



Network

News

March 2007

Year Zero Brought Forward In Wales

The Welsh Assembly has dramatically upped the sustainability stakes by setting a zero carbon target for all new buildings by 2011 – five years ahead of the UK government's recently-announced target for zero carbon homes. Despite reports of scepticism from some quarters, failure would prove a major embarrassment for the assembly, which has made high performance buildings the headlining policy of its emerging climate change strategy.

First of all, the assembly needs to take responsibility for its own Building Regulations, currently set by Whitehall. Environment minister Carwyn Jones says the assembly is in the process of opening discussions with the UK government over devolution of the regulatory framework. 'Once these regulations are devolved, it will allow us to move further and faster on achieving zero carbon on all new buildings in Wales,' Jones said.

Architects working in Wales will see the effect of the new policy stance immediately, however. As a first step, the assembly has decided that all new buildings funded by the devolved government must be built to the BREEAM 'Excellent' standard, the highest benchmark currently available. This is set to become a core condition of all new projects within six months.

The assembly's zero carbon ambition is all the more challenging because it applies to all new buildings, not just new homes. The UK government has so far committed to a series of Part L revisions for housing – starting with a 25% improvement in 2010 – but has not given any parallel commitments to offices and workplaces. Source: RIBA Practice Bulletin - No. 386 (22 February 2007)

The Carbon Challenge

Communities Secretary Ruth Kelly has unveiled details of a new international challenge for house builders to design and build flagship zero-carbon and low carbon communities. The Carbon Challenge, which will be run by English Partnerships, calls on developers to raise standards of design, construction, energy and water use and waste disposal so that these techniques can be used in the future as a benchmark for mainstream development. It also seeks to meet rising expectations from the public for more sustainable communities which offer reduced bills and a higher quality of housing design.

For further information go to www.wired-gov.net/WGLaunch.aspx?ARTCL=43969

Improvements In Sustainability Of Buildings Highlighted

The reports on the Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004 and the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 highlight action that Government has already taken such as the Code for Sustainable Homes and outline ambitious future plans including the Review of Existing Buildings, which will examine how to improve energy and water efficiency as well as looking at the impacts on climate change of all existing stock.

For further information go to www.wired-gov.net/WGLaunch.aspx?ARTCL=44264

WADE Issues Report On The Potential Of Onsite Power In The Cement Industry

Edinburgh, UK- The World Alliance for Decentralized Energy (WADE), an international non profit organization, today released a major new study examining the potential of onsite power in the cement sector. The report concludes that major cost savings and globally significant CO2 reductions are possible if more cement plants generate their own electricity onsite.

Cement manufacturing is a significant contributor to climate change, responsible for around 5% of total global CO2 emissions. The report estimates that onsite power in cement plants has the potential to meet more than 0.4% of total global electricity demand. It is estimated that if the full potential of bottom cycle cogeneration alone were realized global annual emissions could be reduced by some 68.3MT CO2. Potential exists for both waste heat recovery and top cycle cogeneration. Over 2,900MW of installed electric generating capacity in cement plants worldwide is documented in the report.

The report is available at no charge from WADE's website: www.localpower.org/documents_pub/report_cement.pdf

Turnbull To Pull Plug On Light Bulbs

Australia's Federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull is announcing today that conventional, incandescent light bulbs are to be phased out over the next three years and replaced with energy-saving globes.

He says this will save up to two million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions in Australia over the next few years. Mr Turnbull told Channel Nine this action could also make an enormous impact globally. "If the rest of the world supports us,

does what we've been doing here, follows our lead, this will reduce an amount of energy, in effect make the world more energy efficient to the tune of five times as much energy as Australia consumes, so this is a little thing but it's a massive change," he said.

The Queensland Greens have welcomed the plan. Greens spokesman Drew Hutton says he cannot see the plan causing problems for people who still use the bulbs. "As long as you've got a proper phase in period, and as long as you've got the alternatives there, then I don't think there'll be much difficulty at all," he said.

"This is one of the easiest things in fact, that is going to be able to be done. A lot of people are shifting over from incandescent light bulbs already. I don't think we've got any left in my house, for example."

The Government is not the first to flag a ban on incandescent bulbs; last month, lawmakers in California proposed a bill to phase out the traditional light bulbs in the state by 2012.

