



Green industry initiative

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Austria

<http://www.unido.org>

In the last few years, keeping with its mandate, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) coined the concept Green Industry to place sustainable industrial development in the context of new global sustainable development challenges. Green Industry means economies striving for a more sustainable pathway of growth, by undertaking green public investments and implementing public policy initiatives that encourage environmentally responsible private investments.

Greening of Industry is a method to attain sustainable economic growth and promote sustainable economies. It includes policy-making, improved industrial production processes and resource-efficient productivity. UNIDO's Green Industry Initiative creates awareness, knowledge and capacities.

Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP)

Taking care of materials, energy, water, waste and emissions makes good business sense. RECP is the way to achieve this. RECP covers the application of preventive management strategies that increase the productive use of natural resources, minimize generation of waste and emissions, and foster safe and responsible production.

<http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=o5151>

Cleaner Production (CP)

RECP uses CP to accelerate the application of preventive environmental strategies to processes, products and services, to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment. It addresses, a) Production Efficiency: optimization of the productive use of natural resources (materials, energy and water); b) Environmental management: minimization of impacts on environment and nature through reduction of wastes and emissions; and c) Human Development: minimization of risks to people and communities and support for their development.

The Stockholm Convention and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), that remain intact in the environment for long periods of time, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have adverse effects to human health or to the environment.

The Montreal Protocol (MP)

The Montreal Protocol is an international environment treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production

of a number of substances believed to be responsible for ozone depletion.

Chemicals Management

UNIDO works with projects, policies and regulations, institutions and sectoral capacity-building, development of preventative approaches and new business models such as Chemical Leasing, to assist enterprises reducing risks and impacts associated to the use of chemicals.

Chemical Leasing (ChL)

Chemical Leasing (ChL) is a strategy which creates a business environment to tackle the challenges of the changing global context and offers solutions for sound management of chemicals and reduction of emissions to the environment. UNIDO plays a leading and coordinating role for the implementation and further development of ChL.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Nowadays, requirements for the integration of environmental concerns, human rights issues, fair labour conditions and good governance in industrial development are significantly affecting the business sectors in developing and transition countries. This is referred to as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). In this context, UNIDO works on a framework for small- and medium-sized firms (SMEs) that helps translate CSR principles into a relevant SME perspective, thereby enhancing their competitiveness and market access.

Water Management

UNIDO's Water Management programme provides services to transfer the best available environmentally sound technologies and environmental practices to improve water productivity in industry, as well as prevent discharge of industrial effluents into international waters (rivers, lakes, wetlands and coastal areas). Protecting water resources for future generations is amongst the top priorities.

Energy

Energy access is linked a global challenge needing to be addressed; it has links in social development and poverty alleviation, environmental degradation and climate change, and food security. It is a defining issue of our time. UNIDO aims to provide access to modern energy services for the poor, with emphasis on renewable energy projects.



Eco-innovation

United Nations Environment Programme

<http://www.unep.org/ecoinnovationproject/>

Eco-innovation provides a win-win solution to improving economic competitiveness and sustainability as it starts at the company strategy level and extends influence beyond the company gates to the supply chain. Eco-innovation aims at reducing impacts on the environment, enhancing resilience to environmental pressures, or achieving a more efficient and responsible use of natural resources. The growing market, reputational and regulatory pressures in response to rising resource scarcity and environmental degradation reinforce therefore the business case for eco-innovation.

Harnessing eco-innovation for sustainable development

Alarming high levels of resource depletion, and environmental pollution from current production and consumption patterns are pushing the limits of sustainability. Multi-faceted and profound transformations are required to realign development towards a more resource efficient economy. This implies the creation of new strategies, products, processes and practices as well as shifts in consumption behaviour. Eco-Innovation holds the potential for systemic change through creating and meeting a demand for sustainable goods and services.

This is particularly important for developing and transition economies with growing manufacturing sectors. In many of these economies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are key to economic activity and growth, providing up to two thirds of formal employment. Unsustainable production practices and business models however hinder company growth. This points to a number of challenges that SMEs in these countries face, such as access to finance and technology, that ultimately make them less competitive in the global market. Eco-Innovation breaks this "business as usual" routine to address these challenges.

What creates an enabling environment for eco-innovation?

For eco-innovation to be viable in the long-run, the following create a conducive environment:

- Business case
- Technical knowledge and expertise
- Enabling policy framework
- Regional and international cooperation

The business case for eco-innovation

- The Business Case for Eco-Innovation publication outlines the key business drivers to implement eco-innovation. It

builds on company examples spanning sectors across the globe that generated significant business benefits from eco-innovation.

- In conjunction, a technical Eco-innovation Manual has been developed for implementing partners to identify opportunities and develop strategies to implement eco-innovation. The Manual is complemented by supplements for the agri-food, chemicals and metals sectors.
- The Manual's approach has been validated through a number of regional expert meetings to confirm the ecoinnovation approach in different countries and contexts. It is now being piloted through demonstration projects in the countries highlighted on the map above.

The policy and technology context

- The Mainstreaming SCP Policy for Eco-Innovation guideline aims to inform implementing partners about proactive ways to support a policy framework that will stimulate sustainable production and consumption through ecoinnovation. National level action planning will be carried out in countries highlighted on the map above, with some initial activities implemented within the project span.
- The Technology dimension is also highlighted as part of the conducive framework for eco-innovation. The publication Technologies for Eco-Innovation includes an assessment of the 'enablers' for the uptake of technologies for eco-innovation. In turn, this will support implementing partners in assisting SMEs in the identification, adaptation and development of technology for eco-innovation.

Scaling up eco-innovation Lessons

- A Final Compendium of best practices and lessons from pilot demonstration projects will be compiled upon their conclusion.

The Eco-Innovation Project

In partnership with the European Commission (EC), UNEP is currently implementing a four-year project to promote resource efficiency and eco-innovation. The project aims to change consumption and production patterns in developing and transition economies by encouraging businesses to reduce their environmental footprint.