

## **Energy-Efficient Building Construction Methods Will Be Promoted: K. Krishnankutty**

In the wake of rising temperatures and growing electricity consumption, the state will actively promote energy-efficient building construction methods, said Power Minister K. Krishnankutty. He was inaugurating the Kerala Building Registry & Low-Carbon Transition Workshop at Hotel Dimora, Thiruvananthapuram.

The minister said the workshop would mark a milestone in Kerala's journey towards energy efficiency. "There is no doubt that this initiative will provide a new direction to our state's efforts for an energy-efficient future," he noted, stressing that climate change and rising carbon emissions are global challenges requiring urgent action. The Asia Low Carbon Building Transition Program (ALCBT), aimed at reducing emissions from the construction sector, was highlighted as a crucial step in this regard.

Krishnankutty pointed out that the rising use of air conditioners and other cooling devices in Kerala had led to a steep increase in electricity consumption. The solution, he said, lies in adopting sustainable building practices, including the effective implementation of the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) issued by the central government. He added that the Building Emission Assessment Tool (BEAT), presented at the workshop, would help assess energy use in buildings and identify pathways to reduce carbon emissions.

The minister also emphasized the importance of inviting expressions of interest for energy-efficient building projects and lauded the technical sessions led by experts, which he said would enhance knowledge and capacity in the field. "By constructing energy-efficient buildings, we can not only cut electricity use but also safeguard our environment," he said, extending his gratitude to the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), and the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German government for their support.

The event marked the release of the **Building Registry Approach Document** and the **CAAS Model Flair**, developed by EESL. Additionally, the **Building Energy Assessment BEAT Tool** was introduced, which was followed by a practical session.

As a significant first step toward joining the project, an **Expression of Interest (EOI) document** was formally handed over. Mr. Eldhose Valsalan, Manager of Thiruvananthapuram SUT Hospital, presented the document to Mr. Soumya P. Garnayak, the India Country Representative for the Global Green Growth Institution. This exchange marks the beginning of a collaborative effort to promote sustainable building practices.

Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Energy, Puneet Kumar IAS, presided over the inaugural ceremony. Dr. R. Harikumar, Director, Energy Management Centre, delivered the special address. Distinguished dignitaries present on the occasion included Julie Robles, Programme Manager, Asia Low Carbon Building Transition Project (ALCBT); Soumya P. Garnaik, Country Representative, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) India; Girija Shankar, General Manager (Technical), Energy Efficiency Services Limited; Ashok Bonam, Regional Senior Officer, GGGI; and Neha Sharma, Energy Efficiency Officer, GGGI. Kulbhushan Kumar, Partner, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP (GTBL), welcomed the gathering, and Johnson Daniel, Head, Energy Management Centre (EMC), NMEE & DSM, proposed the vote of thanks.

Officials from the Public Works Department, Local Self Government Department, Kerala State Housing Board, and KSEB, along with private architects, energy efficiency experts, auditors, and representatives of associations like CREDAI and BHAJ, also participated in the deliberations







