



Network

News

November 2007

Ashden Awards – Closing date for entries 20 November 2007

The Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy are seeking entries from inspirational and innovative schemes in the UK that use renewable energy, or reduce energy demand, at a local level to compete for a share of £160,000 of prize money. We are looking for schemes that have made significant CO2 savings through the use of renewable energy or energy efficiency measures, and that demonstrate real social and economic benefits to the local community.

All Award-winning schemes must have been consistently successful for at least one year in delivering benefits to local communities and achieving carbon savings and must have plans for future growth. Successful schemes will be highly replicable to ensure maximum impact in the battle against climate change. Cash prizes will be used to assist plans for further expansion. Award winners are promoted in the media and to practitioners and experts in the field as leading examples of sustainable energy in action at the local level.

In 2008 we will be offering the main UK awards in three categories with first prizes of £30,000 and second prizes of £15,000. The award categories are:

- Energy business award - this award is for businesses that have made local renewable energy and energy efficiency products and services more accessible.
- Local authority award - this award is for local authorities that have undertaken programmes to improve energy efficiency and increase the supply of local renewable energy (electricity and heat). We will be rewarding the broad range of achievements of an authority, rather than individual projects.
- Charity and community award - this award is for non-profit groups such as energy agencies, charities and community organisations, which have carried out projects or programmes to improve energy efficiency and increase the supply of renewable electricity and/or heat, at a local level.

In addition, we are again offering the Sustainable Energy in Schools Award with a first prize of £15,000 and a second prize of £5,000, for any UK school (primary or secondary) which has created a sustainability ethos in which the responsible use of energy is a crucial element. Improving energy efficiency within the school premises, integrating sustainable energy throughout the curriculum and involving pupils in the promotion and use of sustainable energy should be central to the school's approach. (Note that it is NOT essential for a school to have renewable energy generation on-site in order to be eligible for this award). Closing date for entries for Schools Award is 4 December 2007.

For more information, including downloadable application forms please visit www.ashdenawards.org or contact: Jane Howarth on 020 7410 7023; email: info@ashdenawards.org

AJ Small Projects Awards 2008

Entries are sought for the AJ Small Projects Awards, sponsored by Rambøll Whitbybird. Submissions must be projects completed between 1 November 2006 and 1 November 2007 with a total project value of less than £250,000. All projects must be unpublished.

Shortlisted entries will be in the AJ in January and displayed at the RIBA in March. Send a 150-word description with images and credits to: AJ Small Projects, Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London NW1 7EJ. or email: james.pallister@emap.com.

The Big Green Challenge?

The Big Green Challenge from NESTA is a £1 million prize fund designed to encourage and reward people working together. We want you to develop and implement new approaches that will lead towards a 60% reduction of CO2 emissions in your communities. We can all help to tackle big issues. We have the capacity to

innovate, to change things and make a difference. Our contribution, especially as part of a wider community, can be just as important as that of governments, scientists, or big businesses.

We know that there are plenty of people out there who have good ideas to tackle climate change. We believe that by encouraging you to work together - turning ideas into action by involving and engaging your community - you can potentially reduce CO2 emissions on a bigger scale, more quickly and with more impact. That's why we developed the Big Green Challenge. The competition will encourage new approaches and solutions to climate change, which we hope to see repeated across different communities to achieve larger reductions in CO2 emissions across a wider scale.

We understand that this is an ambitious and difficult challenge. That's why we're working with partners such as Unltd to offer advice and encouragement to participants. We will also offer practical support and some funding to our ten finalists.

For more information go to www.biggreenchallenge.org.uk

Steep Decline In Oil Production Brings Risk Of War And Unrest, Says New Study

The Guardian October 22, 2007

World oil production has already peaked and will fall by half as soon as 2030, according to a report which also warns that extreme shortages of fossil fuels will lead to wars and social breakdown.

