



Network

News

February 2007

Member Benefits. Discounts Available For AECB Members.

(Please quote your membership number when ordering)

The following discounts are available to AECB members. We are extremely grateful to these businesses for their generous offers on goods and services. If any other companies would like to offer discounts to AECB members please contact us on 0845 456 9773, or email sally@aecb.net.

- Cheaper telephone calls, Internet service and free local rate number at Phone Co-op as well as a percentage paid to AECB – contact the Phone Co-op on 0845 458 9070 and quote AECB AF0130 or go to www.phone.coop/aecb
- £10 off membership or £9 off renewal of Environmental Transport Association (ETA) 01932 282882, quote S387 (alternative to AA, RAC etc)
- 18% off Auro range of natural paints (Green Shop) 01452 772020
- 10% off OS range of natural finishes (O&S) 01296 481220
- 2.5% off EcoPlus and Megrame windows, 12.5% off all paints (Biofa, OSMO, Homestrip paint stripper), 5% off insulation products (*Warmcel and Thermafleecce), 12.5% off sanitary ware and water saving systems (lfo etc) and 17.5% off Lindab guttering from the Green Building Store 01484 854898
- 2.5% off heating products from the One Stop Energy Shop (and VAT free zone too!) 01481 722299
- 5% off solar thermal installations from LlaniSolar Ltd. (Wales and the Borders) 0845 456 1290
- 5% off net cost of Okofen Automatic Wood Pellet Boiler Systems - applies to the following items: Boiler, fuel storage & transport, pump station & system controller from The Organic Energy Company phone 0845 458 4076
- 5% off lime products (lime mortars, plasters, cob blocks, cob bricks etc) from Mike Wye Associates 01409 281644
- 10% off O&S natural finishes and 20% off Imprap Profilan water based stains (Marrs & Cross and Wilfred Fairbairns Ltd) 0207 639 5106
- 5% off products purchased from the Green Shop (plus preferential quotes for solar goods) 01452 770629
- Preferential deals for rainwater harvesting systems from Rainharvesting Systems Ltd 01452 772000
- 10% discount for design auditing and air leakage testing. Air Tightness Services 0113 2887551
- Legal helpline, 20 mins free legal advice from Laytons Solicitors 0117 930 9500
- 5% discount on natural paints and finishes, treatments, carpets, timber flooring, insulation and clay products available mail order Natural Certified Products Ltd. 0870 0613427 or Fax: orders or enquiries 0871 900 6239
- 5% discount on selected products from Construction Resources 020 7450 2211

The Green Electricity Illusion – Technical Paper Version 1.0.0

AECB strategic guidance - Carbon Lite Programme

A growing number of new UK buildings, notably flats in London, are all-electric. They have no gas supply. Supporters defend this on the grounds that one can now purchase “green electricity”. This paper probes the reality which lies behind this claim.

The notion that once consumers are connected to a “green tariff” we should encourage their increased use of electric space and water heating appears to be severely flawed. Under today’s conditions, electric resistance heating gives rise to higher CO2 emissions than any other method of space and water heating except an open coal fire. Friends of the Earth recently stopped recommending any “green electricity supplier” due to the doubt and uncertainty surrounding “green tariffs”.

The calculations in this report show that even in the year 2050, the use of gas, oil or LPG for heating is unlikely to lead to markedly greater CO2 emissions than electric resistance heating. In urban areas, even in 2050, the use of gas-fired combined heat and power (CHP) plant and district heating would give lower CO2 emissions than electric resistance heating.

Electric resistance heating systems are inflexible and are incompatible with so-called future-proofing. They cannot be used to distribute an energy input from future renewable sources, if these sources happen to occur in the form of lukewarm or low-grade heat - as opposed to electricity, which is the highest grade of energy.....

Green Electricity Illusion technical paper (Paper 5) now available for download: go to www.aecb.net/energyinbuildings.php#background

Micro-Renewable Grant Funding Runs Dry 12 Days Into The Month

If you want a mini wind turbine, a solar panel or any other piece of micro-renewable kit and need the grant - bad luck. Householders will now have to wait until 1st of next month to make an application.

