

October Edition

PRISM



Monthly Newsletter by SIMS
Sustainability club



What's inside this edition?

1. Sustain a Breath-----	03
2. Do It yourself-----	05
3. Green GDP-----	07
4. Green Building-----	08
5. Climatic Fiction and some suggestions!-----	10
6. Sustainable Transport-----	11



SUSTAIN A BREATH

In this day and age, where we live and breathe technology, our lives are centered around moving forward with no regard for the mistakes of the past and no worry about the future.

We say, "We can neither change the past nor predict the future." We live in the moment and we are proud of it.

We all know that the past cannot be altered but at the pace with which we are moving we do not have a long future to worry about. Human beings are hungry to discover or invent "the next best thing" and in the process we experiment and exploit nature and its resources.

Earth is over polluted. We can't breathe fresh air anymore and who do we blame? Oh sure! It's those big bloodsucking, money stealing, profit making industries! Global warming is causing drastic climate changes and rise of sea levels. Whose fault is it?

Definitely not ours! We did not invent the fridge or the air conditioner or all the other technological advancements that are harming nature. We just use them because they happen to exist! There is an alarming amount of deforestation and as a result a lot of the flora and fauna are starting to become extinct. Who do we hold accountable for that?

Overpopulation has led to unsustainable levels of shortage of non-renewable natural resources. We are facing problems like water pollution, acid rains, ozone layer depletion, waste disposal, more frequent natural disasters and so many other environmental issues!

It is high time that we realize that there is no one, specific entity or person responsible for saving the earth or our environment. We are all responsible for making sure that we lead a sustainable and environment friendly life. Sustainability can't be a choice. It can't be forced on someone. It can't be taught. It has to be a way of life. It has to be an instinct!

We can save electricity by turning off lights when not in use. We can save water drop by drop by avoiding leaking or running taps. We can reduce the use of paper now that we have electronic means of reading and writing! We can avoid having plastic waste.



We can pledge to have clean surroundings and to not litter. We can use renewable sources of energy. We can use carbon neutral fuels in our vehicles. We can start by doing the smallest of things and the collective impact will be huge!

We can't always blame a faceless entity for this havoc that we have created!

We can't blame the industries or the governments or anyone and everyone for being so careless, for not taking an action, for not imposing laws to protect the environment, for not doing anything at all!

We have to be the enforcers of **CHANGE**. We have to take the **FIRST** step **TODAY!**

-Neha Mittal (2016-18 Batch)



DO IT YOURSELF IDEAS!!!

1)



Tired of holding your phone while its getting charged? Or is the wire too small for you to put the phone on a rack/the floor?

Here is a very easy- DIY technique to help you with your charging problems!

5

2)



SHOE SHOE EVERY WHERE, NOT A PLACE TO WALK!!!

Is this an often faced problem in your hostel room?

Well, get creative and make yourself shoe hangers!



3)



NAILPAINT, PERMANENT MARKERS and RESUED PLASIC, is all u need to décor your room with pretty little butterflies! :D

4)



Over cluttered STUDY TABLE PROBLEMS?
Make ample space in your table by creating pen/paper stands by making using of a simple shoe box!

- Shefali Pradhan (2016-18 Batch)



GREEN GDP



Is GDP the best calculation of the measure of development in a country?

“Depreciation” is an important factor to be considered but limiting depreciation to only MAN-MADE CAPITAL is not the way out.

Natural Resource depletion deserves its due attention while the “growth” of a country is calculated. If we continue to take pride in the high GDP measures without taking into consideration the natural resources depleted, there won't be a time far way when the ruthless fight for numbers will compel economies to rampantly destroy the Earth, just to reach high figures.

Hence, economists have started the search of various methods to calculate a **green GDP**. The task has not been easy as the quintessential question of how to give a monetarily value to a natural resource has been the debate. Like, how much value does one give to loss of air quality that has given discomfort to millions of people and not to forget animals? How much monetary value does one give to the loss of intrinsic beauty of a place which is compromised due to rampant development?

Economists like HATHWIK, HOTELLINGS, STERN have indeed taken a step ahead by giving us a measure of calculating the value of Non-Renewable resources. But the fight and search is still on to shift from a system of national accounts (SNA) to the emergence of a "blue book" on **System for Economic and Environmental Accounting (SEEA)**. **CASE STUDY OF CHINA-** After its first failed attempt, China's Ministry of Environmental Protection has revived its project to quantify and research on the cost of ecological damage and has called the initiative “Green GDP 2.0”.

