



Network

News

April 2008

AECB annual Conference 2008 – University of East Anglia, 13th – 14th June

Don't forget the annual conference this year on the 13th and 14th June at the UEA in Norwich. There are details on the web site at www.aecb.net and a separate email will be sent out early in April with the agenda and latest news on talks, speakers etc. Make sure you don't miss what is now recognised as one of the best events of its kind on the calendar.

AECB's CarbonLite Programme Launched At Ecobuild 2008

The CarbonLite Programme (CLP) was endorsed by RIBA, CABE and the UKGBC at a packed launch at Ecobuild on 28 February 2008. Speakers included Sunand Prasad of RIBA; Bill Gething of Feilden Clegg Bradley and Chair of BRE's Global Sustainability Board; Jonathan Davis, CABE Director of Knowledge and Skills; and Paul King, Chief Executive of the UK Green Building Council.

All the speakers welcomed the focus and clarity of the CLP's energy standards and the detailed guidance provided - to help make designing low energy buildings simple. Go to www.carbonlite.org.uk for more information.

Full article at www.get-sust.com/newsletters/issue35/35_feature.html

CarbonLite CPD Courses

12/13 May in Cardiff: Designing to the AECB standards

12 June - two courses at special rates for AECB members going to AECB annual conference - Energy in Buildings, and a CarbonLite in Practice - focusing on some of the very interesting low energy buildings at UEA.

And COMING SOON - FOR YOUR DIARIES - 2-day course on PHPP in early July, London and CarbonLite in Practice at Pines Calyx in October

And more - please keep checking the web-site. www.carbonlite.org.uk

Ecology's Record Annual Results Point To Rise In Green Living In The UK

Ecology Building Society's green and mutual approach banishes "credit crunch" blues

As providers of the UK's first green mortgages, and funded by the savings of its ethically minded members, Ecology Building Society is delighted to report exceptional results for 2007. The Society's green lending effectively doubled in 2007 compared to 2006, and all this in the face of a turbulent market for lenders. Gross lending for 2007 was £15m (£7.7m in 2006), with net lending of £9.7m (£3.3m in 2006). This resulted in mortgage asset growth of 17.1%. Ecology's ethical savings balances also grew in 2007 with a percentage increase of 10.1% on 2006, which took the total savings balance to £69.4 m, perhaps indicative of the concerns of savers in the UK, keen to find an ethical and secure provider of deposit accounts and Cash ISAs.

Ecology specialises in lending on properties that benefit the environment. It will only lend on new or existing eco homes including self-builds, energy saving improvements to existing homes and properties that require substantial renovation or conversion, which it sees as a form of recycling. Ecology's Chief Executive, Paul Ellis is thrilled with the year's results and comments; 'We have had an exceptional year – lending is up, inflow is up and profits are up! Not only are we doing well financially, but the ecological quality of our lending continues to be strong. We will be announcing a new suite of discounts to support buyers of accredited sustainable homes very shortly, which will offer borrowers significant rate savings for the life of their mortgage on the whole of their mortgage. This will only help support and increase our plans for sustained growth in 2008 and seeks to acknowledge the progress being made in accrediting well built, energy efficient new homes and to reward buyers when making an informed choice.'

Go to www.ecology.co.uk for more information.

Holistic Approach Necessary To Achieve Zero-Carbon By 2017

Unless the construction industry adopts a holistic approach, change consultant Mike Briggs warns that Government plans to require all new homes to be 'zero-carbon' by 2017 will be in severe danger. While much of the focus is on the major technical changes involved – effectively the construction of a new kind of building – Mike urges the industry to address the attitudes and culture of all the stakeholders involved, from site operatives to the general public.

"Attitudes and culture are significant factors behind existing quality problems in the industry" says Mike. "Not only must these must be overcome, but zero-carbon poses additional challenges too. For example, a zero-energy home may have no

need of a conventional central heating system — but will estate agents be ready to explain that to the public, and will the public recognise that this is an improvement, not a problem?"

Mike's article is available online at www.mikebriggs.org/rsph.html

Wind Dropped From April's Planning Relaxation

The government has excluded wind turbines from new permitted development rights for homeowners wishing to install microgeneration installations. Planning minister Caroline Flint confirmed that planning relaxations will come into force from 6 April 2008, but said that the government will have to legislate further before extending the rights to wind turbines, whether free standing or building mounted, and to air-source heat pumps.