Renewable Energy Association members did not want householder grants to be rationed in this way. The obvious solution is to put more money in. The worst possible response is to put the brakes on spending – as it constrains the market, and threatens our members' livelihoods.

“Small companies like ours have invested and risked a lot of money to enter this market,” said Matt Hogan of Revolution Power. “This will cripple our business, as our clients will choose to wait rather than go ahead this month. They might even get so frustrated they drop their plans altogether. We work very hard to help combat climate change, why are we being hobbled by the government over such a paltry amount of money?”

“This week we have heard that the DTI is thinking of spending hundreds of millions on a mission to the moon. A couple of tens of millions would make all the difference to this grant programme. Our Government seems keener to spend money escaping the planet than in trying to save it,” said Philip Wolfe, Chief Executive of the Renewable Energy Association.

“It wouldn't be the first time that the householder grant programme has been topped up,” said Graham Meeks, of the REA. “It was good news when another £6.2m was put in, but the bad news was that this was taken from another element of the programme. That was robbing Peter to pay Paul, and the repercussions of that are now hitting our members”.

As of today, householders filling out the online application are told

“Thank you for your application for a Low Carbon Building Programme grant. Unfortunately funds for this month have already been fully allocated. Funding is made available from the 1st of every month until fully allocated. You are advised to reapply then.”

The DTI introduced a monthly allocation cap of £500,000 for householders wishing to apply for capital grants to install micro-generation in December last year. The money ran out on the 20th December.

The Minister thinks differently:-

Fortunes Will Be Made From Environmental Technologies

The environmental sector has the potential to create the next Bill Gates, according to Trade and Industry Secretary Alistair Darling. Speaking at the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Forum, Mr Darling continued to promote the Government's position that environmental policy and economic progress were joined at the hip. He told delegates that climate change represented one of the biggest challenges facing the business community, and society as a whole, and solving the problems it posed could provide massive economic opportunities.

He said that Nicholas Stern's review of the likely economic impacts of climate change had shown that we needed to find a new way of running our economy and that for every process which currently emitted carbon we would have to find a replacement which did not. He acknowledged that relatively high wages meant the UK could not compete with manufacturing hubs like China but when it came to innovation and ideas, Britain could stay ahead of the pack.

Roof Top Wind Generators.

There has been much controversy recently about the contribution that micro wind turbines can make to offset house hold electricity demand. Claims are made by producers that some say are unrealistic. The Warwick Microwind Trial is a project to evaluate the contribution rooftop-mounted wind turbines may make to improving the energy performance of existing homes in the UK.

The aim is to collect and publish objective data on performance when the systems are used by real families and homeowners. We will also explore how easy it is to get systems installed on houses and what the barriers and real costs are. Most importantly, we aim to discover what impact installing these systems has on awareness of energy efficiency in the households with the systems and amongst members of the local community.

The capital cost of the project is funded by the home and property owners who are participating, supported by government grants from the DTI where applicable. The research element of the project is funded by the Pilkington Energy Efficiency Trust, and the project is being co-ordinated and run by Encraft, working in partnership with Action21, Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council.

The project is supported by the DTI, BWEA and Micropower Council.

Go to www.warwickwindtrials.org.uk for more information.

MaxiFuels Propels Denmark Into Leading Bioethanol Position

MaxiFuels – the first fully integrated Danish bioethanol plant – was inaugurated at DTU, the Technical University of Denmark by Minister of Transport and Energy Flemming Hansen on September 13th.

"MaxiFuels has put Denmark in the lead in the international race for 2nd generation bioethanol, using agricultural waste products instead of grain and other potential foods. This plant is the first of its kind in the world, and at DTU we are proud to put yet another milestone on the road to Denmark becoming the world's leading high tech country", says DTU Pro-Vice-Chancellor Knut Conradsen.