The German-based Energy Watch Group has released its study in London saying that global oil production peaked in 2006 - much earlier than most experts had expected. The report, which predicts that production will now fall by several percent a year, comes after oil prices set new records almost every day last week, on Friday hitting more than \$90 (£44) a barrel.

The report's author, Joerg Schindler, said its most alarming finding was the steep decline in oil production after its peak, which he says is now behind us. The results are in contrast to projections from the International Energy Agency, which says there is little reason to worry about oil supplies at the moment. However, the EWG study relies more on actual oil production data which, it says, are more reliable than estimates of reserves still in the ground. The group says official industry estimates put global reserves at about 1.255 gigabarrels - equivalent to 42 years' supply at current consumption rates. But it thinks the figure is only about two thirds of that.

Global oil production is currently about 81m barrels a day - EWG expects that to fall to 39m by 2030. It also predicts significant falls in gas, coal and uranium production as those energy sources are used up. Britain's oil production peaked in 1999 and has already dropped by half to about 1.6 million barrels a day.

The report presents a bleak view of the future unless a radically different approach is adopted. It quotes the British energy economist David Fleming as saying: "Anticipated supply shortages could lead easily to disturbing scenes of mass unrest as witnessed in Burma this month. For government, industry and the wider public, just muddling through is not an option any more as this situation could spin out of control and turn into a complete meltdown of society."

Climate Change Bill Consultation Response Published

Hilary Benn, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, has today published the Government's response to the public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny on the draft Climate Change Bill. There were almost 17,000 responses to the consultation, reflecting the high level of public interest on this issue. The responses were overwhelmingly supportive of action to tackle climate change and reduce emissions. The Government's response, together with other relevant documents including a summary of the responses to the public consultation can be found at: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/legislation/index.htm

Outputs From Virgin Timber Production To Be De-Regulated

The Environment Agency has issued new guidance on waste wood recovery for the timber industry.

The guidelines confirm that:

1. Virgin timber – is to be de-regulated.
2. Clean non-virgin timber – remains regulated, normally through exemptions
3. Treated timber – remains a waste, regulated in the normal way

"Virgin timber has not been oiled, painted, preserved or chemically treated in any way and doesn't pose a risk to human health or the environment," said Martin Brocklehurst, Head of Environmental Protection External Programmes for the Environment Agency. "As a result, producers can recover and sell-on virgin waste wood such as off-cuts, shavings or sawdust from sawmills, free from regulatory control."

This decision came about as a result of work undertaken by the Waste Protocols Project. The project, run by the Environment Agency and WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) made efforts to develop a Quality Protocol to reduce regulation on 'waste' wood and to remove uncertainty over the point at which 'waste' wood is fully recovered and can be used as a resource.

Whilst a Quality Protocol can not currently be put in place – the Environment Agency recognises that wide variability exists in specifications used in waste wood markets. As the market for waste wood products develops it will remain an option for companies to make a case to the Environment Agency that the waste wood has been fully recovered to a standard that can be widely marketed as a product. Such submissions will be considered on a case by case basis to encourage higher standards to prevail.

It is hoped in future that these higher standards could be industry-wide and form the basis of a Quality Protocol.

The use of non-virgin treated timber will remain under regulatory control.

The regulatory position statement for wood can be found at: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Schwarzenegger Bans PVC Additive In Toys

"To protect the health of our state's children," California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation on October 14, 2007 prohibiting the use of phthalates in childcare products designed for babies and children under three years of age. Phthalates are used as plasticizers to soften polyvinyl chloride plastic, also known as PVC or vinyl, including a wide range of building products such as vinyl flooring, wall covering and upholstery.

Phthalate plasticizers are not chemically bound to PVC. They have been found to leach, migrate or evaporate into indoor air and atmosphere, foodstuff, IV solutions and other materials, etc. Consumer products containing phthalates can result in human exposure through direct contact and use, indirectly through leaching into other products, or general environmental contamination. Humans are exposed through ingestion, inhalation, and dermal exposure during their whole lifetime, starting in the womb. Phthalates come in many different formulas. Most haven't been tested or examined at all for human health impacts. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has noted that one phthalate formula common to certain building materials -- DINP -- is a mixture of up to 100 chemical variants, of which only five have been minimally studied. Others have been found to pose a risk of serious negative health impacts at very low doses.

