



CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation
in Building and Construction

Providing a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

October 2008

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

TG69 - Green Buildings and the Law

Establishment of a Worldwide Research Group on Green Building and the Law

Background

The Focus of TG69's work is upon the law governing 'green buildings'. The work of the Task Group is not, however, restricted to the regulation of emissions from buildings, although global warming and the decisions flowing from the Kyoto Conference have given a new urgency to this area and have provided an impetus to legislators worldwide.

It is, of course well known that there are many other impacts of construction and building occupancy. For example the construction process is responsible for around forty percent of natural resource raw materials and produces a similar percentage of the waste stream worldwide. The effects upon water, air and human health are significant and there is complex multi-layered legislation already in place in these and other areas across the globe.

The objectives of the Task Group are:

- To establish, within CIB, the primary international academic research network in environmental law
- To act as a valuable resource for CIB Members and the broader research community
- To provide an overview of the state of the law governing green buildings across a number of key international jurisdictions
- To consider the legislative reaction in regulating the energy efficiency of buildings worldwide
- To conduct and publish a comparative analysis of the law in these areas

Scope and Objectives of the Research Group

For information to all parties a research group has now been established within TG69, with an initial membership drawn from the Netherlands, Singapore, USA, UK and Australia. We are still seeking further members, in particular from other EU countries and we would also like to extend our membership especially in the USA.

Members of our group have been conducting research into the current legal position across a range of aspects of the law as it relates to 'green buildings' and we share our findings by e-mail correspondence and at TG69 meetings. A web site is also planned and this should be functional within the next couple of months.

The ultimate goal of the research group is to produce a CIB publication containing a selection of research outputs authored by prominent environmental law scholars across the world. This will outline the state of the law relating to green buildings and address the legal challenges presented by the global warming imperative. It is anticipated that important lessons can be drawn from this work by lawyers, legislators and government alike and that individual nations will be able to learn from the experience of others who are at different stages in the process of introducing legal controls.

Series of Publications

The process of selecting contributors to the forthcoming TG69 publication has commenced and we will shortly be submitting our book proposal to Taylor & Francis for publication as part of a series with Task Groups TG67 and TG68. Subject to acceptance, we hope to be able to publish in about 12 month's time.

Additional Information

For additional information about the CIB TG69 meetings and interest to join the Task Group please contact the Coordinator: Julie Adshead
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You can find more information on the activities of CIB TG69 at www.cibworld.nl/website - section "Databases" - database "Commissions" - type TG69 in the search field "Commission number".