DTU professor and MaxiFuels project leader Birgitte K. Ahring underlines the endurance and dedication behind the achievement and adds: "MaxiFuels is the result of visionary efforts by Danish industry, the Danish Energy Authority and Danish universities. The pilot plant would never have been built in Denmark without Danish Energy Authority research funds and the cooperation between industry and DTU. Thanks to this, the MaxiFuels project became a reality and a world first, filling us with immense pride".

Birgitte K. Ahring emphasizes the great economic and environmental potential of MaxiFuels. The technology behind the plant can be utilized in future biorefineries for the production of bioethanol and other products currently manufactured by oil refineries. Examples of the latter extend to the manufacture of acetic acid, polyester and nylon. The biorefineries will help current oil reserves last longer. In cost terms, MaxiFuels bioethanol not only matches what used to be the world's cheapest bioethanol; its 2nd generation technology will turn out bioethanol at a lower cost than 1st generation leader Brazil thanks to a process making full use of the raw material:

"The code word for MaxiFuels is maximum utilization. Think of the process as a carbon slaughterhouse. Every carbon atom present in the raw material is utilized, resulting not only in bio-ethanol but also in other valuable energy products like methane gas and hydrogen. The residual product at the end of the process can be used as a solid fuel. Maximum utilization is a major contributor to the exceptionally competitive production process", says Birgitte K. Ahring.

Calculations based on pilot plant performance indicate that large-scale commercial plants will produce bioethanol at a price of 0.31 Euro/0.40 US Dollars per litre.

While already low, the price could decrease further by optimizing the process. Full and innovative utilization of the raw material adds a number of environmental and energy advantages, e.g. recycling of the process water after purifying it with the use of biogas generated in the production process.

The pilot plant is the first step towards commercialization of the technology. Professor Birgitte K. Ahring anticipates that within the next two years Denmark will see the first bioethanol demonstration plant based on the MaxiFuels technology. The pilot plant will also be used for further basic research, contributing to new knowledge and optimization of 2nd generation bioethanol processes.

Bio-Energy Grants Flower This Winter

Defra has just announced a 10-week grant application window for biomass-fuelled heat and CHP projects. Grants are intended to help bridge the cost differential between bio-energy and a fossil fuel alternative and range from £25,000 to £1m.

This is the third funding round of the £10-15m Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme, which was announced by the government last year as part of its response to a report from its Biomass Task Force, and is open to the industrial, commercial and community sectors (including local authorities and schools). The grant application window will close on 9 March 2007.

More information is available at www.aea-energy-and-environment.com/index2.htm

Building Goes Green At A Profit... WhatDoIDoWithThis.com Launched

A green solution to the building trade's burgeoning problem of what to do with surplus building materials, with the launch of a new website.

A new online marketplace, dedicated to selling surplus, new, used, or salvaged building stock/materials, to trade and DIY enthusiasts across the UK has been launched. With a well-populated list of categories, WhatDoIDoWithThis.com makes it simple to buy and sell items, and includes everything from masonry to kitchens and plant and machinery to roofing.

WhatDoIDoWithThis.com encourages the building trade to recycle their surplus materials, allowing sellers to make a profit on their unwanted stock.

Sellers on WhatDoIDoWithThis.com can:

- Sell products easily, through the specialised account area.
- Reach new customers.
- Increase (company) brand awareness.
- Edit their listing at any time.
- Enjoy speed and simplicity of a well designed website.

George Colwell, Managing Director: "The construction industry recognises that much of the waste on a site can be saved or reused, and is under increasing pressure to adopt recycling waste procedures. The launch of our new website bridges the gap between the industry looking for environmental solutions to its surplus stock and DIY consumers looking for premium materials at competitive prices."

With the spiralling cost of disposing of surplus materials, WhatDoIDoWithThis.com turns the building trade's problem into a profit.

Special Launch offer - 50% off all listing prices. For more information go to www.wdidwt.com

The Green Providers Directory

The Green Providers Directory is a free and easy to use service founded by Dr Gary Robertshaw. Its aim is to help customers search for green providers, with links to 100s of goods and services including gifts, gadgets, fair trade clothing, renewable energy and lots more. Most of the goods listed are unique and cannot be bought in the shops.

