



# Network

**News**

**December 2007**

## **2008 AECB Annual Conference**

We are currently looking for a venue for next years Conference but we are finding it increasingly difficult and are looking for help.

Despite many calls and hours on Google we cannot find a venue that fulfils our very fussy needs. So if you know of a venue that has all or most of the criteria below please let us know.

- Must have 1 room capable of holding approx. 200 people.
- Must have at least 2 good sized break out rooms.
- An area for a social evening.
- Have access to vegetarian catering.
- Good access and nearby accommodation.
- Be environmentally interesting.

The venue need not be a conference centre in fact it would be great to use another building such as a school, college or university. Lastly it has to be reasonably priced as we do need to keep costs as low as possible as many of our membership are sole traders and cannot afford the silly money charged by commercial conference organisers.

So if you know of anywhere please contact Geoff Stow on 01392 272475 [geoff.biy@homecall.co.uk](mailto:geoff.biy@homecall.co.uk)

## **AECB Website Forum**

Don't miss out on the AECB's online resources: Covering both new build and refurbishment the AECB's online forum continues to be a primary source for the discussion of sustainable low energy design and construction. The strength of the AECB forum lies within it's members and their use of this facility. The continued success of the forum is in no small part due to the thriving online community. By taking time to take part in discussions, or even get some submitting queries to get a discussion started, AECB members all stand to learn from the experience of others and can help to further the best possible developments in sustainable design and construction. Recently updated to accommodate the CarbonLite Programme (CLP) the forum now includes and index of the most discussed topics and a number of dedicated discussion areas that cover the AECB Energy Standards and the CLP itself.

Go to [www.aecb.net/forum](http://www.aecb.net/forum)

## **AECB Member Profiles, The Way To Find Green Building Professionals**

The Member Profiles are now active and allow you to differentiate your business by displaying your green credentials. Members who have filled in their profile will go to the top of member searches.

If you go to [www.aecb.net/findmembers.php](http://www.aecb.net/findmembers.php) and click 'find' you will see how this works.

Smaller companies without the resources to maintain a website can use this as a mini website whilst all companies are encouraged to provide hard evidence of environmental performance.

Rather than reading more go to [www.aecb.net/profiles.php](http://www.aecb.net/profiles.php) where existing profiles can be viewed.

To edit your profile – from the main website, go to members area/my account in the menu on the left of the page and click on 'edit your member profile' then set up your own profile which can remain hidden from view until you are happy to click 'publish'. Or go to <http://www.aecb.net/myaccount.php>

You will need to be logged in with your user name and password. Thanks again to those who have already filled in their details:

Thanks, the web team, Tom, Chris and Nick

## **Achieving Low Carbon Energy-Efficient Buildings**

A successful conference held in Huddersfield on 29 November was organised by AECB for 'build' and the Yorkshire Builders Federation. 45 architects, builders, developers and Kirklees council staff learnt about energy in buildings, the principles behind the CarbonLite energy standards, the gap between intention and delivery, and much more. The day was such a success that two invitations have already been extended to return to Kirklees to provide further workshops.

## **AECB Signs A Memorandum Of Cooperation With Leeds Metropolitan University On Education For Low Carbon, Energy Efficient Building Design And Construction**

On 30 November, AECB Chairman, Chris Herring, and Director of the CarbonLite Programme, Liz Reason, attended a ceremony at Leeds Met University School of the Built Environment at which Chris signed a Memorandum of Cooperation between the two organisations to expand and deliver web-based education and training linked to the AECB energy standards. Drawing on the work of LMU at Stamford Brook in Cheshire, the joint programme will concentrate on helping to close the gap between theory and practice. Using LMU's existing VirtualSite, the impact of failing to meet airtightness standards and thermal bridge-free construction will be made visible through the extensive use of thermal imaging, and films of lectures on key topics. "I can't wait for this exciting project to get started" enthused Chris. "It will expand our CarbonLite resources in exciting and innovative ways".

### **Understanding Energy In Buildings Course**

The first pilot of this course was run at the RIBA on 5 October. Following extensive and valuable comment from participants, the second course is to run on 4 December.

