks remaining here and there as beleaguered little vestiges of green. A case in point for this state of affairs: Kuala Lumpur. Their general absence makes any remaining patches of green highly prized in cities like KL. The problem, of course, is that space is at a premium in densely populated cities, especially in downtown areas, and so grass, trees and shrubs cannot but lose out to stone, steel and glass in competition for it. But greenery can make a comeback even in the densest urban clusters of skyscrapers and high-rises. That is because even if vegetation does not have much space to grow horizontally in a landscape dominated by asphalt and stone, it can be allowed to regrow vertically — on the side of buildings, that is. [Read more...](#)

Date: 09 October 2016

Source: <http://cleanmalaysia.com>

Cities Will Greatly Benefit from More Greenery as Urban Areas Rapidly Expand, UN Report Finds

It's been estimated that urban areas will more than double in size by 2030. With proper measures in place, this growth can greatly improve the quality of life for those living in cities. Some of those measures are to increase parks, trees, and rooftop gardens and greenery. These actions can, somewhat surprisingly, go a long way towards decreasing city pollution, as well as helping to protect local plants and animals. This is considered especially important in rapidly growing nations like China and India, where city growth can occur practically overnight. "Rich biodiversity can exist in cities and is extremely critical to people's health and well-being," wrote Thomas Elmquist of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, scientific editor of the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook. Urban populations throughout the world are expected to dramatically rise in the coming years, from around 3.5 billion currently to over 4.9 billion by 2030, according to the assessment by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. And the area that these cities take up is expected to rise expand by at least 150 percent. "Most of this growth is expected to happen in small and medium-sized cities, not in megacities," according to the report, issued to coincide with a UN meeting on biodiversity in Hyderabad, India. [Read more...](#)

Date: 16 October 2016

Source: <https://cleantechnica.com>

Green walls could be decreasing indoor air quality

Outdoor green walls in heatwave-prone, polluted environments could be increasing pollution in office buildings and affecting worker health, new research from the University of York has found. Concentrations of ultrafine particles — which are a health concern as they can carry potentially toxic species into the lungs — were simulated for offices in Athens, Helsinki and Milan during heatwave conditions and for typical summer conditions. The researchers found indoor concentrations of UFPs were highest in the Milan and Athens offices, reflecting high outdoor air pollution levels in these cities (the pollutants can make their way indoors through doors, windows and ventilation systems, as well as through gaps in the building fabric). Indoor UFP levels were predicted to be higher in heatwave conditions, however they were well above those expected through penetration of outdoor particles alone. Further investigation found that reactive volatile organic compounds emitted by plants and trees were to blame. Once in the atmosphere, VOCs from plants rapidly oxidise to form a range of secondary gas and particle-phase products, the researchers said, which exist in a dynamic equilibrium. During heatwaves, emissions of VOCs increase. [Read more...](#)

Date: 17 October 2016

Source: <http://www.thefifthestate.com.au>

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