Phthalates have been shown to have negative effects on human health including, interference with the natural functioning of the hormone system, reproductive and genital defects. Phthalates may lower sperm count and are associated with the risk factors for testicular cancer, as well as early onset of puberty and premature birth.

Phthalates have been found in high quantities in studies of household dust. Other studies have documented links between childhood asthma and phthalate exposure from vinyl flooring. Because phthalates are not a volatile organic compound (VOC), however, they are usually not accounted for by indoor air quality standards such as those used to certify green building materials. California now joins the EU in restricting the use of phthalates in the use of children's products, and many other US states are expected to take up legislation similar to that signed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

Like the human carcinogens vinyl chloride and dioxin, phthalates are uniquely associated with PVC. It is this triple threat from PVC that distinguishes it as the worst plastic for environmental health and green building. Regrettably, there are still few restrictions on the use of vinyl in green buildings.

Source: Healthy Building News www.healthybuilding.net

Events

'Making Sustainability Pay' Investigating The Marketability Of Homes That Deliver Sustainable Lifestyles

CPD Event Series by Sponge Sustainability Network, London ~ Bristol ~ Manchester

Nine out of ten homeowners want to see sustainable features on new homes, and are prepared to pay more, yet 70% claim to know little or nothing about them (Sponge/Mori 2006). With the onset of Home Information Packs and the increasing number of sustainable features in new homes, property professionals need to be able to communicate the benefits of sustainable homes to their clients.

This seminar event will cover: How to sell sustainable homes - using sustainability as a marketing tool and address common practical issues associated with sustainable homes; Why market sustainable homes - policy and market based drivers; What is a sustainable home - key features explained; The business case - do sustainable homes sell quicker and at a premium?

Speakers will explain key environmental technologies to help you answer potential buyers or tenants common concerns and queries. The CPD will build on the findings of the Sponge/Defra Environmental Action Fund project, including the key results drawn from the 'Eco Chic or Eco Geek - The desirability of sustainable homes' report (Sponge/Mori 2006).

£80 (subsidised rate) per delegate, London - Monday 12th November; Manchester - Thursday 15th November; Bristol - Wednesday 21st November

Contact: jackie@spongenet.org or ring 0208 683 6694 for more information visit our website at www.spongenet.org

The Big Green Home Show, Swindon 15th – 18th November.

Nowadays, you simply can't escape the debate about global warming, carbon footprints and energy efficiency. And even if you wouldn't describe yourself as an eco-warrior, you're probably keen to make some steps towards preserving the planet for future generations.

At the Big Green Home Show we've brought together the latest thinking and innovation in eco construction materials and techniques to give you all the inspiration and ideas you'll need to build or renovate a greener home. So whether you're interested in creating a carbon neutral house, generating your own power, or simply making your home more energy efficient, we'll cover it at the Big Green Home Show.

Visit www.buildstore.co.uk/mykindofhome/big-green-home-show/index.html

AECB Carbon Lite Programme Event - Achieving Low Carbon, Energy-Efficient Buildings

Meeting the higher levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes (and Non-Domestic Buildings) Thursday 29 November 2007 - The Media Centre, 7 Northumberland Street, Huddersfield

How can you deliver 'green' buildings that actually perform as intended - post-design, post-construction - and at an acceptable cost?

Build, Kirklees Council, Yorkshire Builders Federation and AECB, the sustainable building association have come together to bring you nationally renowned experts in low energy design and construction from: • AECB • Leeds-Met University • White Design • Yorkshire based LEDA

Who should attend? – developers, builders, architects, planners, building control offices, architectural technicians – anyone who is involved with the design and construction of buildings.