Homeowners Thwarted In Fight To Cut Carbon Emissions

For the second month in a row, many homeowners seeking to invest renewable energy have been left empty handed – as Government funds ran out in little more than an hour. The Government has also slashed the grants available for solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, meaning that householders will now need to find another £2,500 for a typical installation.

Funding is available for microrenewables under the Government's Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP). In a repeat of February's chaotic situation, funds today were allocated in full after just seventy minutes. The Renewable Energy Association (REA) has repeated calls for an end the monthly capping of household grant allocations that is thwarting customers' green ambitions and destroying the profitability of many businesses.

It is calling on the Chancellor to make adequate funds available in the Budget on March 21st.

Graham Meeks, Head of Mass-Market Renewables at the REA said: "There is clearly an enormous appetite from the public to get to grips with the threat of climate change and put renewable energy to work in their homes. With this level of demand, microrenewables stand out as one of the most promising opportunities for cutting carbon emissions in our homes. It is tragic that with this wave of public support, the Government seems so unwilling to reinforce success. It's one thing having a programme in place, but quite another to make sure that it is properly funded and up to the job. Is it too much to ask for Government to help homeowners and businesses to fight climate change, instead of standing in their way?"

For more information visit www.r-e-a.net

'Greenest' Olympic Strategy Published

The Olympic Delivery Authority launched its strategy this week for the 'greenest games in modern times,' but failed to excite environmentalists by the scale of its ambition. While the overall strategy looks relatively ambitious by today's standards, doubts were quickly raised about whether it will look like a showcase of UK environmental best practice in 2012.

On the headlining energy front, the ODA says that it will achieve a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2013, although a major contribution here will come from on-site renewable energy generation, rather than very low carbon buildings. One area where the ODA will be giving a lead to the industry for a major venue and infrastructure project will be waste reduction. To reduce waste through design, the ODA wants 90% of demolition material in the Olympic Park area to be re-used or recycled and at least 20% of all materials used in permanent venues to be from recycled sources.

Other key elements of the strategy include reducing water consumption by 40% in venues and 20% in residential development and putting a strong emphasis on walking, cycling and public transport to and within the Olympic Park. But critics are already lining up to criticise the proposed environmental standards for the Olympic Village to be delivered by private sector developer Westfield as part of its neighbouring Stratford City development. Westfield submitted its masterplan and environmental strategy to the ODA last week and has been upfront about its intention to do no more than will be required by Building Regulations and normal planning procedures.

The ODA strategy requires the Olympic Village to be 25% more energy efficient than current Building Regulations, but the government plans to tighten up Part L by 25% by 2010 anyway two years before the games are held. By 2013, when energy standards are expected to be 44% more efficient, the Village will already be lagging behind statutory requirements. The statement by ODA chief executive David Higgins this week that 'we are meeting tomorrow's requirements today,' appears to have a more literal meaning than he intended. The ODA's Sustainable Development Strategy is available in full at www.london2012.org/en/news/publications/publications.htm

Source: RIBA Practice Bulletin - No. 382 (25 January 2007)

After The Flood Guidance

A 'living draft' of new planning guidance on managing flood risk has been published as a support document to PPS 25 (Development and Flood Risk), which was released in December. The new document is presented as both interim guidance and a consultation on the final guidance note.

The Communities Department says it is planning a series of regional workshops in partnership with the RTP1 to help planners understand how PPS25 should work in practice. It seems that the government's decision to produce PPS statements in a much slimmer format than the old PPGs is creating a need for additional explanation. The Practice Guide, which is mainly concerned with flood risk assessment, is at www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1506265. Source: RIBA Practice Bulletin - No. 386 (22 February 2007)

Want To Carry On Flying As Normal And Clear Your Conscience With Carbon Offsetting

Cheatneutral is about offsetting infidelity. We're the only people doing it, and Cheatneutral is a joke. Carbon offsetting is about paying for the right to carry on emitting carbon. The Carbon offset industry sold £60 million of offsets last year, and is rapidly growing. Carbon offsetting is also a joke. Go to www.cheatneutral.com to salve your conscience.

The Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes

The Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes (EEPfH) produces publications that aim to reduce the energy consumption of UK households and reduce the number of people that are unable to sufficiently heat their homes during winter. AEA Energy & Environment has been commissioned by the EEPfH to identify individuals that would be interested in receiving updates on these publications.

Information is available to members of this service in a range of fields, including fuel poverty, heat pumps, renewable energy, sustainable building and energy efficiency. For a full list of the publications to date visit www.eeph.org.uk/resource/partnership/.

Any communications sent to members of this list would be targeted and as such, those listed would only be sent papers/information on topics that they have expressed an interest in. Contacts may also be asked to take part in occasional pieces of research for the EEPfH, such as an email questionnaire. Participation in these research activities is not compulsory.

If you would like to be added to this contact list, please send your contact details to gillian.graham@aeat.co.uk along with a list of the key areas that you are particularly interested in.

Improving The Sustainability Of Highways Works – Services And Supplies, Market Engagement Exercise

Invitation to submit information on sustainable alternatives to highways on materials, products, and operations and sustainable street furniture.

The London Borough of Croydon is seeking to improve the sustainability of the materials and work methods involved in carrying out highways works. As part of this initiative, a Prior Information Notice (PIN) in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) has been published inviting designers, manufacturers and suppliers of materials, products and operations to submit information on sustainable alternatives to highways on materials, products, and operations for (potential) inclusion in their works specifications, Schedule of Rates and reference catalogues.

Croydon would like to hear from manufacturers, suppliers and designers of materials, products, operations that are more sustainable and are: tried and tested and ready for early adoption; near market ready and would benefit from pilot schemes; or are in development and would benefit from meeting potential buyers to better understand their needs. They are open to new and innovative solutions, and submissions from SMEs are encouraged.

Manufacturers, Suppliers and Designers are invited to RESPOND to the PIN by providing information on their materials, products and designs via a response form. This form and a prospectus providing more information can be downloaded from: www.lcpe.gov.uk/sustainable/. Please note that submissions should be made by 16th March 2007 to enable participation in a Meet the Buyer event that is being planned.

In the PIN they state that they would be open to assisting the market entry of products through early adoption, pilots and a forward commitment to include such items on the schedule of works should performance criteria be met. There may also be scope for a forward commitment to purchase by Croydon for supply to contractors. This project is being undertaken with the London Centre of Procurement Excellence www.lcpe.gov.uk and the Environmental Innovations Advisory Group (EIAG) www.dti.gov.uk/sectors/environmental/EIAG/page10066.html. The PIN can be found at: <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:7449-2007:TEXT:EN:HTML>

Local And Regional Authorities Take The Initiative In Helping Clarify The European WEEE Directive

Local and regional authorities have lots of expertise on the collection and recycling of waste, and are now offering their help to the European Authorities in order to clarify the WEEE Directive. This legislation has so far been implemented in a confusing and inconsistent way throughout Europe. In many cases, local authorities are victims of insufficient application of producer responsibility. A newly created group, the WEEE Public Interest Network (WEEE-PIN) will now gather further information on the subject and use this to the benefit of all European citizens.

The WEEE Public Interest Network (WEEE-PIN) held its first meeting on 16th February, in the presence of Mrs Huytebroeck, Environment Minister for the Brussels Region, MM Christof Delatter (INTERAFVAL, B) and Nicolas Garnier (AMORCE), members of ACR+ and co-presidents of this initiative. The WEEE-PIN was created within ACR+ (Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management) and represents local and regional public authorities on WEEE issues at European level. It aims to help to clarify the WEEE Directive, as the way it has been implemented in Europe is confusing and inconsistent.

For instance, while the collection target set by the EU regulation of 4 kg/inhab/year remains quite low (considering the 20kg per person of Electric and Electronic Equipment put onto the market each year), the average collection rate in Europe was just 3,3 kg/inhab in 2005, while some countries already achieved 15 kg (Sweden). Even more concerning: there are about 90 different producer compliance schemes for WEEE management in Europe, which collect millions of euros on new Electric and Electronic Equipment in Europe when these are put on the market. Are we sure that all this money is always used for the benefit of the consumers and the environment?

There are also a range of issues which remain to be cleared up:

- The support of quality reuse and especially of social economy enterprises to be integrated into the systems.