### **CABE and EST Join The CLP Advisory Board**

AECB was delighted that the Commission for the Built Environment and EST both expressed an interest in joining the CLP advisory board. Representatives of both organisations attended the third meeting of the board on 12 September. Both made valuable contributions in explaining what their own organisations are doing that is consistent with and complementary to the CLP.

Liz Reason, Director of the CLP, is to speak at a CABE Lunch 'n Learn session in early January.

### **AECB Plans To Make A Major Contribution To The Development Of SAP**

The AECB understands the importance of making accurate projections of energy use and the resultant CO2 emissions at the design stage of any building. It concluded, reluctantly, that it would have to recommend the use of PHPP rather than SAP for those planning to work to the AECB energy standards. AECB, with NES, has now commissioned consultants to undertake a line-by-line comparison of the two software programmes, the results of which will be shared at an invite only workshop to be hosted by the Home Builders Federation at the end of January.

Sustain Magazine Holds A Roundtable Debate On The Building Materials And Sustainability, Sponsored By Kingspan

CLP Director, Liz Reason, participated in this lively debate, chaired by Paul King of the UKGBC, and attended by building product manufacturers, architects, sustainability consultants and others. The debate will be written up in a major article for a future edition of the magazine which will be available at Ecobuild. Many points were discussed at length, including the need to educate clients to understand how to ask the right questions if they want a sustainable building, and to keep to a minimum the use of any materials as part of a drive for sustainability.

### **Beating Inflation With Mike Wye & Associates**

The National Statistics Online have announced UK inflation at 10 year high. This is bad news for British consumers and British commerce. Mike Wye & Associates can reveal a remarkable effort in its' own small way to fight the trend of ever rising prices. In 1997 our trade price was £110 for a tonne of 3/1 unhaired lime putty mortar. In 2007 the price is now a remarkable £109 for a stock yellow mortar, £1 cheaper than 10 years ago! And for haired lime mortars the price has risen from just £1 from £140 to £141.

Economies of scale and investment in our manufacturing facilities have meant that prices that were already competitive 10 years ago are now unbeatable. Especially for 10 tonnes of more where our 12.5% bulk discount brings the unhaired tonne price down to £95.38 and the haired tonne price down to £123.38 - all prices exclude VAT.

Our recent FSB award highlights the achievements of our efforts by recognising the manufacturing side of the business [www.mikewye.co.uk/ProjectFiles/FSB2007.htm](http://www.mikewye.co.uk/ProjectFiles/FSB2007.htm)

### **Water Efficiency In The Hospitality Sector – New Report Published**

Water use in the hospitality sector is high due to many factors including a combination of large customer numbers, long opening hours, a high turnover of staff, and, sometimes, a lack of leadership from head office. And yet, implementing zero or low cost water saving measures can result in large savings. The difficulty is how to get premises within this sector to buy into water efficiency.

ech2o, in a SEEDA funded project carried out for Crawley Council in early 2007, saved over 5,000 m3 of water a year across just 43 premises. Reducing flow rates and fitting water savers were zero cost improvements implemented. Identifying and fixing leaks and installing urinal controls were low cost measures. As many premises could not action improvements at site level without agreement from head office, savings could be even greater if the main chains were as committed to water efficiency as they are to energy efficiency.

Carried out in conjunction with water audits to build up a picture of water use in pubs, clubs and restaurants in Crawley, and also combined with logging a selection of sites, valuable information was collated. A comprehensive report detailing the project and analysing the savings made can be downloaded for free at [www.ech2o.co.uk](http://www.ech2o.co.uk). The report will provide Local Authorities with the knowledge to understand the barriers to implementing water efficient measures within businesses under their jurisdiction and how to help the same businesses save both money and water. This, in turn, will enable Local Authorities to meet some of their water and carbon targets.

### **The Big Green Challenge**

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA), which supports talent, innovation and creativity in the UK, is launching a £1 million prize fund called The Big Green Challenge. Their aim is to encourage and reward people working together to develop new approaches to saving energy and finding innovative ways of tackling climate change. Applications for first stage to be received by 29 February 2008

The ten finalists, once selected, will then have a year to demonstrate that they can turn their BIG ideas into action. The winner will be announced in late 2009.

