

First Workshop on Energy Conservation Building Code Implementation in States – Chandigarh

NITI Aayog with support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) - Global Environment Fund (GEF), the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE) organized the first “Regional Workshop on Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) Implementation in States”. The workshop, organized in Chandigarh on 9-10th of February, 2017, witnessed participation from various concerned state departments from six states and union territories of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Chandigarh. Representatives from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power and Ministry of Urban Development were also present.

The two-day workshop started with a site-visit of the Haryana Renewable Energy Department’s (HAREDA) GRIHA 5-Star rated Net Zero Energy building, Akshay Urja, on the evening of 9th Feb 2017. The delegates, led by Shri Anil Kumar Jain, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog, were welcomed by HAREDA Director Ms. Ashima Brar, IAS and were taken through an interactive tour of the building coordinated by HAREDA led by Shri D.K. Chopra, Advisor and the building’s architect Mr. Siddhartha Wig. The various facets of energy efficiency and environment neutral design elements integrated in the building were explained to the participants. The site visit was followed by a discussion on how other participating states could replicate the sustainability and energy efficiency related aspects as seen in the HAREDA building across the different states. The positive demonstrative effect that government buildings have for encouraging and motivating other buildings were discussed. The session moderated by Shri Jain, and had participation from all the six states and included senior representatives Smt. Varsha Joshi, Secretary (Power), Delhi; Smt. Ashima Brar, Director, HAREDA; Smt. Jyoti N. Khairwal, Director, UREDA; Shri D.K. Gupta, Director (UD), Himachal Pradesh; Chief Engineers of PWD & CPWD, officials from Town & Country Planning and State Designated Agencies among others.

The second day of the event at JW Marriott Hotel, Chandigarh started with opening remarks by Shri Anil K Jain, IAS. Mr Jain emphasized the importance of energy efficiency in buildings and the key role that ECBC implementation in states is poised to play towards ensuring an energy secure pathway for India. He demonstrated how NITI Aayog is leading by example by achieving increasing levels of energy efficiency in its own building, by taking up energy efficiency measures within the building premises. Not only has the NITI Aayog building in New Delhi been rated 5-star by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), but it has also taken up measures to substantially reduce its energy intensity through the ESCO route. Shri Saurabh Diddi, Energy Economist, BEE gave an overview of the Bureau’s activities aligned with its mandate to promote energy efficiency of the Indian economy. He highlighted the achievements on rolling out energy efficiency programs across various sectors, the explained the various targets before BEE going forward. He informed that since the ECBC notification issued by BEE in 2007, so far only 10 states have notified ECBC in their states. Shri Diddi emphasized the critical role that implementation of ECBC in states had towards India’s energy efficiency endeavors. This was followed by a presentation from Dr S. N. Srinivas, Programme Analyst, UNDP where he highlighted the efforts that have been taken up by UNDP for rolling out ECBC in India and in other parts of the world. The session concluded by a vote of thanks to the speakers and the participants by Dr Satish Kumar, Executive Chairman, AEEE.

The second session began with a presentation by Dr Kumar, who gave the participants of the workshop an overview of the current status of ECBC implementation in India. He highlighted some of the challenges, such as inter-departmental coordination, capacity building, etc., that the states might be facing in rolling out the regulations. The presentation set the theme for the subsequent panel discussion which saw participation from senior representatives from various states and BEE. State officials on the panel expressed the status of ECBC implementation across their different states and deliberated upon the various plans being adopted for implementation of ECBC in their respective states.

The role of various state departments of Power, Urban Development and Town Planning in ensuring successful roll-out of ECBC was highlighted through the discussions. Panelists and participants brought out the various challenges faced by the states which were trying to implement ECBC due to issues of coordination, technical and human resource capacities, and issues of enforcement among others. The panelists deliberated on efforts that would be taken up within each of the states for implementing ECBC going forward.

The subsequent session involved two expert presentations from Shri Rajkiran Bilolikar, Associate Professor, ASCI and Dr Radhika Khosla, Fellow, Center for Policy Research (CPR). The experts shared their experiences of ECBC implementation in states and explained how they went ahead with ECBC implementation in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka and how other states can learn from their significantly successful approaches. The role of senior leadership in states in creating the initial momentum towards ECBC implementation was emphasized.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks from Dr S. N. Srinivas, Mr Saurabh Diddi, and Dr Satish Kumar. Dr Kumar explained to the group that this workshop, which was first of many, was only a starting point and the work on aggressively taking up the cause of ECBC implementation in the states now needed to be started. Dr Srinivas agreed that the workshop had been an important first step towards sensitizing the states and getting a sense of the challenges being faced by the states in implementing the norms. Mr Diddi outlined that the lessons from the workshop needed to be taken up by the states going forward, and requested for an integrated and coordinated approach in making ECBC a success.

Four additional regional workshops led by NITI Aayog would be organized in the subsequent months.