In addition, The Green Providers Directory provides news updates, blogs, advice and information on the environment, plus tips on recycling, renewable energy and related topics. You can also register to receive their free newsletter.

Go to www.search-for-me.co.uk for more information.

News From The UK Green Building Council

Launch of the UKGBC at Ecobuild. The UKGBC will be launched at Ecobuild on the 27th February 2007. Invitations to attend an evening reception on 28th February will be extended to all those registered on the UKGBC website. We hope you will be able to join us. For further information on Ecobuild please visit www.ecobuild.co.uk.

To date over £1 million has been pledged by UKGBC Founding Members to support the development of the Council and build the membership base. The UKGBC is a unique voice for the built environment community, bringing together companies and organisations who work on the demand and supply side including building funders, developers, agents, designers, contractors and product manufacturers.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the UKGBC, the Full and Associate Membership information and application form (online or download) will be available on our website from early February at www.ukgbc.org/membership.

Events

Homes For Good Exhibition 9th And 10th February.

Come to The Homes for Good Exhibition, to see over 80 exhibits and attend a few of the 24 presentations and discover the many different ways of reducing your contribution to climate change. Friday 9th & Saturday 10th February. 10am till 4pm. Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare. £5 entry to the exhibition.

For more details: www.sustainablehousing.org.uk/HomesforGood2007.html.

Greenprint: Design for Sustainable Living Exhibition, 30 January – 25 March 2007

With the twin challenges of climate change and an acknowledged housing shortage, the need to construct 'sustainably' is higher than ever on the agenda. So how should we build to protect the future of the planet? What can we learn from recent sustainable housing developments? And what is it really like to live in an eco house?

From self-build and community projects to developer-led schemes, this exhibition explores a range of low-impact housing solutions employing a wide variety of materials and techniques. Showcasing examples from the South West and beyond, Greenprint: Design for Sustainable Living presents a fascinating snapshot of the state of sustainable housing today. Projects featured include Great Bow Yard (Somerset), Accordia (Cambridge), Debut (Rugby), Seldown (Poole), Springhill Co-Housing (Stroud) and Ashley Vale Self Build (Bristol).

As well as project descriptions, images and models the exhibition features interviews with people who live in the developments and those who were involved in planning and building them, presenting a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at sustainability in action. And the exhibition concludes with comment from two leading lights in the industry, Craig White of White Design and Bill Gething, Partner with Feilden Clegg Bradley Architects and the RIBA President's Sustainability Advisor - with a look at schemes that are very recently completed or still in progress, thus presenting the very cutting edge of sustainable housing in the UK today.

The exhibition also marks the launch of Spring Green - The Architecture Centre's spring sustainability season, which will include a number of workshops, talks and site tours.

Eco-Renovation Surgery - Talk and debate: Thursday 15 March, 18.30 – 20.30, £5

The owners of the two Eco-Renovated properties (Mike Macrae and Lucy Pedler) talk about their experiences and offer practical advice in a question and answer session.

Eco-Renovation Tour: Monday 19 March, 14.00, £5

Lucy Pedler opens her doors to demonstrate exactly how she went about renovating her 1930s house.

Bill Gething, Feilden Clegg Bradley Architects - Talk: Tuesday 13 February, 18.30, £5

Bill Gething, Feilden Clegg Bradley partner and the RIBA President's Adviser on Sustainability, reveals two exciting projects currently in development.

Jonathan Hines, Architype – Talk: Thursday 1 March, 18.30, £5

In this talk Architype director, Jonathan Hines, tells the story behind two groundbreaking projects: Genesis and Springhill.

Make Mine An Eco-Home - Day Course: Saturday 3 March, 10.00 – 17.00, £40

This one-day course is designed to give you all the practical information you need to make your house a healthier and more planet-friendly place to live.