For more information go to [www.biggreenchallenge.org.uk](http://www.biggreenchallenge.org.uk)

### **Timber Talent In The South West – Share Your Vision With Ccanw**

The Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World in Haldon Forest Park near Exeter is looking for exciting timber projects to be featured in the third exhibition of our successful Wood Culture programme. Wood Culture explores the beauty and usefulness of wood, focusing on contemporary and sustainable uses of timber in architecture and design.

We are interested in contemporary timber buildings and structures of any scale and type, built since 2000 and/or to be completed by 2010, and with a South West\* connection:

- Timber buildings or structures built anywhere in the South West
- Timber buildings or structures built anywhere in the world designed by architectural, engineering or other design practices based in the South West.

This exhibition is scheduled for April-June 2008 and will also be shown at the Architecture Centre, Bristol, and tour.

CCANW is now inviting nominations which will be assessed by a panel of experts in December. To apply, or to nominate a project, email up to 4 low resolution photographs with brief details (150 words) describing the structure and how the timber has been used and sourced. Please also provide links to websites where available.

Closing date: 14 December 2007

If selected you must be able to provide additional high resolution images and further material during January.

Our website [www.ccanw.co.uk](http://www.ccanw.co.uk) shows photographs of previous Wood Culture exhibitions, both of which are touring.

### **America: Nowhere To Hide**

With over 12,000 miles of coastline, and 53% of its population living in and around coastal cities and towns, the United States is at serious risk from even small amounts of sea level rise induced by global warming and climate change. Beginning with just one meter of sea level rise, many coastal cities and towns will be inundated, resulting in catastrophic property and infrastructure loss with large population disruptions and economic hardship. By calling for a moratorium on new conventional coal plants, we put an immediate cap on coal plant emissions. By phasing out existing plants, we decrease CO2 emissions, averting the more dangerous effects of climate change.

Source: Architecture 2030 E-News Bulletin

### **California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Adopts The 2030 Challenge targets**

On October 18th, 2007, the California Public Utilities Commission adopted a decision requiring California's investor-owned utilities to prepare a single, state wide Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan for the years 2009-2020. This plan will be developed collaboratively with input from the California Energy Commission, Regional Air Quality Management Districts, publicly-owned utilities, the private sector, research institutions, and other key stakeholders. A draft plan will be filed on February 1st, 2008 and a final plan on May 15th, 2008.

The decision, setting in motion the planning process, adopts aggressive targets for new residential and commercial buildings in California. It states that all new residential buildings and all new commercial buildings in the state shall be zero net energy by 2020 and 2030 respectively.

Source: Architecture 2030 E-News Bulletin

### **New Taxes Will Hurt Small Firms That Try To Go Green**

Small businesses that want to do their bit for the environment face higher tax bills. The Conservatives have warned that SMEs that want to tackle climate change and install green energy technology will face a hike in their tax charges. The Valuation Office Agency (VOA), an arm of Inland Revenue, is preparing to tax solar panels, wind turbines and micro-generation technology with higher business rates and council tax. This follows news that Gordon Brown is set to abandon Tony Blair's targets on renewable energy.

The small print of last month's pre-Budget report revealed that "the installation of micro-generation equipment in business premises can trigger an increased liability for business rates". Parliamentary Questions have also revealed that green energy measures will result in higher council tax bills. Such measures can push a home into a higher council-tax band when the house is sold or after council tax revaluation. The VOA is already undertaking training and preparations for the revaluation. The inspectors are also responsible for inheritance tax valuations.

Previously unpublished research by the Renewable Energy Association calculates that the higher business rate liability "more than wipes out the value of the electricity generated". As a result, a solar panel "would be a continual financial drain on the company". A wind turbine will increase business rates by £1,350 a year, while a solar (photovoltaic) installation will mean an extra £2,700.

Full story at <http://news.independent.co.uk/business/news/article3149920.ece>

### **Role Of Onsite Energy Generation In Delivering Zero Carbon Homes.**

Renewables Advisory Board - Role of Onsite Energy Generation in Delivering Zero Carbon Homes - A Study

The report demonstrates that Onsite Renewable Energy can deliver net Zero Carbon homes in over 90% of cases with their only difficulty being in achieving this target for some urban flats. It also strongly emphasises the need to limit the amount of off-site renewable energy that is hypothecated in any future definition of zero carbon homes. The report is timely and provides useful proposals which will help the government move towards their commitment to the 20% renewable energy target by 2020 as well as its ambitions for Zero Carbon homes by 2016. The development of the onsite renewables industry will not only help with new build developments but also help produce the volumes and economies of scale necessary to make renewable technologies a more attractive option for existing housing.

