On March 4th, 2024, the Bihar Climate Action Conclave was organised by WRI India in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation. This significant event brought together key stakeholders, policymakers, experts, and advocates, with essential partnerships from the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bihar, and the Bihar State Pollution Control Board. The primary objective of the conclave was to emphasise the urgent need for fostering climate-friendly development. It served as a platform to discuss and delineate pathways for integrating climate considerations across diverse sectors, including energy, transport, and urban planning. Furthermore, the conclave facilitated dialogues aimed at establishing a transformative climate governance structure, poised to drive impactful change.

Development Alternatives played a crucial role in the conclave, presenting their insights on strategies for reducing carbon emissions in the industry and construction sectors. Their exhibit showcased their significant contributions to these sectors and elucidated policy-level changes necessary for achieving long-term sustainability goals. Their strategic vision aimed at accomplishing decarbonisation by 2070, advocating for regulatory frameworks that incentivise low-carbon technologies, promote circular
economy principles, and prioritise the integration of renewable energy sources. The work presented by Development Alternatives received commendation from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar, highlighting its significance in the state’s climate action agenda.

At the core of Development Alternatives’ exhibition was a focus on advancements in the production of fly ash bricks, offering a sustainable alternative to conventional clay bricks. By harnessing fly ash, a byproduct of coal combustion, these bricks not only mitigate the environmental impact of coal-based industries but also enhance energy efficiency and resource conservation within the construction sector. The widespread adoption of fly ash bricks holds immense potential for substantially reducing carbon emissions associated with traditional brick manufacturing processes. Additionally, we showcased how LC3 cement can be a good alternative to OPC Cement by offering similar strength. Effective utilisation of C&D waste can conserve natural resources as they can be used as an alternative to natural aggregates and sand. The utilisation of briquettes can be a good replacement for coal.

Additionally, Development Alternatives showcased their initiatives in the rolling mill and sugar mill sectors, illustrating how the adoption of energy-efficient technologies and process optimisation can effectively minimise carbon footprints while simultaneously enhancing productivity and competitiveness.