- The costs covered by producers are currently not well identified.
- The different models of producer compliance scheme could be benchmarked according to their environmental, economic and social efficiency.
- The transparency of the functioning of the different systems is put into question in many countries.
- There is a need to develop markets and environmental standards for collection and treatment of WEEE in Europe (in order to avoid eco-dumping and illegal exports).
- Systems dealing with household waste require a specific and different approach from those dealing with commercial or industrial waste.

So there are many questions to which answers must be found during the revision of the WEEE Directive. This first meeting of the WEEE-PIN attracted about 25 participants from seven European countries, including three networks of cities and nine cities and regions. The objective is now to get together a maximum of participating local and regional authorities, as well as other actors (other than producers of equipment and their compliance schemes), in order to involve local authorities in the revision process of Directive 2006/92/EC and make their voices heard in the debates.

For any further information visit www.acrplus.org, email csa@acrplus.org, or phone +32 2 234 65 04

Observer Ethical Awards Launched.

The second annual Observer Ethical Awards, in association with Ecover. Over the next two months we will be scouring the UK to find the most innovative and passionate ethical projects. From ambassadors of Fairtrade to solar-powered boats, we want to hear from you about the inventors battling climate change, the children doing the most to protect the biosphere, and the shop keepers promoting community equity.

Since we launched the awards last year, the ethical movement has snowballed, moving into the mainstream and becoming increasingly dynamic. This year we have added four new categories to reflect these changes. We want to know which supermarket has introduced the best ethical initiative and to find out which politician you consider has earned his or her ethical stripes. If green is the new black in Westminster, it's been brewing on planet fashion for the past 18 months. We'll be celebrating it with our third new award, for Best Ethical Fashion Product. Similarly, we are looking for the best conservation projects with UK links. This final new award reflects how many conservationists are embroiled in a long-term struggle to save our common biodiversity.

To vote and for more information go to <http://observer.guardian.co.uk/ethicalawards>

Warmcell – Best Buy Insulation According To Which? Magazine

Warmcel 100 recycled newspaper insulation was chosen as Best Buy in a Which? Magazine October 2006 report on insulation products, coming out as the top performer of all 10 insulation products tested. Warmcel was found to have excellent insulation properties and was the easiest of all the products to install. It also scored the highest on environmental grounds. The magazine concluded Warmcel 100 “was a star performer in our tests, offering great insulation at a decent price”.

For more information on Warmcel go to: www.excellfibre.com/building/products3.html

UK GBC Appoints Paul King As Chief Executive

The UK Green Building Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul King to the role of Chief Executive. Paul joins the UK GBC from WWF-UK, where he is currently Director of Campaigns, leading the highly effective One Million Sustainable Homes campaign. Paul is also a co-founder of One Planet Living, a joint WWF/BioRegional initiative that is facilitating the development of sustainable communities in a range of countries and promoting the imperative for One Planet Living to governments, businesses and individuals around the world.

Over the course of his career with WWF, Paul has headed the Corporate Sponsorship team, worked in the Directorate on strategic planning and governance, spent two years on secondment to WWF Bhutan, and led a policy team working on a range of consumption and production issues including climate change, toxic chemicals, timber trade, tourism and socially responsible investment. In January 2003 Paul became Campaign Director for WWF's One Million Sustainable Homes campaign, with the aim of moving sustainability from the fringes to the mainstream of the UK housing sector. In 2006, Paul was the winner of the Leadership category at the Building Sustainability Awards.

Events

Sustainable Design: Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Buildings – 15th March 2007, National Botanic Garden of Wales.

A FREE event providing essential information, practical guidance and key contacts for renewable energy and building design professionals.

Policy and environmental drivers mean that low carbon design and on-site renewable energy generation will be integral to new build development. The UK and Welsh government have put in place key measures to ‘kick start’ sustainable design and renewable energy in low carbon buildings.

This free one day event will provide inspiration, information and key contacts to those involved in renewable energy systems and the specification and design of low carbon buildings. The event is aimed at building-linked renewable energy suppliers, manufacturers and installers, as well as housing professionals, architects, local authorities, housing associations and developers.