One of the key recommendations from the report is the need to "create strong, early stimulation to the onsite renewables sector to avoid the high risk of a supply gap in 2016"

Full report at [www.renewables-advisory-board.org.uk/vBulletin/showthread.php?p=123post123](http://www.renewables-advisory-board.org.uk/vBulletin/showthread.php?p=123post123)

### **Grants For Low-Carbon Homes Tumble After Change To Rules**

Grants for home installation of solar panels and wind turbines have plummeted despite the Government's publicly stated commitment to promote renewable power, official figures show. Household payments under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme have tumbled from £536,000 a month before the rules of the scheme were changed in May, to £219,000 afterwards – a fall of 59 per cent. The number of householders getting grants has fallen 19 per cent.

The Liberal Democrat MP Jenny Willott, who uncovered the figures in a Commons question to the Energy minister, Malcolm Wicks, said the Government was in danger of "pulling the rug from underneath" Britain's micro-renewables industry. Amid publicity about the danger of climate change, the Low Carbon Buildings Programme was very popular at the start of 2007 with the allocation of money running out in minutes on the first day of each month. The Government wants 20 per cent of UK electricity to be from green sources by 2020.

But in May, Alistair Darling, then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, cut the maximum grant for household renewable energy from £15,400 to £2,500. Grants for solar PV and grants for heating were slashed by 83 per cent and those for wind turbines halved. Solar heating water was left unchanged at £400. As a consequence, more people are receiving small grants for solar water, but 24 per cent fewer are getting grants for solar heating, and the number of wind grants has fallen by 60 per cent. The total amount given to expensive solar heating installations has fallen by 76 per cent.

Full story at [http://environment.independent.co.uk/climate\\_change/article3174441.ece](http://environment.independent.co.uk/climate_change/article3174441.ece)

### **Germany Leads The Way Again – A Climate Protection Programme Will Lead To Savings Of Five Billion Euro Note.**

The German government's climate protection programme will lead to savings of five billion euro in private households and industry by 2020. This is the finding of the interim report on a cost-benefit analysis of the government's integrated energy and climate programme. The interim report was presented today by Prof. Andreas Troge, President of the Federal Environment Agency and Federal Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel.

According to the study, the measures adopted by the German cabinet in August in Meseberg will lead to savings of over 36 billion euro for coal, oil and gas. In contrast, the additional costs for corresponding investments will amount to only 31 billion euro. On average, every tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> saved has a saving effect of 26 euro ("negative avoidance costs"). The study proves: climate protection pays off. "We would be wasting money were we not to implement the Meseberg decisions on climate and energy policy in full," commented Minister Gabriel.

The Federal Environment Agency carried out two calculations. Firstly, the climate protection impacts of the integrated energy and climate programme were analysed. According to this, with the adopted measures CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Germany can be reduced by 36 percent by 2020 compared with the base year 1990 - if the measures are fully implemented. "The findings show: Germany's climate protection target of minus 40 percent by 2020 is achievable. The Meseberg package alone brings us very close to our 2020 targets," noted Minister Gabriel.

Secondly, an expert team, under the lead responsibility of the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research in Karlsruhe, carried out an economic assessment of the central measures of the integrated energy and climate programme.

The key findings are:

- All measures in the field of energy efficiency lead to net savings; the savings in energy costs outweigh the additional investments required.
- CO<sub>2</sub> avoidance costs through combined heat-power generation and through increased use of renewables in the electricity sector are moderate.
- The costs in the heat and biofuel sector are higher. Here we are still at the beginning of a technological development similar to the development we triggered for renewables in the electricity sector five to ten years ago.

- In total, the package leads to savings for industry and for households. The government's support programmes (e.g. building modernisation programme) will ensure that any possibly high start-up investments can be borne by households.