The amendment to planning rights will apply instead to solar photovoltaics, solar thermal water heating, ground- and water-source heat pumps, biomass heating and CHP as long as installations are on or within the curtilage of the dwelling. Size limitations will be in place, however. Solar panels attached to the building must not protrude more than 200 millimetres from the roof slope and stand alone panels must not exceed four metres above ground level or more than five metres from the boundary. Regulations were laid before parliament last week, but so far there is no sign of any planning circular on the DCLG website.

Legislation to extend rights to wind turbines is expected to be pursued later this year, said Flint, whose statement included a reference to the need to get clearance from the European Commission, possibly on the basis of noise pollution - Flint has already indicated to parliament that it will seek a noise limit of 45 decibels. The government says it is also exploring how to extend similar permitted development rights for microgeneration to commercial and agricultural businesses.

Last year's DCLG consultation proposed allowing domestic wind turbines, with the only concessions to opponents being that building-mounted turbines would not be permitted in conservation areas and that free-standing turbines could not stand in front of buildings.

Source RIBA Practice Bulletin - No. 438 (20 March 2008)

Refit Older Homes Rather Than Build New, Says Report

Many house builders claim that newly-built, well-insulated homes are between four and eight times more energy-efficient than older properties - but new research reveals that the construction of new homes emits nearly three times more carbon dioxide than previously estimated.

www.guardian.co.uk/money/2008/mar/16/homeimprovements.householdbills

The Daily Telegraph puts it like this: If the 288,000 long-term empty homes in England were used and upgraded to higher efficiency standards, instead of many of them being demolished under Government "Pathfinder" regeneration schemes, it would save the equivalent of three million cars being taken off the roads for a year.

www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/main.jhtml?xml=/earth/2008/03/17/eahomes117.xml

The report, by the UK's Empty Homes Agency, concludes that: Reusing empty homes could make an initial saving of 35 tonnes of carbon dioxide per property by removing the need for the energy locked into new build materials and construction. Over a 50-year period, this means there almost no difference in the average emissions of new compared with refurbished housing.

Source: RIBAWORLD 18 March 2008

All New Non-Domestic Buildings To Be Zero Carbon By 2019

Alistair Darling used his first Budget to announce a government ambition for all new non-domestic buildings to be zero carbon by 2019, the first firm target to emerge from government ministers.

Building on the zero-carbon schools target announced by Children's Secretary Ed Balls in the new year, which would see new schools matching the zero carbon homes deadline of 2016, Darling also set a target for all new public sector buildings to match the zero carbon standard by 2018.

This is not yet a commitment. The government has said that it will consult later this year on the timeline and its feasibility and will set up a task force to chart the way ahead, including reductions in carbon emissions in the intervening period. A progress review is already pencilled in for 2013, by which time the government will be unveiling its second tri-yearly revision to Building Regulations.

A government-commissioned report from the UK Green Building Council in December highlighted some the challenges ahead in pursuing zero carbon, especially the need to accommodate the widely varying demands of occupiers in different types of building. The UKGBC's report authors were already committed to the cause and their suggestion for a realistic timeline was 2020 (Practice Bulletin 427).

There is also the problem of where the industry is starting from, with hardly any data on completed zero carbon buildings for design scenario modelling.

Other points of interest in the Budget included £26m of new funding for a Green Home Service to advise consumers on how they can reduce carbon emissions, waste and water consumption, and an extension of the stamp duty exemption to include zero carbon new flats as well as homes, a measure that is being made retrospective from 1 October 2007.

Source: RIBA Practice Bulletin - No. 437 (13 March 2008)

Energy Efficiency Partnership For Homes (EEPH): Budget Announcement 2008

Further to the 2008 Budget announcement earlier today, below are the key points that EEPH believe are relevant to members of the Partnership:

Zero carbon homes

- The Government will set out the definition for a zero-carbon home for the purposes of the 2016 ambition by the end of 2008, following a consultation in the summer;
- Government will provide pump prime funding for a new 2016 delivery unit that will launch this year to guide, monitor and coordinate the zero-carbon programme;
- All new homes built on central government land released through the surplus public sector land programme from April 2008 must reach a minimum of Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes;

Winter Fuel Payments

- Alongside the Winter Fuel Payment, an additional one-off payment of £100 to over 80's households (this will take the payment to £400) and £50 to over 60's households in 2008-09 (this will take the total payment to £250). This will benefit around 9 million households.