For more information contact Ian Rose or Ana Laing 01970 613224; email: egsi@Wales.GSI.gov.uk or visit www.egsinnovation.co.uk/index.cfm/egs_innovation/en6231 and follow the Green Energy Cluster link.

Green Modernism – An Exploration Of Eco-Living In 21st Century

Evening Preview: 11th April 2007 5:30-9:00pm – Exhibition Dates: April 12th – May 27th 2007

This spring CUBE will play host to the exhibition “Green Modernism”, an in depth exploration of sustainability and everyday living. This exhibition arrives at a crucial time as humanity scrutinises the environmental impact of its living habits like never before. It has become ever more important to suggest ecologically friendly ways of living as the effects of climate change are felt with increasing force. CUBE intends to confront this powerful issue by showcasing alternative, and greener, modes of existence.

The exhibition will contain the following elements, which collaboratively will provide visitors with an in-depth exploration into the future of sustainable living:

Gallery One – Photographic exhibition by David Spero: We will present the photography of British artist David Spero who has photographed Britain’s most extreme examples of sustainable living. Within his work Spero has captured the lifestyles of communities who live in exceptionally low environmental impact settings. Spero has specifically chosen to focus on the self-built dwellings of these communities who have chosen to live off the land in a sustainable way.

This exhibition will also form part of the renowned Look '07 photography festival, a celebration of photography throughout Manchester. This festival will encompass all the major galleries in the city and while CUBE expects Spero’s photography to be extremely popular in its own right, much interest will be generated by CUBE’s association with Look '07.

Gallery Two - Sensory Installation: This part of the exhibition will contribute heavily to the debate on sustainable living, by challenging 21st century living habits and proposing future models of sustainable living. CUBE aims to create a sensory landscape consisting of membrane “thought bubbles” where the visitor, having entered into this future like sustainable environment, will be exposed to differing perspectives and ideas on green living. Sound bytes taken from interviews with leading academics, environmentalists and members of the public will contribute to a sensory landscape that will capture the visitor and encourage them to reassess their living habits.

Gallery Three – Information Hub: Gallery Three will host the interactive content section of the exhibition. Wall displays will provide further background information about the latest development within sustainable housing and living. Members of the public will be invited to contribute their thoughts in the form of a feedback wall with a “note post” section. There will also be an online “blogspot” which will be moderated by the CUBE team during the exhibition where interviews with industry professionals can be read and a video-cast of round table discussions on the issues highlighted in the exhibition will be projected along with archive material.

Debates and Events – The exhibition content will be further supplemented by a series of themed talks and events building on the Centre’s reputation for fostering rigorous and intelligent debate. These regularly oversubscribed events bring together industry leaders and specialists with the aim of shaping the development agenda on a city wide, national and international basis.

This exhibition will also coincide with the Pow-wow Eco Arts Green Architecture conference, a leading forum for the debate for environmental issues within architecture. CUBE looks set to host some conference events.

CUBE, 113 - 115 Portland Street, Manchester, M1 6DW, Tel: 0161 237 5525, www.cube.org.uk.

Opening Times: Mon - Thurs 12 - 5.30pm, Fri & Sat 12 - 5.00pm, Closed Sundays

For more information contact CUBE on 0161 237 5525 or email info@cube.org.uk

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 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.

Courses

Sustainable Water Management In Construction – Wednesday 14 March 2007 At The Genesis Centre, Taunton.

Speakers: Nick Grant of Elemental Solutions and Tim Simmons, Sustainable Construction Manager at the Genesis Project

Water, as surely our most precious resource, has always required particularly careful consideration when planning construction projects. However, in the light of growing concerns over the likely impacts of climate change, population

growth and changes in land cover, now more than at any time, sustainable management of water is an essential component of all construction projects.

This event seeks to inform participants about some of the threats posed to the availability of our water supply, the CO2 emissions associated with the cleaning, movement and heating of water and the increased likelihood of flooding associated with the continued growth in non-permeable surfaces. From this informed position, participants are then encouraged to think about a range of suitable measures that, when applied in appropriate circumstances, can provide solutions to some of the problems we face in achieving sustainable management of this greatly undervalued resource.

Cost – £99 + VAT inc. locally sourced lunch. Registration: 9.30am. For booking enquiries phone 01823 252934 email lmw@somerset.ac.uk or visit www.genesisproject.com/quickstart/index.php?id=246 for details of this and other courses held at the centre.

