

## 1<sup>st</sup> PREP Topic: Resource Efficient Construction



Protection from the elements, a place to recover, relax, to live, or a place where governments are housed, buildings have many differing and essential functions in our society.

How we construct these buildings also plays a critical role for society.

The impact of building on natural resources, the effect on the landscape and climate change, amongst other factors, can be extreme or minimal.

Before a building is even constructed, numerous varying raw materials have to be mined, worked and transported. We often use unnecessary large amounts of energy to heat, cool and light a building. To demolish a building, it is also necessary to process different types and forms of construction materials, some of which may also leave toxic waste.

In industrialised countries we use per person about 60 tons of non-renewable natural resources per year. Approximately one third of this is used in the construction and use of buildings. For example, in Germany 40% of national energy use is consumed for the use of buildings. The continually growing per capita use of space is also leading to increased use of heating and climatisation.

These facts make efficient and renewable energy use a critical issue.

With the first of our brochures, we aim to focus on the significance of the construction sector and to collect world-wide innovative project approaches that have already been implemented and promote them further.

Using a key number of internationally accepted criteria, we will assess all projects you send us. The main consideration will be their energy efficiency and a broad sense also their resource efficiency.

All projects you send will be independently reviewed, and the five with the potential to have the greatest impact on global resource efficiency will be published.

The outline of the “good practice project” should be such that a quick evaluation of the project quality and the core project details, as well as its replicability in further projects in other regions, can be made. Catalysts and factors that mean multiplier effects can not be used should be explicitly mentioned.

The assessment of the project will include consideration of regional factors. This would mean that in a developing country, with rapidly increasing population, you should be making the most efficient use of resources and energy provision to satisfy quickly the urgent need for new buildings. On the other hand, a planned green-field site construction would not be viewed as favourably if there were also more appropriate available building areas, such as in the inner-city, or on a former military facility.

If you think your project might be relevant given the above criteria, then please fill in the application form (PREP application form) and send it to WISIONS.

We may need to get back to you with some additional questions we might still need to ask, but if your project is viewed very positively, then you can count on it being promoted. The 5 best projects will be published in a popular brochure.

All other projects that are considered to have real advantages will be promoted with your permission on our website with the link to Additional good-practice examples.

If you are not involved in resource efficiency in the construction sector, then please note that we change the focus of our topics on a regular basis. The next focus is planned to be “Energy and Water”