Diary Of An Eco-Builder - Talk: Thursday 8 March, 18.30, £5

Will Anderson writes for The Independent and has just published his Diary of an Eco-Builder, a warts-and-all story of his project to build a contemporary eco-home in south London.

Bill Flinn, Greenheart - Talk: Thursday 22 March, 18.30, £5

In this talk, Bill will discuss the day-to-day reality of building green, showing examples of their work over several years, including Greenheart's most recently finished project.

Sustainable Urban Living continues throughout 2007 – look out for more events later in the year.

To book for any of the events in this programme, please call The Architecture Centre on 0117 922 1540 or email info@architecturecentre.co.uk. Go to www.architecturecentre.co.uk for more information.

Action Plan For Sustainable Procurement

Sustainable procurement across the public sector is about to move up the agenda with the imminent publication of the government's response to the action plan prepared by its Sustainable Procurement Taskforce. Back in 2005, the government announced its ambition to become the leader in sustainable procurement among EU members by 2009, and the action plan sets out the framework for achieving this.

To bring the industry up to speed on what is about to happen, the Institute of Civil Engineers is holding a one-day Sustainable Procurement Conference at its Great George Street headquarters on 7 February 2007. Speakers will include Sir Neville Simms, who led the task force responsible for the action plan, along with Ian Andrews from the Sustainable Operations Board, Jonathon Porritt from the Sustainable Development Commission and climate change minister Ian Pearson.

More information at www.iceconferences.com/sustainableprocurement

Climate Change: Impacts And Responses, 20th February 2007

West Wales Eco Centre invite you to attend an illustrated talk by Sir John Houghton, a leading climate change scientist, followed by a Q & A session with Sir John Houghton and a panel of local specialists.

Time: 7:30 pm for 8pm start. Location: Queens Hall, Narberth, Pembrokeshire. Refreshments available 7:30 - 8pm.

For more information or a poster call and leave a message on 01239 831933. Pembrokeshire FOE, c/o Span Arts, Narberth

Delivering The Code For Sustainable Homes (CSH) – Invitation To Attend Passivhaus Workshop And Study Tour

In response to the government's recent launch of the Code for Sustainable Homes, BRE organised a PassivHaus fact-finding visit to Hanover in Germany in February 2007. The workshop and study tour will be hosted by proKlima, the regional climate protection agency. A full briefing regarding the PassivHaus principles will be provided along with visits to a number of PassivHaus homes.

PassivHaus has been phenomenally successful in establishing construction standards for new houses in Germany which results in CO2 emissions of about a quarter of those currently mandated in other Northern European Countries. PassivHaus is not style or construction method prescriptive but based upon a "whole house" approach to design - this results in extremely energy efficient new homes (which don't need a conventional central heating system) and have very high standards of indoor air quality -with major benefits in terms of health and comfort (including a significant reduction in childhood asthma). For further information see www.passivhaus.org.uk.

The tour was sold out but BRE are organising another tour for the Spring. If you would like to register your interest in taking part in the tour please contact: Caroline McGill, events@bre.co.uk, or tel: 01923 664800. A full list of BRE events are on their web site at www.bre.co.uk/events.jsp

AECB Energy Performance Standards – Early Adopters' Workshop – 10th May, Milton Keynes

Would you like to learn more about the AECB energy performance standards and how to achieve them?

Are you willing to share problems and solutions?

Do you want to network with the growing number of developers, architects and builders who have committed to the standards?

The AECB has organised a one day workshop for early adopters of the AECB draft energy performance standards' targets in conjunction with National Energy Services. The workshop will be held on the 10th May in Milton Keynes.

Some early adopter projects are at concept stage, some at sketch scheme stage and others at detailed design stage or under construction - several are now complete. Early adopters are designing and building projects in several categories, domestic, office/retail, educational and community.

Currently AECB members are involved in at least 35,350 square metres of construction aiming for Silver (70% reductions in CO2 – compared to the average stock equivalent) and at least 10,000 square metres of construction aiming for Gold (95% reduction). Other non-member developers are committed to a further significant number of large developments aiming for Silver.

