

The Status of Green Building Incentives and Mandates around the World

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The green building industry has seen significant advancements in recent years. One attribute to its success is the incentives and mandates various governments around the world have established in an effort to encourage general green building and sustainability practices. This study presents a review of different incentive and mandate related government strategies which have been utilized by various countries.

The short term objectives for this study is to collect and analyze the green building incentives and mandates being utilized by various countries. The countries selected are the ones used in a previous study where the authors studied and identified a Green Building Accessibility Index (GBAI). These countries include: The United States of America, China, Japan, Germany, The United Kingdom, France, India, Italy, and Australia. An additional goal for this study is to create a visual comparison of the various incentives being offered, and relate them to the success of the green building industry in the specific countries being studied. This plays into the long term plan for this study, which is to combine a variety of data points from each country, ultimately to calculate a Green Building Index (GBI). The goal of the GBI is to create awareness and competition for countries to strive to reach greater levels of sustainability in the building industry. Authors are gathering green building incentive and mandate related data for the selected countries. This is done largely through extensive online research as well as directly contacting governments and organizations for a complete literature review. Data collected regarding incentives and mandates are analyzed for a qualitative assessment of the status in each country. The qualitative assessment is then converted into a scoring system that ultimately enables the ranking of each country. This index is then compared to author's previous GBAI research results to find if there are any correlations between the incentivizing and/or mandating of green building practices and the overall success of the green building industry in the selected countries.

Preliminary results of this study illustrate that many countries have green building incentives and some governments such as Germany already have created mandates for the building industry to follow green building practices. This study presents further results where incentives and mandates for each country are listed along with a score that allows authors to rank countries based on their government incentives and mandates. This study aims to determine the various incentives and mandates being utilized to influence the green building industry in the selected countries. By collecting and analyzing this data, authors intend to define correlations between the incentives/mandates, and the success of the green building industry. Additionally, this study will be used to calculate a portion of the previously introduced GBI, which aims to create awareness and competition for countries to strive towards bettering their built environment's sustainability goals.

Keywords: Green Building, Sustainability, Global Trends, Incentives