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Sustainable Corporate Lifestyles: A study of the Impact of Information Systems on Green Buildings

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Sustainable Corporate Lifestyles

A study of the Impact of Information Systems on Green Buildings

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Buildings pose a huge threat to the sustainability of the natural environment due to excessive consumption of electric energy and emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) (Kofoworola & Gheewala, 2009; Rock et al., 2019). Green buildings, said to offer “*some of the most effective means to achieving a range of global goals, such as addressing climate change*” (WGBC), have been proposed as the way to mitigate harmful environmental impacts of the building stock (Zuo & Zhao, 2014). However, access to information systems (IS) that manage building operations has been found to be a major barrier to achieving more sustainable buildings operations (Rock et al., 2019). We conducted a qualitative study of building automation systems implemented across Florida and Jamaica. Our goal was to understand how these systems enable a more **sustainable corporate lifestyle**, defined as “*patterns of action and consumption which meet basic needs, provide a better quality of life, minimize the use of natural resources and emissions of waste and pollutants over the lifecycle, do not jeopardize the needs of future generations*” (Bedford et al., 2004). Our findings show that the systems were differently exploited – used to control between one and seven building services across the cases. Despite this difference in extent of use, the systems enabled users to reduce harmful natural environmental effects and create economic and social value for stakeholders. In each case, a user realized either short-term or strategic benefits – the difference based mainly on his/her level within the team. We note that, consistent with Zuboff (1985), the capabilities for automating building appliances and simultaneously generating and analyzing performance data were the major sources of IS value. We synthesized our findings to propose the *green IS sustainable lifestyle model*.

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