The workshop is open to members who have committed to aiming for the AECB energy performance targets at Silver and Gold levels in one or more projects, and have responded to the recent AECB 'early adopters' survey, logging their projects.

Any members who have not completed the survey who are aiming to build to the standards (specific projects) and who wish to come to the event can still complete the original survey form (6 questions) and the later request for project floor areas: download the combined forms from: www.aecb.net/energyinbuildings.php and follow instructions.

Numbers are limited to 100 - on a first come first serve basis.

Full details and a booking form will be sent to all early adopters who have completed the survey. There will be a charge for the workshop in the order of £50.

We are grateful to National Energy Services who offered to sponsor the workshop and who will be inviting some of their own members to attend to learn more about the standards, and to begin thinking about how the monitoring and accreditation aspects of the standards might work.

Joint AECB/Renewable Energy Association Micro Renewables Conference

Renewables and Energy Efficiency – working together to deliver the low carbon building agenda, 14th and 15th May 2007, at the New Century Hall, Manchester

Recent months have seen the publication of the “Code for Sustainable Homes”, consultations on “Building a Greener Future” and a new supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 on planning and climate change. Will the implementation of these take us far enough in delivering zero carbon homes? Why have some, such as the Sustainable Building Association, gone further?

The REA maintains that planning policies rather than grant programmes will provide the main long-term stimulus for growth in the micro and building-integrated renewables market. Govt. has declared its goal of achieving zero carbon new homes within a decade and at the last REA conference, Housing and Planning Minister, Yvette Cooper urged local authorities to include on-site renewable energy measures in their local development plans.

Can the positive planning agenda build a mass market for renewables? Will the requirement for a renewables contribution also deliver energy efficiency as developers strive to lower overall energy consumption? Will delivery of low carbon homes also deliver a micro-renewable market? At what cost? How much can we expect of building regulations as a stimulus for micro-renewables?

This conference will look at the drivers for low carbon homes and whether in the experiences of builders, developers, local authorities and renewable companies, it is possible to deliver these at little extra cost.

Go to www.r-p-a.org.uk/article_default_view.fcm?articleid=2316 for more information.

AECB Annual Conference 2007

This year we are going to the stunning Rivergreen Centre Durham. The date for your diary is 29th – 30th June 2007

This office and conference development shows what can be achieved when a committed developer works with an equally committed sympathetic architect. This award winning building was Designed by AECB Members Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall Architects Ltd.

The centre features:

Sedum Roof, Double height rammed earth wall, comprehensive energy management system, Solar roof panels provide hot water, the boilers use wood pellets for fuel (the ash used for compost), lavatories use recycled rainwater and there's an intelligent lighting system. Unusually, for an office building, there is no mechanical ventilation; circulating fresh air is provided by windows and louvres. The majority of the materials were sourced from the UK, locally if possible. Go to www.rivergreen.co.uk/accessible/rivergreen_centre_new.html for more information on the centre.

We are planning a some really high quality workshops and tours of the centre, trade stands, social evening.

Put the date in your diaries now.

More information and booking details coming soon. Go to www.aecb.net for up to date information.

The 2010 Imperative Teach-in Qualifies for HSW CE Credits

The response to the 2010 Imperative Global Emergency Teach-in has been incredible with tens of thousands of people from all over the world registering. This is a reminder to all the Architecture 2030 subscribers who wish to participate to register soon. The Teach-in will be a great opportunity to hear the latest developments on global warming and climate change, presented by Dr. James Hansen, Director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies; to learn why the Building Sector is the major contributor to global warming and how those in the design fields can turn this sector around, presented by Edward Mazria, Founder and Executive Director of Architecture 2030; and to be inspired by the global building projects of Arup that are achieving dramatically reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, presented by Chris Luebke, Director of Global Foresight and Innovation Initiative.