Go to [www.bmu.de/english/current\\_press\\_releases/pm/40276.php](http://www.bmu.de/english/current_press_releases/pm/40276.php)

### **Cooking the Climate – Greenpeace Report**

Every year, 1.8 billion tonnes (Gt) of climate changing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are released by the degradation and burning of Indonesia's peatlands – 4% of global GHG emissions from less than 0.1% of the land on earth. This report shows how, through growing demand for palm oil, the world's largest food, cosmetic and biofuel industries are driving the wholesale destruction of peatlands and rainforests. These companies include Unilever, Nestlé and Procter & Gamble, who between them account for a significant volume of global palm oil use, mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia.

Go to [www.greenpeace.org.uk/media/reports/cooking-the-climate](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/media/reports/cooking-the-climate) to read the full report.

### **Brown Faces Battle On Emissions Targets**

Gordon Brown is facing a tough parliamentary battle over the Government's ground-breaking Climate Change Bill amid growing pressure to strengthen planned targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Campaigners said they were confident that more than 30 Labour MPs wanted to see tougher targets than the Government's goal of cutting carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2050, or action to include aviation and shipping in the legislation to impose legal targets for cutting CO2 levels.

Environmentalists say Britain needs to cut carbon emissions by at least 80 per cent by the middle of the century to prevent damaging climate change. Ministers have promised that an independent committee on global warming will review the target within two years. But Conservatives said the work should be done within months to ensure the correct long-term emissions targets were included in the Bill. They will also demand that the Government set rolling annual targets for carbon reduction, saying proposals for a five-year target will not hold the Government to account. Liberal Democrats want a national target of at least an 80 per cent cut.

Full story at [http://environment.independent.co.uk/climate\\_change/article3143269.ece](http://environment.independent.co.uk/climate_change/article3143269.ece)

### **Carbon Targets At Risk As Councils Fail To Plan Their Cuts In Emissions**

Three out of four councils in the UK have no plan in place to reduce and monitor carbon emissions, according to research carried out for The Observer. The results are another blow for the UK's hopes of meeting ambitious emissions cuts promised by the government in the climate change bill announced in the Queen's Speech last week. Despite the massive impact of emissions from council buildings - from offices to schools - 5 per cent of the councils surveyed had not initiated an emissions reduction scheme. Most had begun the process, though half had not reached the stage of 'identifying and appraising carbon reduction projects'.

When they do take action, the survey suggests the results could be dramatic: one in 10 were examining the idea of road pricing and three-quarters said they would like powers to use council tax reductions to encourage home owners to make their homes more energy efficient. The survey by the Low Carbon Innovation Network, which represents more than 4,000 public and private sector executives, including most of Britain's biggest companies, got responses from more than 200 of the country's 468 councils.

In the survey, councils themselves agreed: four out of 10 said that apart from carbon reduction plans, the most important driver to reducing emissions in their authorities was 'leading by example'. A similar number said 'saving money'. Last week the government published plans for what promises to be the world's first legally binding national targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 26-32 per cent by 2020 and 60 per cent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

Until now councils have not been set emissions reduction targets, but 280 of the 410 authorities in England and Wales have signed the Nottingham Declaration, a voluntary pledge to do so. Asked whether they would meet a 15 per cent cut in carbon emissions by 2010, half of the councils replied 'unsure' through to 'impossible'.

A third of councils in the survey said the biggest barrier to reducing emissions was funding; other problems cited were motivating staff, encouraging other organisations and lack of senior management support.

Full story at [www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/nov/11/carbonemissions](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/nov/11/carbonemissions)

### **Joint Declaration To Tackle Climate Change**

Three major English cities are set to develop tailored action plans to slash their CO2 emissions under a new scheme, Minister for Climate Change Joan Ruddock has announced. Under the Low Carbon Cities Programme, the Carbon Trust and the Energy Saving Trust will work with Bristol, Leeds and Manchester to develop individual city-wide action plans to achieve low carbon economies which are both prosperous and sustainable. New measures and initiatives will be introduced and could include renewable energy and trigeneration (creating power, heat and cooling from a single source) along with energy saving measures such as insulation and promoting cycling to work. Key public service bodies, businesses and community leaders in each of the cities will contribute to the strategy and its implementation.