Cost: £100 (plus VAT)

Book: on-line at www.aecb.net or e-mail info@aecb.net

Hockerton Housing Project – A Practical Case Study of Sustainability

Thurs 29th Nov 2007 (10.00am-4.30pm)

Lots of buzz words are currently being thrown around and many tempting offers on how sustainability targets can be met. But why not come and find out the reality and practicalities from members of the Hockerton Housing Project that have been living to these standards and using related technologies for 10 years.

What really works, and what is simply 'greenwash'? Feel the heat from a zero heated building! Does microgeneration work? We may just save you time and money!

Launched in 2005, this workshop provides an opportunity to get an in-depth understanding of the technical design and practical construction issues considered for the HHP homes and Sustainable Resource Centre. We have now run over 20 of these workshops.

This event will be of particular interest to developers, self-builders, landowners, planners, architects, buildings services engineers, other building professionals and post graduate students.

Cost (excluding VAT @ 17.5%): £99 - VAT registered organisations & local authorities, £75 - Individuals and non-VAT registered organisations, £50 – Students.

For more information visit www.hockertonhousingproject.org.uk

Ecological Building & Refurbishment

Eco Networking Training Events at C-SCAIPe, Kingston University, London (Oct '07 - May '08)

For more information contact John Clarke on 020 8547 8494 or email j.l.clarke@kingston.ac.uk

HEAT 2007

New Hall, Cambridge - Tuesday 04 December 2007

The theme is how to make real estate more valuable, and less wasteful, by using better buildings control technologies such as smart metering and send-back, temperature sensors, distant control; design, renewable and energy efficient technologies such as solar PV, wind, fuel cells and micro-generation. Our aim is to build markets that fulfil the new regulations, while improving buildings and quality of life. HEAT 2007 will bring together electronics and communications, and utilities companies, large and small; architects, constructors, property developers, designers, manufacturers; as well as government, academic and agency players.

For more information please visit www.cambridgeinvestmentresearch.com/events/heat or email jhayward@cambridgeinvestmentresearch.com

Homes For The Future: From Good Homes To Eco-Towns

December 5th 2007 (14.00-17.30) The Window, 13 Windsor Street, London N1 8QG

This is the 4th event in our learning series, and will focus on landowner, development and planning requirements, in the light of new government legislation. We'll hear from representatives of English Partnerships, the DCLG, Private Developers, the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), and Local Authorities to gain an insight into the standards that landowners and planning authorities are or will be adopting. GHA Developer Members will also provide real life examples to add practical experience to the session.

Please see www.goodhomes.org.uk/downloads/news/65.pdf. The event is FREE for GHA members, £100 (plus VAT) for non-members.

Sustainable Design 2007

Sharing feedback and best-practice to create a sustainable built environment - Wednesday 5th December 2007, The Brit Oval, London SE11

The Architects' Journal has assembled an esteemed panel of speakers in bringing you Sustainable Design 2007. This one day, multi-streamed conference will provide you with the latest developments and innovations from the leading experts in sustainable architecture.

Morning and afternoon plenary sessions will give you the latest information on: Current and new legislation impacting on sustainable architecture; Understanding the commercial drivers for clients to be 'green'; Thermal performance of lightweight and heavyweight materials; Using feedback to improve building performance

For more information on this unique event please go to www.ajsustainabledesign.co.uk/reneec or call 0845 056 8069

Courses

New CAT Sustainable Architecture Course Wins Professional Accreditation

The Graduate school of the Environment at the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales has launched a new professional architecture course. (Professional Diploma in Architecture). The course has been prescribed by the Architects Registration Board and so can lead to registration as an architect. The course is for students who have already got a first degree in Architecture (Part1) who wish to complete their architectural education with a strong focus on sustainability, energy and green design.