Energy Companies

- The government has announced an intention to legislate to require companies to "make a fair contribution" in the area of social tariffs (which help reduce energy bills for older and vulnerable customers). Energy companies currently spend around £50 million a year on social tariffs; the Government would like to see that figure rising over the period ahead to at least £150 million a year. Acting with the companies and Ofgem, the Government will draw up a plan for voluntary and statutory action;
- Government is looking to Ofgem and the suppliers to bring forward proposals for treating prepayment customers more fairly. However, if sufficient progress is not made by next winter, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is prepared to use his statutory powers with a view to reducing the differential between prepayment and other forms of payment.

Refurbishments

- Government will now explore the case for additional targeted and cost-effective VAT measures for the refurbishment or renovation of other dwellings that are of too poor quality to rent or sell.

Targets

- Lay the ground work for the introduction of five-year carbon budgets to bring about reductions in the emissions from the transport, energy, business and household sectors, and that the first budgets will be set as part of Budget 2009;
- The Prime Minister has asked the Committee on Climate Change to review the carbon reduction targets to be raised to 80 per cent from 60 per cent.

Renewables and Microgeneration

- The government will investigate a possible feed-in tariff for renewables and microgeneration. This will take place within a consultation on the most appropriate support mechanism for microgeneration at individual and community level, in order to meet its share of the EU target;
- The Government will also consider how to address barriers such as planning and grid access;
- The UK is committed to tripling the contribution made by renewable electricity by 2015.

Other

- The Government will convene a Green Homes Forum in the autumn;
- The Government is supporting a collaborative research programme in Materials for Energy, including better insulation for solid walls, with the successful projects to be announced next month.

Non domestic buildings

- An ambition for all new non-domestic buildings to be zero carbon from 2019 with consultation at the timeline and its feasibility and new public sector buildings from 2018. Progress will be reviewed in 2013. This change could save approximately 75 MtCO₂ in the next thirty years.

CERT – The chancellor highlighted the following targets for CERT:

- Cavity wall insulation in 1.2 million homes in the priority groups and 2.9 million homes in total. By the end of CERT approximately half of homes with unfilled cavities should have been insulated;
- Loft insulation installed in 1.1 million homes in the priority group and 2.7 million homes in total;
- 31 million energy-efficient light bulbs provided to priority groups and 110 million such light bulbs in total;

- Fuel switching (mainly from electric to gas central heating) in 90,000 homes in priority groups and in 160,000 homes in total.

To find out about the work of the Partnership in some of the areas highlighted above please visit www.eeph.org.uk

World Habitat Awards 2008!

The Building and Social Housing Foundation is currently seeking entries for the World Habitat Awards 2008 competition, which we hope will be of interest to you and your readers. We would be very grateful if you would consider publicising the competition and I attach a small poster and our relevant logos for your editorial use if required.

The World Habitat Awards were initiated in 1985 and seek to identify practical, innovative and sustainable solutions to current housing issues faced by countries of the Global South as well as the North, which are capable of being transferred or adapted for use elsewhere. The competition is open to all individuals and organisations, including central and local governments, NGOs, community-based groups, research organisations and the private sector.

Each year a panel of international judges assesses the projects entered for the competition and selects two winners. An award of £10,000 is presented to the winners at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day.

Last year's World Habitat Awards were presented to ZukunftsWerkStadt Leinefelde, Germany and Ecomaterials in Social Housing Projects, Cuba.

Go to www.worldhabitatawards.org. Please note that Stage I entries must be received by 1st June 2008.