The £250,000 of funding from Defra will also benefit the other members of the Core Cities Group - Birmingham, Liverpool, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield - by producing audits of current emissions and identifying cost effective carbon saving opportunities. The programme will establish a city-wide CO2 baseline, show emission totals and provide a detailed breakdown of where emissions come from. The data gathered will allow cities to forecast how changes to certain areas will most effectively cut emissions. Leaders of the eight Core Cities, Communities and Local Government

Secretary Hazel Blears and Joan Ruddock also today signed a pledge that identifies opportunities to reduce emissions and outlines specific actions that Government and Core Cities will undertake.

The Minister also announced a new programme from the UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy which is working with Shell and RWE npower, to assist UK cities in taking practical measures to tackle climate change. This project is focused on the UK's major cities to develop a network of good practice in deploying technology and exploring emerging sustainable energy opportunities. The Council will deliver a targeted regional programme in key UK cities to stimulate high level support for action on sustainable energy and build networks with the energy sector. The Council will also deliver a series of events to investigate how policy can be improved to enable the growth of new low-carbon technologies.

Full details at [www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/071108e.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/071108e.htm)

### **UN Attacks British Blueprint To Tackle Climate Change**

Global temperatures would rise by up to 5C and dangerous climate change would be inevitable if other developed countries followed Britain's flawed blueprint for reducing its carbon footprint, the United Nations warned yesterday in its annual flagship report on global development. Calling for urgent action on a post-Kyoto agreement to reduce greenhouse gases, the UN accused the government of a lack of ambition.

It cited the upward trend in emissions from the energy and transport sectors and the lack of progress in developing renewable sources of energy. The UN's Human Development report said "radical new policies", such as carbon taxes, tougher regulations to phase out heavily polluting coal-fired power stations and higher vehicle excise duty for gas guzzling cars, would all be needed if Britain was to have any chance of hitting its target of cutting CO2 emissions by 26% to 32% by 2020.

While praising the government for a "bold and innovative" climate change bill that would legally bind ministers to mandatory cuts in emissions, the UN said there were "serious questions about the level of ambition - and about the UK's capacity to meet its own carbon reduction targets". The report comes barely a week after the prime minister, Gordon Brown, said Britain was committed to the European Union target of a 20% cut in carbon emissions by 2020 and a 20% use of renewables for energy by the same date.

In the summer, the Guardian uncovered government documents saying the 20% target was unachievable and ways should be found to undermine it at a European level. The UN said that "Britain also lags far behind best EU practice on renewable energy: it currently produces only 2% of its overall energy from renewables". It accused the government of a lack of ambition, stressing that rich countries would need to cut carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050 if dangerous climate change was to be avoided. Developing countries would have to start cutting emissions after 2020 and reduce them by 20% by 2050, the UN said.

Climate change has moved up the political agenda in Britain, with the government seeking to find ways of cutting greenhouse gas emissions without harming prospects for economic growth. Ministers believe that a mix of energy sources - including nuclear and renewables - will be needed in the future and that greater fuel efficiency in aviation can offset the impact of the expansion of Heathrow airport.

The UN report criticised the government for excluding shipping and aviation from the UK's target. Taken together, the UN said, the two sources of greenhouse gases would increase the UK's carbon budget by 27% by 2050, cancelling out half the planned 60% reduction.

Full story at [www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/nov/27/climatechange1](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/nov/27/climatechange1)

## **Events**

### **Could You Profit From Sustainable Building Design? 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

Envirowise would like to invite you to join us at the award-winning Innovate Office at Thorpe Park, Leeds, for this sustainable design event as part of our national programme of activities. The event will feature leading speakers from the built environment sector, including BRE, WRAP, Mott McDonald, LEDA Ltd, OSA Architects and IBPSA. It is an excellent opportunity to network with others facing similar challenges in sustainable design and construction.

The day will culminate with a site tour of the award winning Innovate Office at Thorpe Park. Places are strictly limited and allocated on a first come first served basis. Only one person per organisation can be booked on the site tour.

To register, please e-mail: [amber@envirofutures.com](mailto:amber@envirofutures.com) or register online: [www.envirowise.gov.uk](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk). For further details of this event, contact Amber O'Malley, on 0114 221 3516.

