

Project Initiation Meeting for ‘Transforming the Built Environment through Sustainable Materials’



On the 22 June 2023, the Development Alternatives Group (DA), organised a project initiation meeting for the project ‘Transforming the Built Environment through Sustainable Materials’, with the support of the Odisha State Housing Board (OSHB), Kharavel Nagar.

The aim was to bring together relevant stakeholders from key government departments, academia, and representatives from Odisha's buildings and construction industry. The meeting's objective was to introduce the initiative, ‘Transforming the Built Environment through Sustainable Materials’ to stakeholders and lay the foundation for the roadmap development process. The goal was to stimulate discussion towards the shared vision of the state, steering the sector towards sustainable production and consumption practices for the built environment. The meeting observed participation from government officials from the Department of Odisha State Housing Board, the Odisha Urban Housing Mission, Bhubaneswar Development Authority, academia (CEPT- CARBSE, IIT Bhubaneswar and CSIR-IMMT), and other stakeholders from multi-lateral organisations. The discussions covered various aspects around the three thematic areas: policy frameworks, markets and finance, and carbon and material footprints; which would eventually facilitate the roadmap development process at a sub-national level.

Ms. Sagarika Patnaik (IRPS, Special Secretary to Housing and Urban Development Department and Managing Director, Odisha State Housing Board) chaired the open discussion and invited comments from the stakeholders present. The multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary interaction between all the participants helped develop a holistic overview of the Odisha context of the building and construction activities and the opportunities that may be leveraged for driving transformative change in the sector.