Declare University's Footprint Or Face A Fine From The EU

Universities will soon have to display certificates declaring the carbon footprint of every major building on campus or face fines under new European Union regulations. The legislation, which comes into effect this autumn, means that staff and students should have instant access to information about the energy efficiency of the building where they work or study. From 1 October, all public sector occupiers of buildings over 1,000 sq m will need to post a Display Energy Certificate in a place clearly visible to the public. Institutions will also have to possess an advisory report outlining priorities for making the building energy efficient. Those that fail to comply face fines of £500 for each building without a certificate and £1,000 for those without an advisory report. According to the Carbon Trust, the rules are a fresh incentive for universities to join its Higher Education Carbon Management Programme, which helps institutions measure their CO₂ output, set targets for its reduction, and assists in implementing the plan. Since 2005, 48 universities have taken part in the ten-month scheme. The first 33 participants identified financial savings of £18 million and annual CO₂ reductions totalling 128,000 tonnes.

Visit www.carbontrust.co.uk/carbon/PublicSector/he/ for more information

Funding For Low Carbon Technologies: The Environmental Transformation Fund

The Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) is a new initiative to bring forward the development of new low carbon energy and energy efficiency technologies in the UK. The fund will formally begin operation in April 2008, and will be jointly administered by Defra and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). The ET Fund itself will not be open for funding requests. Instead, schemes funded by the ETF, such as those operated by the Carbon Trust, Salix Finance and BERR, will be publicised via their websites and in the usual ways when funding becomes available.

Go to www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/energy/fund/index.htm

New Environmental Guidance For Educational Establishments

From manicured lawns to the chemistry lab, schools and colleges have an impact on our environment. Higher educational institutions have a significant impact on the environment and therefore have a pivotal role to play in encouraging sustainable development in the wider community at local, regional and global levels. NetRegs provides guidance on environmental law and good practice to businesses, and has now produced guidance for anyone who works in higher education. It is particularly relevant to: janitors; head teachers; facilities and ground managers and staff with responsibilities for laboratories and workshops for practical courses.

Visit: www.netregs.gov.uk

IPD Environment Code

IPD have launched a ground-breaking new environmental measurement standard to an audience of over 200 property professionals in Central London. Supported by leading firms - including CB Richard Ellis, Bureau Veritas, Barclays and Atisreal - the IPD Environment Code sets a much needed global framework for measuring the environmental performance of corporate buildings. With governments around the world setting ambitious targets for reducing environmental impacts such as carbon emissions, it is vital that organisations take effective action to address the impacts of their occupied buildings.

Visit www.ipd.com/environmentcode

New SWMP Template

WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) has launched a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) template to help the construction industry comply with legislation coming into force in April, which will make SWMPs a mandatory requirement on all aspects of construction work worth more than £300,000.

Visit www.wrap.org.uk/construction/

Health Effects Of Climate Change In The UK

A commissioned report that updates an earlier report on the health effects of climate change. It considers recent scientific evidence and stresses the need for greater emphasis to be placed on climate change and its impacts and the need to focus on this problem.

Visit www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_080702

Environmental Permitting Regulations And Government Guidance

The Environmental Permitting system comes into force on 6th April 2008. This page gives links to the Regulations and guidance for the new system.

Visit www.defra.gov.uk/environment/epp/guidance.htm

Regeneration Scheme Gets Go Ahead

A team including architect Cole Thompson Anders and Swan Housing is pressing ahead with a PFI regeneration project in the London Borough of Newham, which is set to create around 100 new homes on infill sites just a few miles from the 2012 Olympic Games site. Cole Thompson Anders is targeting Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 and above for environmental performance in their projects. Construction work is due to begin in June this year.

www.building.co.uk/sustain_story.asp?sectioncode=629&storycode=3104973&c=3

Waste Containers To Aid Site Waste Management Plan

Boxclever Hazardous Waste Management Ltd has developed a range of containers that can be used to segregate different types of hazardous site waste, including oil and solvent based liquids, batteries, packaging and fluorescent tubes. A customised collection and disposal service enables waste volumes to be monitored and managed, a the requirement of Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs), which are expected to become law in April 2008 for construction projects over £250,000.

www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=14088&channel=3

Call On Government To Put Ecology Into Eco-Towns

The Wildlife Trusts are voicing dismay at the lack of attention being paid to the ecology of sites, arguing that the Government's current proposals make a mockery of the term 'eco-town'. They believe that many of the current proposals will destroy important wildlife sites and fragment towns and countryside.

www.wildlifetrusts.org/index.php?section=news&id=2265

Events

Suburban Renaissance – The Architecture Centre In Bristol Launches Spring Green 2008

Suburbs may not be fashionable but they could be the housing solution of the future according to The Architecture Centre, Bristol, which launches its annual Spring Green programme later this month. Supported by acclaimed architect, Richard Rogers, and hosting a packed timetable of events, exhibitions and talks, Spring Green 2008 seeks to provoke debate and discussion about the neighbourhoods we live in.

