

COP21 BUILDINGS DAY PAVES WAY FOR GREAT OPPORTUNITY

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The built environment holds enormous potential to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, says the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC). Buildings Day at COP21, on 3 December, provides a great opportunity to highlight the leadership role of the building sector in avoiding dangerous climate change.

Buildings account for over 23 per cent of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, and a third of global emissions.

"Not only can better performing commercial and residential buildings reduce electricity bills, boost productivity and offer increased wellbeing outcomes; they hold the most cost-effective solution to cut greenhouse gas emissions." said ASBEC's Executive Director, Suzanne Toumbourou.

ASBEC, a collective of leading industry organisations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia, seeks to promote more liveable, productive buildings, through leadership in energy efficiency, resilience and urban policy. ASBEC advocates for a range of measures including: tax incentives for green buildings; higher standards in the Building Code of Australia; a national white certificate scheme; public funding of building retrofits; and enhancing Minimum Energy Performance standards. ASBEC is now working together with members on an emission reduction roadmap to 2050.

"Every new building can either pave the way for a more energy efficient future, or lock in long term growth in emissions." said Ms Toumbourou.

"As a world leader in sustainable real estate practices, Australia is perfectly equipped to build a low carbon future and reap the benefits of a productive, sustainable, liveable and future-proofed built environment."

About ASBEC

The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) is a collective of leading industry organisations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia. ASBEC's membership consists of a range of key industry government and academic organisations who are involved in the planning, design, delivery and operation of our built environment and who are concerned with the economic, social and environmental performance of the sector.

ASBEC's activities, including research and policy development on built environment issues, are an example of a collaborative, co-ordinated approach undertaken across all segments of the built environment. ASBEC works actively to develop and promote leading practice in the design, planning and operation of our cities, at a buildings, precincts and citywide scale.

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