A significant part of the course is based on modules from the highly successful MSc in advanced Architecture and Environmental Studies (AEES) programme which has been running for a number of years, but also includes an opportunity to develop sustainable design skills. Students can learn about renewable energy, building and energy assessments methods and practical hands on low impact building methods.

The course involves attending an intensive week of teaching and interaction once a month plus a field trip and a summer school. It may be possible for well organised students who are office based to complete the modules. The programme leader is Alison Pooley and CAT have recruited a strong team of tutors including Tom Woolley who is a new Professor at the CAT Graduate School. A wide range of architects who are leading exponents of sustainable design have agreed to contribute to teaching.

Tom Woolley believes that there are quite a few people working within the environmental building field who have a Part1 architecture qualification but have never finished their studies due to frustration at the lack of sustainability teaching in many schools of architecture. Details on <http://gradschool.catorg.uk/graduateschool>

Tom Woolley asks any AECB members to bring this to the attention of potential students. You can also email a.pooley@uel.ac.uk if you would like to arrange to visit us at CAT or we can arrange for informal interviews in London and other regional centres.

Publications

Advances In Passive Cooling by Mat Santamouris Hardback £80.00 ISBN 1844072630 / 9781844072637

This book offers the latest knowledge and techniques on passive cooling, enabling building professionals to understand the state of the art and employ relevant new strategies. With separate chapters on comfort, urban microclimate, solar control, ventilation, ground cooling and evaporative and radiative cooling, this authoritative text will also be invaluable for architects, engineers and students working on building physics and low-energy design.

Advances in Passive Cooling is part of the BEST series, edited by Mat Santamouris. The aim of the series is to present the most current, high quality theoretical and application oriented material in the field of solar energy and energy efficient buildings. Leading international experts cover the strategies and technologies that form the basis of high-performance, sustainable buildings, crucial to enhancing our built and urban environment.

Go to: <http://shop.earthscan.co.uk>

Situations Vacant

Wanted – For Architecture Practice & Construction Company Specialising In Carbon Neutral Development & Passivhaus.

Architect with Sustainable Development background. Knowledge of 2/3d AutoCad & project management skills essential, Ecohomes, CSH & thermal modelling experience highly desirable.

Cad Technician with Sustainable Development background. Knowledge of 2/3d AutoCad, Building regulations, SAP & thermal modelling highly desirable

Experience of renewable energy/low carbon technologies & heat recovery ventilation systems desirable.

Salaries negotiable depending on experience. Immediate Start

Please send Covering letter, CV & sample pdf of portfolio to john@jpwconstruction.idps.co.uk and visit www.jpwconstruction.idps.co.uk for more information

Energy Saving Trust – Project Manager (Energy Efficiency Best Practice in Housing)

Salary: Starting salary £40k-45k(depending on experience) Central London

The UK's goal of reducing climate-damaging carbon emissions by 60% includes achieving zero carbon new-build homes within ten years, and rolling out technologies and techniques for radically reducing energy use in our existing housing stock. This is being driven forward by UK building regulations, the Code for Sustainable Homes and other government policy measures. The Energy Saving Trust supports this agenda by providing underpinning technical support to the housing construction and refurbishment industry through its Energy Efficiency Best Practice in Housing programme. The programme aims to embed and enhance best practice in sustainable energy by building professionals within the housing sector.

In managing this important programme your role will involve developing technical information & advice, coordinating the work of key industry groups, maintaining the programme's focus and actively embedding it within the industry. You will be a natural relationship builder who has the ability to find the right balance between the expectations of industry groups and the integrity of the programme, with experience of managing contractors and contracts.

An exceptional project manager with in-depth technical knowledge of housing construction practices and associated sustainable energy measures, you're ready to make a positive impact in managing and developing this programme. You have a wide knowledge of the UK housing market and understand UK building regulations and other government policies relating to sustainable energy technologies in housing.

Contact Information

Go to http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/aboutest/work/vacancies/index.cfm?mode=view&job_id=119 to apply.

Closing date: 5pm on 23rd November 2007.

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