

EU Project Wins UN Award for Green Buildings



On October 30, 2015, the Zero Carbon Resorts Project funded by the EU SWITCH programme won the 2015 Global Human Settlements Award in the Planning and Design category. The Award is an annual prize encouraging cities, enterprises and individuals willing to make a contribution to green human settlements and sustainable cities.

The Zero Carbon Resorts Project offers energy management advisory services tailored to the needs of small hotels in the Philippines operating in areas where power availability is an issue. Energy consumption among participating hotels and resorts has decreased by up to 60% as a result of project activities. Four Zero Carbon Resorts beneficiary hotels bagged the ASEAN Green Hotel Award in 2014. This year, the prestigious UN Award went to the pilot cottage built by the project in 2014. The cottage uses only 4% of the electricity consumption of a typical resort villa. All electricity is generated through solar power.

Water is supplied from rainwater harvested on the butterfly-shaped roof. All wastewater is treated on site and used in the surrounding garden.



600 tourism SMEs are currently collaborating with the Project. The beneficiary received additional funding in 2014 to expand its activities and cover small scale tourism establishments both in the Philippines and Thailand.