



News Release For Immediate Release

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Shanghai Expo Opens

Environmental and Sustainable Issues a Concern

Bloomington, IN – April 30, 2010 - On May 1, 2010, 192 countries and 50 organizations will take part in the 2010 World Expo being held in Shanghai, China. The Expo, which is similar to a world's fair, has been a massive construction project filled with an array of dramatically designed pavilions.

In preparation for the event, more than \$45 billion was spent to “spiff up” Shanghai, which is expected to play host to 70 million visitors during the six-month event.

A [United Nations report](#) in August 2009 praised the Expo planners for considering the environmental impact of the project. The city has constructed a 250-mile rapid-transit system for the event and is experimenting with using electric, hydrogen fuel-cell, and hybrid buses to transport visitors.

However, recently the sustainable impact of the project have been called into question, according to Stephen Ashkin, CEO of [Sustainable Dashboard Tools, LLC](#). “Some pavilions such as the Finnish pavilion were built using recycled paper and plastic materials. But most others were built using thousands of tons of steel, concrete, and glass that will just be torn down in six months.”

There is uncertainty as to what will be done with all those materials after the Expo closes. “Will it be recycled, reused, or just disposed of?” asks Ashkin.

He is also concerned because Shanghai is very dependent on coal for electricity and that more effort was not placed in using alternative energy sources. “The number of visitors to the Expo will be more than three times the population of Shanghai,” he says. “Imagine how much more energy [and therefore coal] will be needed to power the event.”

Ashkin agrees with the UN study that Shanghai has taken steps to make the Expo more environmentally friendly. “But,” he adds, “We probably won’t know its actual ‘sustainable legacy’ until the show closes.”

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Stephen Ashkin is available for interviews, presentations, and commentary on Green Cleaning–related issues, sustainable buildings, industry trends, and facility management. He can be reached by calling (812) 332-7950.

About Sustainability Dashboard Tools, LLC

Sustainability Dashboard Tools, LLC, has created new software technology designed specifically for cleaning professionals. The company’s CEO is Stephen Ashkin, President of The Ashkin Group and Executive Director of the Green Cleaning Network; its COO is Cynthia Schultz.

Sustainability Dashboard Tools' software allows users to measure the natural resources their businesses use and the greenhouse gas emissions they generate. Armed with this information, businesses can make commonsense changes that reduce their impact on the environment. Such changes save businesses money and make them more efficient and competitive while also benefiting their facilities, employees, and local community as well as the environment.

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