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RENEWABLE ENERGY PROFESSIONAL

REP OVERVIEW

ONLINE TRAINING BY KRISHNAJI PAWAR

LEED AP(BD+C),GSAS CGP,GCP,ISO 14001

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MODULE

6

Alternative Energy Strategies for Buildings

KRISHNAJI PAWAR - CEO & FOUNDER

LEED AP(BD+C),GSAS CGP,GCP,ISO 14001

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RENEWABLE ENERGY PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

The growing concern over climate change and the finite nature of fossil fuels has led to a shift towards alternative energy strategies in the built environment. This chapter explores various alternative energy strategies for buildings, emphasizing their implementation, benefits, challenges, and real-world applications.

Learning Objectives

- Introduction
- Environmental Impacts
- Alternative Energy and Carbon Reduction
- The Future of Alternative Energy
- Energy Conservation and Efficiency
- **Alternative Energy Strategies for Buildings**
- Professional certification in Renewable Energy
- Summary and Resources
- **REP Practice Test: Test Your Knowledge!**



INTRODUCTION

- Shift towards alternative energy strategies due to climate change and finite fossil fuels.
- Photovoltaic (PV) systems convert sunlight into electricity.
- Solar thermal systems produce heat, but require backup systems.
- Wind energy systems convert wind's kinetic energy into mechanical power.
- Geothermal energy uses Earth's internal heat for heating and cooling.
- Biomass energy is derived from organic materials and can be used for heating, electricity generation, or vehicle fuel.
- Enhancing energy efficiency through high-performance insulation, energy-efficient lighting, and advanced HVAC systems.
- High energy efficiency may require substantial upfront costs and continuous monitoring and maintenance.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY STRATEGIES FOR BUILDINGS +

High-Performance Buildings

- HPBs optimize energy efficiency, reduce resource consumption, and enhance occupant health and comfort.
- Characteristics include high-efficiency HVAC systems, advanced insulation materials, and energy-efficient appliances.
- HPBs often integrate renewable energy sources like solar panels, wind turbines, and geothermal systems.
- Water efficiency is achieved through low-flow fixtures, rainwater harvesting systems, and greywater recycling.
- Sustainable materials are used to minimize environmental impact associated with material extraction and transportation.

Waste Minimization

- Strategies for waste minimization include Design for Disassembly, Construction Waste Management, and Operational Waste Reduction.



INDOOR AIR QUALITY +

- Adequate ventilation is essential for maintaining indoor air quality.
- Low-emitting materials and green cleaning protocols can significantly reduce indoor pollutants.

Green Building Rating Systems

- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Energy Star are two prominent systems for assessing the sustainability of buildings.
- LEED certification is awarded at different levels—Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum—based on the number of points a building earns through sustainable practices.
- Energy Star is a program developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promote energy efficiency in buildings.



THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE (IECC)

- The IECC provides model codes for energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings.
- Key provisions of the IECC include Building Envelope Requirements, HVAC Efficiency Standards, and Lighting Requirements.

Conclusion

- The integration of alternative energy strategies in building design and operation is essential for creating sustainable, high-performance environments.





CONTACT US



+91 6363032722



info@beyondsmartcities.in



learn.beyondsmartcities.in



#55,HMR Layout ,Bengaluru ,India



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