The theme of Spring Green 2008 is 'Shaping Sustainable Neighbourhoods'. Confronting issues such as housing growth and climate change, it will consider how suburbs might change in the future and how they can be designed to create sustainable, healthy and enjoyable places to live.

The programme runs until 8 June and will involve a variety of industry experts who will examine the current state of suburbia and raise challenging questions such as where should new homes be built, how will they look and what will it be like to live there? Speakers include former RIBA president Sir Richard MacCormac and Paul Miner of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England.

For full details, please contact The Architecture Centre on 0117 922 1540 or visit www.architecturecentre.co.uk.

Exhibitions

- Suburban Futures: Designing sustainable neighbourhoods, Main gallery, 20 March – 8 June
- Tomorrow's Garden City: A sustainable approach to modern living, Exhibition: Shop gallery, 18 March – 27 April
- Transition City: Preparing for peak oil, Exhibition: Shop gallery, 29 April – 8 June

Events

- An eco-village on our doorstep: Building the future at Hanham Hall, Talk, 3 April, 18.30. £5 (£3 concessions)
- Is the Green Belt sacred? Talk/debate, 24 April, 18.30, £3 (£2 concessions)
- Sustainable Suburbia: Density and the suburban dream. Talk, 1 May, 18.30, £5 (£3 concessions)

- Radiant City: A documentary about suburban sprawl. 12 May, 20.30, Film screening, Cube Cinema, Dove Street South, Bristol BS2 8JB, £5 (£4 concessions)

Sustainable Construction: Rhetoric to Reality, 14th April, Centre for Alternative Technology.

A one day seminar for green building practitioners, architects, planners, those involved in housing and regeneration, the construction industry, policy-makers and academics.

Topics include:

- How can innovative examples of 'best practise' be more widely adopted?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for the supply industry in meeting demand for 'green' building products?
- How can planners play a positive role in supporting and facilitating change?
- Can regeneration initiatives address the 'skills gap' in the construction industry?
- What role can community-led ownership of land and buildings play in promoting sustainable construction in practise?

11.00am – 4.00pm, Monday 14th April, Centre for Alternative Technology, nr. Machynlleth. £30/£10 (concessions). Includes Lunch and Site Tour. Please book your place by 4th April.

For information and bookings, please contact Richard Bickle on 07768 184882 or richardbickle@cooptel.net

Organised by the Cardiff School of Management and Sustainable Construction Knowledge Wales

Business & Environment Summit: Climate Change Opportunities – Monday 14th April 2008

2pm – 7pm + drinks – Saïd Business School, Park End Street, Oxford

Sir David King opens Saïd Business School's new annual summit – We are delighted to announce the inaugural Business & Environment Summit at The Saïd Business School in Oxford. The theme for this year's event is 'Climate Change Opportunities'. There are many obligations for business, but its most relevant role with this issue is as an agent of change. It is business that will accelerate the development and distribution of new, climate-friendly ways of living. It will also facilitate the reduction and removal of CO2 in our various infrastructural processes. All the speakers will focus on the inherent opportunities and challenges.

Go to www.greenbizevents.co.uk/events/besummit

Living In A Low Carbon World 2008, 17th April, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London.

One of the foremost annual events on the climate change agenda, this one day conference will address issues surrounding sustainable development and the role of the built environment, will debate the challenges that government, business and communities are facing internationally, and will share available solutions. The intended outcome of the debate is an assessment of the changes climate change will require of our culture and behaviours, finances and economies, design practices, transport supplies and energy policies. This year's conference will once again be chaired by James Naughtie of Radio 4's Today programme.