### **The Green Register Events**

The Code for Sustainable Homes Seminar - 6 December 2007 - Roots and Shoots, London

This morning seminar will explain all the main features of the new Code which has superseded the Ecohomes assessment. The seminar will be run by Bespoke Building Services, an Approved Building Inspector service. Cost: £75 for Green Register members, £95 for non-members to include lunch

Lightweight vs Heavyweight Construction Seminar - 30 January 2008 – London,

Is it better from an environmental point of view to build lightweight framed construction with insulation infill or heavyweight masonry construction with thermal mass? Or is there a hybrid system out there that combines the best of both worlds? This half-day seminar will explore the pros and cons of both types of construction, using case studies and post-occupancy data to construct a case for both types of construction. Please note: we experienced an unprecedented demand for places when this seminar was held in October 2007 and had to turn many people away, therefore we would advise early booking to secure a place at the event. Cost: £75 for Green Register members, £95 for non-members to include lunch. ALSO to be held in Bristol in March 2008 and Manchester in April 2008 (dates tbc)

For more information visit [www.greenregister.org.uk](http://www.greenregister.org.uk) or email [mail@greenregister.org.uk](mailto:mail@greenregister.org.uk)

### **Energy from Waste 2008 19 – 20 February 2008 Chelsea Old Town Hall, London**

In the year since the last energy from waste conference, the industry in the UK has moved on apace and real deliverability is now at the forefront of waste and renewable energy activity. The revisions and consultations have largely come to an end – real policies and real strategies are emerging in both waste and energy that are set to drive these industries forward in a variety of dynamic development areas.

- The UK's Waste Strategy has been announced and with it a whole range of implications for the industry.
- The Waste Infrastructure Development Programme has burst on the scene providing impetus to a range of technologies and methods.
- The Energy White Paper and the updated Renewables Obligation are moving the renewables industry forward.
- The European Waste Framework Directive and Waste Incineration Directive have now completed their revisions, with implications echoing throughout the waste industries.

Now is the time to catch up with all these developments and find out what it means for your business, your region, your waste management plans. There is no lack of controversy, as expert opinions still vary in many areas. Watch out for the debate sessions as there will be vigorous discussion, but there is also a drive to achieve the necessary landfill diversion and renewable energy targets.

Energy from Waste 2008 provides practical deliverability in waste management and landfill diversion; it considers best possible resource efficiency and analyses energy generation – in terms of power, heat and fuel. Top speakers from the UK and Europe provide the very latest information, opinion and case studies. Plenty of time is built in for questions and debate.

Go to [www.recyclingwasteworld.co.uk](http://www.recyclingwasteworld.co.uk) for more information

### **Ecobuild 2008 26th - 28th February – Earls Court London**

The AECB is back at Ecobuild in 2008 with an expanded exhibition area. We will be promoting our membership and showcasing the carbon efficient homes that are being designed and built under the AECB CarbonLite programme. Come and visit or exhibit at the UK's premier environmental building event. There is a wide variety of free seminars to attend as well as plenty of interesting stands to visit. Last year we had various members who came along and helped on the stand. If you would like to do the same at Ecobuild 2008 we will post details nearer the time.

Discounted cost on trade stands for AECB members

For trade members this is probably the best national show to exhibit at, and as an AECB member you will receive a 10% discount on the cost of hiring stand space. In effect this makes your membership of the AECB free.

Green Shoots initiative for new and innovative businesses

If you are a new (under 2 years trading) small company you can exhibit in the Green Shoots area for just £500. Ecobuild are flexible as to who can exhibit in this area so we would urge anyone who thinks they may be eligible to get a spot there, by contacting Michael Costain on [mcostain@ibeltd.com](mailto:mcostain@ibeltd.com). Ecobuild markets the green shoots initiative as follows:

Green Shoots is the new initiative at Ecobuild 2008 for entrepreneurs and emerging businesses. It provides 'entry level' packages for small organisations to participate and gain the vital exposure they need to grow and succeed at a reasonable cost.