Because the Teach-in will be interactive (providing for questions and comments to be submitted in real-time), it will also be an unprecedented opportunity to engage a large cross-section of your peers in a critical discussion on the future of design as it relates to global warming and climate change. In addition to opening the Teach-in and speaking on the importance of all design fields in addressing this global crisis, Susan Szenasy, Editor of Metropolis, will also be moderating this thought-provoking and informative discussion.

Note: When you register, please provide a reasonable estimate of the number of people you anticipate will be participating from your site. For example, you might be participating as an individual, as a design firm of 25 people, or as a school of 800. We very much appreciate your help in this matter. Registering will help us size our equipment appropriately to ensure the best experience for everyone.

HSW Continuing Education Credits: The Teach-in qualifies for three AIA HSW Continuing Education Credits. We will be posting the instructions for how to apply for these credits on the website next week.

Technical/Equipment Information: To avoid millions of individual log-ons (which only Google could handle!), we are encouraging everyone to participate in groups whenever possible (see Locating a Group below). This will allow for and encourage discussion, which is critical to the goals and success of the Teach-in. We are also asking everyone to limit their log-ons to one computer for viewing the web-cast (via LCD projector and screen for groups) AND one computer/laptop per 100 participants for submitting questions/comments. For example, a group of 1 to 100 would have one computer for viewing/screen projection and one computer for submitting questions/comments. A group of 800 would have one computer for viewing/screen projection and up to 8 computers/laptops for submitting questions/comments. If you feel you need additional computers/laptops, we ask that you limit your groups' log-ons to one computer/laptop per 50 participants.

For more detailed set-up, technical and logistic information, we encourage you to download the files "Teach-in Prep" and "Teach-in Materials" from www.2010imperative.org/downloads.html.

Locating a Group: Many participating groups are listed on our website and we encourage everyone interested in joining a group to check the list and see if there is a group available in their area: www.2010imperative.org.

Courses

Introduction To Renewable Energy Course, University of Wales, Aberystwyth

These three-day long Introduction to Renewable Energy Weekend courses give an overview of renewable energy technology and outline the basic principles of solar electricity, solar water heating, wind power, micro-hydro, biomass and heat pumps and their application in urban and rural environments. The courses are aimed at those in the business, non-profit, public and academic sectors who wish to get a comprehensive introduction to renewable energy technologies, as well as those wishing to installing renewable energy systems in both urban or rural settings. The emphasis is on how things work and what it is practicable to do, and participants have the opportunity to discuss their own projects. At the end of the course participants should be able to do initial designs for renewable energy systems. A PDF giving full details of the course can be found at www.greendragonenergy.co.uk/pdf/Intro_to_Renewable_Energy_Course.pdf

Venue: The Old School, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. 2 courses are scheduled for 2007: 20, 21 & 22 April and 26, 27 & 28 October. Cost: £150 (accommodation not included)

To register for this course contact: Beth Freeman, University of Wales, email: bff@aber.ac.uk, tel: 01970 622 677

Renewable Energy For Planners, Hampshire, England

This two day course is designed to familiarise planners and those in other professions with the range of renewable energy technologies currently available: solar electricity, solar water heating, wind power, micro-hydro, biomass and heat pumps. Venue: The Sustainability Centre in Hampshire.

2 courses are scheduled for 2007: April 17 & 18 and October 23 & 24 October. The course costs £130 (includes buffet lunch on both days). To register and obtain details of accommodation arrangements and how to get there, contact the Sustainability Centre's Courses Officer, Raina Jones, tel: 01730 823166, email: info@earthworks-trust.com. A PDF giving full information is available at www.greendragonenergy.co.uk/pdf/Renewable_Energy_for_Planners.pdf

Wind & Solar Electricity Course, near Milton Keynes, England

A weekend course (Friday evening - Sunday lunchtime) introducing the basic principles and technology of solar and wind electrical systems. Venue: Low Impact Living Initiative, near Milton Keynes.