Go to <http://conference.lowcarbonworld.net/main.php?pid=71>

Deepdale Backpackers And Camping, Coast Exhibition Of Environmental Technologies And Advice, 22nd April

Deepdale Farm, Burnham Deepdale, North Norfolk

On Earth Day 2008, 22nd April, Deepdale Backpackers and Camping will be hosting a whole range of eco friendly organisations for an Earth Day exhibition about the environment, including environmental technology installers, advisors, pressure groups and other related organisations. Whether you are looking for solar panels, wood chip boiler, LED lights, ground source heat pump, wind turbine, need some advice about how to green up your home or business, want to know more about organics or just fancy a look around Deepdale's eco-friendly facilities, you are more than welcome.

It doesn't matter if you are already interested in the environment, want to become more eco friendly or you're a sceptic.

FREE to attend

If you would like to exhibit or to find out more information about exhibitors please visit: www.deepdalefarm.co.uk/earthday

Monitoring - Proving Carbon Reductions & Informing A Low Carbon Future, London April 23rd: 1.30 – 5.30 Pm.

A really strong line up of speakers, including English Partnerships and the Energy Saving Trust, with several monitoring companies to display at the event - Thermographic cameras, sensors, in-house displays, air tightness testing etc. - there will be plenty of opportunity to chat with them and see their equipment, so do come along and take part. Sponsored by the Energy Saving Trust

This is a great venue at the Cruciform lecture theatre, kindly provided by UCL Bartlett.

Go to www.goodhomes.org.uk/events or to book your place email info@goodhomes.org.uk.

The Climate Change Bill: Implications For Business – Cavendish Conference Centre, London, 24 April 2008

This EIC conference will analyse the Government's climate change policy and how business strategies need to adapt to succeed in a low carbon economy. Speakers include Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for the Environment; Peter Ainsworth MP, Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment; Gert Jan Koopman, Director of Industrial Policy and Economic Reform, European Commission; Richard McCarthy, Director General, DCLG; and Ben Verwaayen, Chair CBI Climate Change Taskforce and CEO BT.

Go to www.eic-uk.co.uk/ccb.cfm

Care & Repair Forum Scotland Annual Conference And Exhibition 2008 25th April 2008

The thought provoking and stimulating programme for the Annual Care & Repair Conference 2008 has been announced!

Taking place at the Dunblane Hydro Hotel on the 25th April, this event is, as always, set to provide a unique platform for showcasing the very latest products and services in the home health care and rehabilitation market, while offering tremendous learning and networking opportunities over the day.

For full details on how to exhibit or book and for information on who will be attending, visit www.bigbrightstar.com and click on the C&R logo, alternatively call Sam or Debbie on 01563 822255.

London Aware 2008 – 10th And 11th May, The Barbican.

At LONDON AWARE 08 you can expect to find all of the information, advice and inspiration you need to live more sustainably. Whether you are taking your first steps towards greener living or looking to go the extra mile ours is the event for you. You will find information from hundreds of companies and products that cover all areas of sustainable living from environmentally friendly transport to banking, health and even DIY.

LONDON AWARE 08 will also host two lecture theatres with a series of talks on climate change from speakers including Trevor Baylis, inventor of the wind-up radio and known for his appearances on Tomorrow's World, as well as Martyn Williams from Friends of the Earth, Arctic explorer Nathan Allen and IKEA's Charlie Brown just to name a few.

Go to www.ukaware.com for more information

All-Energy '08 – 21st and 22nd May 2008

All-Energy is the UK's largest renewable energy event. Now's the time to register free of charge to attend the exhibition, conference and Giant Networking Evening. Yes, All-Energy really is free to attend for all with a business/professional interest in renewable energy!

The eighth All-Energy will be held at AECC, Aberdeen, Scotland on 21 and 22 May 2008. It combines a major renewable energy exhibition and a conference covering all renewable sources and the challenges and opportunities facing the industry.

Go to www.all-energy.co.uk for full details and how to register

Towards Ethical, Green Procurement – May 28th 2008, One Great George Street - London, 09:30 - 16:00

With the goal of the UK being among the leaders in the European Union (EU) for sustainable procurement by 2009, David Miliband MP, former Secretary of State at the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), launched the UK Government 'Sustainable Procurement Action Plan' in 2007. The plan set out to reinvigorate the organisation, profession and performance of procurement in the public sector. This was done with the objective to ensure that the £125 billion that is spent by the public sector on procurement secures sustainable best value for taxpayers.

