

Classification Systems for Green Technology Solutions



Some IP Offices have developed specialized classification systems to better identify green technology solutions, in order to help with prior art searches, analysis of trends in environmental technology innovation, and other analysis.

By way of example, Japan has developed a so-called “FI classification scheme” for environmental technology solutions, now available for use by any IP Office or other stakeholder. FI is a further subdivided green technology classification within the IPC system’s Green Inventory. FI is more detailed, and it is being constantly revised and improved by the Japanese Patent Office. The JPO is available to support others to use the system.

The European Patent Office has also established a new classification scheme for technical attributes of solutions that can be broadly referred to as climate change mitigation technologies. This makes it easier to retrieve patent documents that relate to these technologies. The so-called “Y02 classification scheme” is dedicated to climate change mitigation technologies, while, subcategories, such as the Y02A extend the scheme to areas like climate change adaptation technologies.

Intended impact

Facilitate prior art searches and identification of trends in environmental technology patenting, by creating more detailed classification schemes than the IPC Green Inventory for environmental technologies.

Beneficiaries

IP Offices, green technology innovators, and researchers using patent information can benefit from more detailed systems for classifying green technology solutions.

Considerations for implementation

- Two offices have developed more detailed green technology classification schemes. Every office does not need to develop such systems, especially since those IP Offices doing so are willing to make their solutions available for use by others.
- The JPO has explicitly made support available to other IP Offices to use its classification scheme.