



World Sustainable Building Conference World SB14 Barcelona

The building sector must reduce its emissions down to 23% to face climate change in 2050

- Following current tendencies, energy consumption in buildings would increase by **50% between 2010 and 2050**, in order to satisfy habitability demands from a growing population of over 9000 million.
- By 2050, the building sector alone would emit all permitted global emissions to reach a 2°C increase in world temperature, if measures are not applied, according to data from the report by the **Global Vision Area within the World SB14 Barcelona conference**.

2nd July 2014. Barcelona _ Improving energy efficiency could reduce energy demand by 24% in housing and by 27% in non-residential buildings. This, together with the **substitution of fossil fuels for renewables**, could allow the global emissions of the building sector to be brought down to 23%, following data from the **Report developed by the Global Vision Area of the World SB14 Barcelona** about the impact of building on climate change and its consequences for world population. This Report sets the tone for the debate which will take place at the global Conference in Barcelona next 28, 29 and 30 October 2014, presented officially today.

The challenge that the building sector faces in the first half of our century is to provide adequate housing for a growing global population which will exceed 9,000 million in 2050. Following current tendencies, energy consumption in building would increase 50% between 2010 and 2050 to satisfy habitability demands, bringing a 40% increase in green house gas emissions. Thus, by 2050, the building sector alone would emit all admissible CO₂ emissions to limit global warming to 2°C.

Action plans to reduce emissions are based on two strategies: energy efficiency and a change in energy sources. Therefore, **“it is necessary to have a global vision of the world’s current situation to establish plans on a local or regional levels”**, as **Albert Cuchí**, coordinator of the Report and President at **World SB14 Barcelona**, said.



Following the data, covering environmental demands of the building sector between 2010 and 2050 would require an investment of 31 billion USD, of which 19 billion would be dedicated to the residential sector and 12 to the non-residential sector. Such an investment could generate 10 million additional jobs.

Furthermore, the Report alerts that the need to apply measures is urgent, before energy consumption destined to constructing new infrastructures for renewable energy leads us to an “energy trap”, preventing a new model to be created.

Antonio Lucio, responsible for the Global Vision Area within the World SB14 Barcelona Conference, said that “**it intends to become an instrument that helps us define the sector’s roadmap on a world level, from the sustainable point of view**”, and added that “**it counts on the implication of the most influencing institutions in the subject**”, **co-promoters and collaborators of this global Conference.**

The **goal of World Sb14 Barcelona**, which will take place from the 28th to the 30th October 2014 at the Palau de Congressos de Catalunya (Catalonia Conference Centre), is to present the **main challenges that the building sector faces**: to **satisfy world housing demands**, considering population increase; to **reduce ecological footprint**, especially energy, considering its effect on the climate; and **promoting a new economic model, solid, sustainable** and which creates quality jobs.

Arab Hoballah (Chief Sustainable Consumption and Production of UNEP DTIE, the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics of the United Nations Environmental Programme), and **Roger Platt** (Senior Vice President, Global Policy and Law of WorldGBC), welcomed the work done and expressed the will of their organizations to actively contribute to the success of WSB14 Barcelona.

Finally, **Nils Larsson**, Representative of the four co.promoting organizatons of the SB Conference Series (CIB, iiSBE, UNEP-SBCI and FIDIC) to which WSB14 Barcelona belongs, recalled the long and successful tradition of the SB Conference Series, announced that the organisers of the next World



SB17 Conference would be know shortly, and conveyed the best wishes of the four co-promoting organizations to the success of WSB14 Barcelona.

About GBC España

GBCe is a non-profit association that belongs to the global network WorldGBC, which unites representatives from the entire construction industry, to work together towards an energy and ecologically conscious approach to the design of the built environment.

GBCe counts with the active participation and democratic representation from public institutions, academia, professional and business associations, among others.

About World SB14 Barcelona

World SB14 Barcelona is a Conference organised by **GBCe** and promoted by **CIB (International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction)**, **iisBE (International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment)**, **UNEP-SBCI (the Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative of the United nations' Environmental Programme)** and **FIDIC (International Federation of Consulting Engineers)**, and counts on the collaboration of WorldGBC (World Green Building Council). The Sustainable Building Conference Series, of which World SB14 Barcelona is part, is the largest global meeting aimed at debating different aspects of sustainable building.

More information





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