2 courses are scheduled for 2007: 13-15 April and 19-21 October. The course costs £180 high-waged; £150 waged; £120 student / unwaged. To register contact the Low Impact Living Initiative, tel: 01296 714184. email: lili@lowimpact.org. A PDF giving full information is available at www.greendragonenergy.co.uk/pdf/LILI_Wind_Solar_Course.pdf

Solar Electricity Installation Course, South of France

This five-day intensive course is for stand-alone solar electric systems (not grid-connected). It includes numerous site visits and practicals. The course is ideal for anyone who wants to install their own solar electric system, start a solar business or seek employment in the solar industry. The course includes visits to several working solar systems and participants will have the opportunity to develop their own projects. Classes will be in English.

3 courses are scheduled for 2007: May 14-18, June 11-15 and September 10-14. The course costs €1,300 (includes food and accommodation) - early booking discount available. To register contact Cindy Guilbert, Les Amis des Numero Neuf, the course organisers, tel: + 33 (0) 468 39 486 28 37 (France), email: lesamis9@gmail.com. A PDF giving full information is available at www.greendragonenergy.co.uk/pdf/Solar_Course_France.pdf

Renewable Energy In The Urban Environment, Berlin

This course will take place in Berlin, a city in the forefront of renewable energy. The course will include lectures and numerous visits to a variety of working renewable energy installations. The focus of the course is the range of technologies which are suitable for use in cities and suburban areas. The course is planned for spring 2007 but dates and details have not yet been finalised.

Anyone interested in receiving further information on this course contact: Frank Jackson, tel: + 49 (0) 30 486 249 98 (Berlin), email: info@greendragonenergy.co.uk

Low Impact Living Initiative Courses For March

Residential Weekend Course: how to make biodiesel – March 16-18. Cost: high-waged £180 / waged £150 / unwaged £120. For more details, see: www.lowimpact.org/courseoutlinebiodiesel.htm

Residential Weekend Course: self-build solar hot water – March 23-25. Cost: builder £1695 non-builder £150. For more details, see: www.lowimpact.org/courseoutlineselfbuildsolar.htm

Residential Weekend Course: veg oil engine conversion – March 30 - Apr 1. Cost: high-waged £180 / waged £150 / unwaged £120. For more details, see: www.lowimpact.org/courseoutlinevegoilconversion.htm

Location: Low-impact Living Initiative, Redfield Community, Buckinghamshire. All food and accommodation included - plus free beers, wine, tea and biscuits!

Are You Interested In Helping The Peasant Evolution Producers Cooperative Build Our Timber Frame Barn?

We are a cooperative of small producers based around Bridport in West Dorset who are building a processing barn for the cooperative which will include a vegetable storage area, a dairy, a meat cutting room, and other processing rooms for juice, jams, chutneys and herbal products. The barn will be made from local timber and local thatch by skilled builders with help from willing workers who would like the opportunity to be involved in this exciting project.

Volunteer opportunities in building work, include concreting, reed bed construction, alternative electricity, timber framing, thatching, carpentry, and cob construction.

Courses are offered to give you the opportunity to gain skills:

- April 1-6, 2007 - Timber Framing Course taught by Henry Russell
- April 9- 13, 2007 - Timber Framing Course
- April 14-15, 2007 - Barn Raising and Barn Dance
- April 16 - 21 - Thatching Course
- April 23 - 28 - Thatching Course
- May 12-13 - Cob Construction Course

For more details contact Jyoti Fernandes, Fivepenny Farm, Spence Lane, Wootton Fitzpaine, Dorset DT6 6DF. Tel: 01297 560 755 or email: jyoti@tlio.org.uk

Situations Vacant

Architectural Technician Required.

Person with good working knowledge of the Building Regulations and general construction principles is required for busy Architectural Practice in Redruth, Cornwall. An interest in environmental issues would be an advantage. All enquiries, contact Charles Green on 01209 216964 or email charlesgreendesign@phonecoop.coop

If you have any news, events or courses you would like to publicise in Network then please email details to network@aecb.net, phone 0845 456 1290, or post to Chris Lord-Smith, y Graig, Llidiart-y-Waen, Llanidloes, SY18 6JT.