Renewable Energy For Planners, At The Sustainability Centre in Hampshire.

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: Sustainability Centre, Petersfield, 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 http://greendragonenergy.co.uk/pdf/Renewable_Energy_for_Planners.pdf

Introduction To Renewable Energy Course, The Old College, 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.

For more information go to www.greendragonenergy.co.uk/pdf/Intro_to_Renewable_Energy_Course.pdf

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

AECB CPD Course Designing Genuinely Energy Efficient Buildings That Will Perform.

Wednesday 25th April 10am, Slaithwaite Civic Hall, Yorkshire

Focusing on: - Heat transfers and insulation materials, Fabric design for high insulation and airtightness, thermally improving constructions from building regs to very advanced energy efficiency levels.

This one day course aimed at showing how to design thermal envelopes (buildings to me and you) that perform pretty much as per calculations. This subtle strap line points to the fact that very few buildings actually are thermally tested after construction, and those that are seem to fall short. The course is based around the AECB silver standard, which is some way ahead of Building regulations (see www.aecb.net), so will be of interest to those who are keen to build new with more than a token gesture towards sustainability.

Of interest to architects, specifiers, engineers in fact anybody in the building industry who wants to understand the principles of building warm sustainable houses, and the exercises and solutions act as examples of how to do it. The course assumes a basic ability to read and sketch architectural plans, sections and details.

The day will be led by John Willoughby and Peter Warm, who between them have some 50 years of experience in low energy design.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of The Yorkshire Builders Federation in developing the AECB SussEd initiative.

The cost includes refreshments and light lunch. AECB Members. £120.00 +VAT (£141.00) Non members £175.00 +VAT (£205.62)

For more information please contact Geoff Stow, 01392 272475 or email geoff.biy@homecall.co.uk

Low Impact Living Initiative Courses For April And May

Residential Weekend Course: wind and solar electricity, April 13-15 2007

For more details, see: www.lowimpact.org/courseoutlinewindandsolar.htm

Residential Weekend Course: sustainable water & sewage, May 11-13 2007

For more details, see: www.lowimpact.org/courseoutlinewater.htm

Residential Weekend Course: cob building, May 25-27 2007

For more details, see: www.lowimpact.org/courseoutlinecobbuilding.htm

All courses held at Low-impact Living Initiative, Redfield Community, Buckinghamshire, Cost: high-waged £180 / waged £150 / unwaged £120. All food and accommodation included - plus free beers, wine, tea and biscuits!

Situations Vacant

Business Support Manager – Amazonails

Todmorden, West Yorkshire

Salary: c.£20K, Full Time

Amazonails is the country's leading design, consultancy and training group in strawbale and natural building. We are an expanding and newly constituted social enterprise, and are seeking a proactive Business Support Manager to join us and assist in our development. You must have experience of office management, and ideally of business start up, small business and/or social enterprise.

You will be responsible for the day to day running of the enterprise, providing all business and office administrative support and ensuring sufficient systems including computing systems are developed to administer the business effectively.

You will have excellent organisational and communication skills; be able to exercise initiative; independently manage a varied and busy work load and enjoy being part of a dynamic and enthusiastic team. You will also have an interest in improving the environment and a genuine commitment to diversity and equal opportunities.

If this new and challenging opportunity excites you, you can download an application pack from www.strawbalefutures.org.uk or send a SAE (61p) to amazonails, Hollinroyd Farm, Todmorden, West Yorkshire OL14 8RJ, or contact Bee for more details on info@strawbalefutures.org.uk

The closing date for receipt of all completed application forms is Friday 16th March 2007 by 5pm.

Publications

Monitoring the Sustainability of Buildings

This is aimed at MPs, environmental lobby groups, building and construction industry (including engineers), and building control bodies and was published on 21 February 2007

The reports on the Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004 and the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 highlight the progress Government has made with regard to sustainability and on the measures taken to improve Part L compliance of the Building Regulations.

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This guide shows how to implement a sustainability strategy in properties across different sectors including offices, retail and manufacturing. It explains the facilities manager's role in incorporating sustainability into the whole life-cycle of a building – from initial briefing to final disposal.

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