For £500 + VAT @ 17.5% Green Shoots exhibitors receive all these benefits:

- Display panel & mini exhibition stand in the Green Shoots zone at the heart of Ecobuild
- Entry on the Ecobuild website with a link to the exhibitor's own website
- Entry in the Ecobuild event guide given to every visitor to the 2008 event
- Meeting facility exclusively for the use of Green Shoots exhibitors
- Free invitations to give to customers and contacts to meet at Ecobuild
- Discounts for customers and contacts to attend the Ecobuild conference
- Opportunity to participate in Ecobuild's 'Dragon's Den'

There is a link to Ecobuild 2008 via the home page on the AECB website. Go to [www.aecb.net/ecobuild.php](http://www.aecb.net/ecobuild.php)

### **REA On-Site Renewables Conference, Kensington Town Hall, London, 27th February 2008**

This annual all-day conference will concentrate on the contribution that REA envisages on-site renewables will make towards the new EU 20% commitment. The programme will include key note speeches, presentations from industry professionals, panel discussions and debates. Invitations have been sent out to the Housing Minister Yvette Cooper and Norman Foster. We have deliberately timed the event to take place at the same time as Ecobuild so REA members can take the opportunity to visit/exhibit at Ecobuild as well as attend the REA conference. A drinks networking event will take place after the conference followed by an event dinner.

For up-to-date information please visit [www.r-e-a.net](http://www.r-e-a.net).

### **Energy Efficiency And Demand Response Programmes, 10-11 Apr 2008, Berlin**

Strategies to maximise opportunities within demand response programmes and embrace energy efficiency as a core expertise.

#### Key Topics

- Identify strategies to induce behavioural change
- Discuss successful ways to integrate utilities into future scenario
- Gain a valuable insight into the latest technologies to achieve successful demand response programmes
- Benefit from leading operators experiences in assessing demand response opportunities
- Evaluate possibilities to shift from a supply policy to a demand policy

Demand response programmes have many benefits for utility companies, both to improve operational efficiency and reduce costs but also to improve customer services and retain the utility customer, something essential nowadays with the deregulation and liberalisation of the utilities market. Furthermore utilities can save money by not building extra power plants. So Forward thinking utilities using energy efficiency and demand response programmes as one of their core competencies will generate extra benefits and lead the way to a new utility era.

For more information email [sumreenr@marcusevansuk.com](mailto:sumreenr@marcusevansuk.com)

## **Courses**

### **Sustainable Building & Services - the introductory course - 31 January/1 February 2008 – London, 6/7 March 2008 – Bristol, 24/25 April 2008 – Leeds**

The two-day introductory course run several times a year by The Green Register in various locations across the UK – this course leads to membership of TGR. Cost: £280 per person

For more information visit [www.greenregister.org.uk](http://www.greenregister.org.uk) or email [mail@greenregister.org.uk](mailto:mail@greenregister.org.uk)

## **Publications**

### **Micro-Wind Turbines In Urban Environments – An Assessment**

R Phillips, P Blackmore, J Anderson, M Clift, A Aguilo-Rullan and S Pester – IHS BRE Press ISBN 978-1-84806-021-0

There is little experience of the operation of small wind turbines mounted on domestic buildings in urban environments and little data on their performance in terms of power generation, service life and maintenance. This BRE Trust-funded study shows that, in addition to the initial embodied carbon and efficiency of the turbine, the payback period is highly sensitive to local wind conditions, transport costs, maintenance requirements and the life of the turbine.

It reveals large variations in output of micro-wind turbines in a city such as Manchester and a windy location such as Wick in Scotland, and between the outskirts and town centres in windy locations. In windy locations, micro-wind turbines can generate enough energy to pay back their carbon emissions within a few months or years but in large urban areas, micro-wind turbines may never pay back their carbon emissions.

Life cycle costing suggests that, even in favourable urban locations, financial payback is unlikely for all but the most durable, efficient and low maintenance turbines. This work confirms the need for a more rigorous method for estimating the electricity generated from building-mounted micro-wind turbines and for research and innovation in technology, planning and urban design to maximise the effectiveness of the turbine installations.

For more information on this and other BRE publications go to [www.ihsbrepres.com](http://www.ihsbrepres.com)

*If you have any news, events or courses you would like to publicise in Network then please email details to [network@aecb.net](mailto:network@aecb.net), or post to Chris Lord-Smith, y Graig, Llidiart-y-Waen, Llanidloes, SY18 6JT.*