-Shefali Pradhan (2016-18 Batch)



GREEN BUILDING

Nowadays we hear everyone talking about going green. At some point everyone will have to follow with the green movement. This is because at the rate we are consuming resources, the earth is simply not sustainable. In few years, certain natural resources will begin to extinct that are needed for human and animal survival. That is alarming to some people, which is why they focus on green building. But, what exactly is green building?



8

A green building would be a building project that would preserve most of the natural environment around the project site, but still produce a building that has its purpose. The process of building construction and operation will take use of certain waste but usable material and will promote a healthy environment for all involved, and it will not disrupt the land, water, resources and energy in and around the building.

Why it is so important to go green. We can go green in a variety of different ways, but for building part it is important that builders and construction workers do their part. Green buildings are constructed and designed in so as to reduce overall impact on environment and human beings, protection of health by reducing trash, pollution, degradation of environment, efficient use of energy, water and other resources while protecting occupant health and improving productivity.

With new emerging technologies being developed to support current practices in creating greener structures, the benefits



of having green building can range from environmental to economic and to social by large. By adoption of greener practices, we can take maximum advantage of environmental and economic performance. LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) is the nationally accepted system of rating for green buildings. The program helps in establishing a standard measurement for green building.

The main goals are to make the earth more sustainable, but it really does go deeper than that. When we decide to go green, our goal will be to actually help the environment sustain without disturbing the natural habitats around it. It can actually make an impact in the human life, wildlife and environment. Even the smaller changes that we can make will help to promote a better environment and thus planet earth, and a better place for not just us humans, but also the flora & fauna that take up their residence here on earth as well.

-Manish Kumar (2016-18 Batch)



CLIMATE FICTION AND SOME SUGGESTIONS

Also known as 'Cli-fi', the term was coined in 2007 by a Taiwan based blogger Dan Bloom. 'Cli-fi' novels humanize the science of climate change. It is not a genre in the accepted scholarly sense, since it lacks the plot formulas and conventions that one uses to define genres but it is now one of the most influential forms of literature! While planetary environmental condition modifications happen in a lot of 20th-century phantasy, it is only after the growing scientific awareness of specifically semisynthetic, carbon-induced temperature change within the Nineteen Sixties and Nineteen Seventies that novels on this subject emerged.

Cli-fi is all the more noteworthy considering the creative challenge posed by climate change. Could cli-fi affect how we think and act on climate change? The line between literature and propaganda is one that most novelists respect. And the authors of Cli-Fi make sure that create an influence and make people believe in a subtle way and not push their ideas!

Below are some of the must read Climate Fictions:

1. **Odds Against Tomorrow** by Nathaniel Rich
2. **Memory of Water** by Emmi Itäranta
3. **A Being Darkly Wise** by John Atcheson
4. **Nature's Confession** by J. L. Morin
5. **The Sea and The Summer** by George Turner

-Anagha Sant (2016-18 Batch)



SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

The climate change generally focuses on energy and industrial activities as the major sectors which contribute to the greenhouse effect and emissions. But, the transport sector is actually also one of the critical sectors which contribute to more than one quarter of the greenhouse gas emissions all over the world, with its emissions increasing at a faster rate than the other sectors, so there is a need to include it in effective policies related to climate change. The overall sustainability can't be achieved without the improvement of this sector. The transport sector decisions taken today last for decades, so the decisions which are taken today will last for the longer time, and will have a long lasting impact on the development of urban and rural areas, hence on the climate also.

11



The control in emission from transport sector will further reduce the diseases related to traffic pollution. The maritime transport is the backbone of the world trade, with more than 85% of the world trade occurring sea routes, so UN is discussing how investments should be done in this sector. The Future which we want that transport related greenhouse gases should be cut down for that the central and state governments should focus on and set a vision for sustainable cities. Also, in our day to day life we can adopt various methods like car pooling, going to nearby areas we can use cycles. As a responsible citizen of the



country we can further use electric cars, which not only cuts pollution but also saves a lot of money .

We recognize that opportunity for people to enhance their lives and future, engage in decision-making and voice their concerns are elementary for sustainable development. We emphasize that sustainable development requires solid and urgent action. It can only be achieved with a broad coalition of people, governments, civil society and the private sector, all working together to secure the future we want for present and future generations.

12

-Ranjan Lohia (2016-18 Batch)



Contact:

**SIMS Sustainability Club
SIMS, Range Hills Road, Kirkee
FB: <https://goo.gl/QDosKM>**

