CASE HISTORY

NEW SUSTAINABLE BUILDING MATERIAL ANSWER TO GLOBAL WARMING?

Australian new sustainable building material developer TecEco Pty Ltd has announced a new building material that is recyclable, low energy, has low emissions and uses a large proportion of waste.

Managing Director John Harrison said that the new technology could revolutionise both the building industry throughout the world. "It is much cheaper to manufacture, more durable, uses waste materials, is recyclable and is resistant to many of the chemical agents that attack Portland cement."

Portland cement emits around 3 tonnes of CO2 per tonne of cement produced, and there are about 1.8 billion tonnes produced each year. In comparison, Mr Harrison said, eco-cement bricks and blocks were CO2 neutral, and even a nett sink when they incorporated organically derived waste fibre.

"Like nature, the material uses carbon in its formulation," Mr Harrison said. "If we do what nature has done for the last 3.8 billion years and use carbon in building and construction, we can beat the global warming problem."

TecEco have signed an agreement with Deloitte Climate Change Strategies ("Deloitte") to act as a financial advisor to assist TecEco to complete a capital raising of $10 million to develop and deploy the new technology. Antonio Gelonezi (Global Director), Andrew Sharpe (Analyst) and Steven Skourakis (Analyst) from Deloitte will be responsible for controlling the project.

TecEco have received endorsements by leading scientists including Dr Koos Sago-Crestall from CSIRO Building Construction and Engineering, Professor J.P. Glaser of Aberdeen University, Scotland and Dr Leon Burgess, Dean of UNSW University in Australia.

In an appraisal document, Dr Sago-Crestall said that "the theoretical basis of the proposed eco-cement is logical and the economic and environmental benefits appear excellent."

In another appraisal document, Prof. Fred Glaser, an international expert on cement based materials, said that the technology "represents one of the few recent advances in inorganic cements which are suitable for large volume production."

BALANCE BETWEEN LEFT AND RIGHT

Should we change strategy and think and act independently of the old political ideologies? It is the balance between left and right that is the first precondition.

Most countries in Europe are governed today by what the former Swedish prime minister Carl Bildt calls a red-green mess - coalition governments between greens and social democrats.

When it comes to the global problems of poverty, atmosphere, ecosystems and world equity, I believe that we are on the verge of a paradigm shift. What we need in this new paradigm is a way to deal with the issues and for them to be handled in a way that is both practical and ethical.