Go to www.insidegovernment.co.uk/environment/green_procurement/index.php

The Sustainable Supply Chain Summit 2008, 29th – 30th May

The past year or so has seen a dramatic rise in demand for discussion on carbon footprinting and environmental strategy. However, too often, the practical solutions that can be applicable to specific brands and products with unique supply chains are not forthcoming. This, combined with the seemingly never-ending quest for a standardised methodology for measurement of GHG emissions and sustainability in the supply chain, has frustrated an eager but often confused consumer product supply chain - who may actually gain more benefit from a focus on areas such as their water efficiency.

The Summit has drawn on practical expertise from all over the world to deliver the only event in 2008 that will deliver clarity on exactly how key retailers, brands and the supply chain - all the way down to production - can focus their environmental and sustainability strategy and investment to realise the optimum environmental and bottom-line impact. The sector is now looking beyond just carbon management and needing to realise the specific benefits of water efficiency as well as waste, energy, recycling, packaging and manufacture and production strategies.

For more information visit www.carbonfootprint-supplychain2008.com phone 0207 749 0470 or email info@london-business-conferences.co.uk

Low Carbon Strategies 08: Formulate Your Organisation's Low Carbon Strategy, 5th June 2008 – Excel, London

The conference will bring together all the latest tools that will help you and your stakeholders reduce CO2 emissions. The event will then help you formulate a reduction strategy that keeps business objectives top of mind.

- Reduce the impact of your organisation (and supply chain)

- Help you reap the financial and reputational rewards
- Explain the latest innovations organisations are using
- Co-ordinate your use of all the different tools at your disposal

Full details are at www.greenbizevents.co.uk/events/lcs/index.html

Book your place now before the early booking discount ends on Friday 18th April 2008.

Home Build Midlands, 26th And 27th Of June, The Ricoh Arena In Coventry.

Home Build Midlands is a new event focussed on the delivery of the Government's target of 400,000 additional new homes in the Midlands region by 2016. The show will provide a platform for the public sector, land development, construction and energy sectors to meet the demand for new, environmentally sound housing. The event organisers are keen to involve REA members based or active in the Midlands region who have been working on low carbon housing projects. Please visit www.homebuildmidlands.co.uk. For further details, please contact Simon Dieppe on 0121 362 7536 or email sdieppe@centlaw.co.uk.

Courses

Sustainable Energy Training Courses

With its depth of experience in sustainable energy issues, NEF is well placed to delivery high quality training in this field. Building on the success of its first course, Renewable Energy in your Buildings, NEF is now delivering a number of courses in sustainable energy as part of its Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme from its home in Milton Keynes. These courses are suitable for those looking for an overview of these areas, not a technically in-depth session.

Go to www.nef.org.uk/greencompany/sustainable-energy-training.htm

Publications

New Build And Refurbishment In The Sustainable Communities Plan

IHS BRE Press, ISBN 978-1-84806-032-6

More new homes are needed in the UK, and the government's Sustainable Communities Plan identifies areas of run down older housing for regeneration. But is mass clearance the most sustainable way to create lasting communities for the future? This Information Paper outlines the conclusions of research by the College of Estate Management, sponsored by BRE Trust, into the relative advantages of the two approaches to housing renewal – demolition and renewal, or refurbishment – “knock it down or do it up”. A full report of the research is available as BRE Trust report FB16.

Go to www.ihsbrepres.com or email brepres@ihs.com for more information.

Vacancies

Technical Consultant (Energy Efficiency) And Project Consultant (Energy In Buildings)

National Energy Services Ltd has several vacancies for people who wish to work on internal and external projects relating to the energy efficiency of buildings. NES is a leading supplier of energy rating software, training and accreditation in the energy efficiency sector and trades under the brand names NHER and SAVA. Directly relevant experience is of course welcomed. However we are also interested in recruiting and training individuals with a strong, relevant academic background combined with some commercial experience.

For full details of roles please see: www.nesltd.co.uk/join.html

Solar Thermal Installer

Experienced installer of solar water heating systems required for specialist Welsh company. Must be fully qualified, BPEC or equivalent. A tidy, reliable and responsible person is required to install solar systems through out Wales and the borders for domestic, commercial and industrial clients. Good prospects for the right person. For an informal chat in the first instance please email cls@llanidloes.net. For details on the company visit www.llanisolar.co.uk.

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.