



Network

Happy New Year

News

January 2008

AECB Conference and AGM 2008 – University of East Anglia – Friday 13th Saturday 14th June

We have now confirmed the dates of next year's event.

The UEA offers a great venue with a lot of interesting buildings to see both on campus and around some of which we hope to visit during the conference.

Very soon now more details will be on the web site and sent out in Network.

So put the dates in you diary now it's easy to remember as bravely we went for the Friday the 13th option.

Thanks to all those of you who came back to me with suggested venues some of which we may be able to use in future years others were too small for the conference but would be great for regional events.

Geoff Stow

Green Building Gurus Lead The Way For Home Builders

AECB (The Sustainable Building Association) Helps Home Builders in Race to Meet Government 2016 Zero Carbon Targets

An increasing number of house builders and property developers have been turning to the AECB for guidance on how to achieve higher environmental standards. These include some of the leading UK home building companies, several of which have recently been praised in a sustainability report for their significant progress in addressing environmental issues.

The report, launched by Housing Minister Yvette Cooper, urges home builders to develop strategies for addressing climate change so that they are able to meet the standards required and deliver genuinely sustainable homes. It found that, despite their endeavours to build more sustainably, housing developers need to rapidly accelerate their efforts if they are to achieve the 2016 zero carbon homes targets

The AECB is the longest standing independent sustainable building organisation in the UK and has been providing expert training, support and advice on all aspects of green construction for almost twenty years.

As well as growing interest from major housing developers, the AECB has seen awareness of sustainable building rise significantly across all sectors in recent years. The membership base includes a broad spectrum of organisations and individuals, from large construction firms and building professionals to architects and eco self-builders.

Members have full access to a technical online forum on the AECB website www.aecb.net and are able to use the new CarbonLite Programme for designing low energy buildings www.carbonlite.org.uk.

Chair of the AECB, Chris Herring, said, "The report confirms that home builders are making attempts to create sustainable buildings, which is encouraging. However, it is important that they don't rely on green gimmicks in order to meet the challenging 2016 targets and it is also crucial for energy use to be monitored post-occupancy. This is something that the AECB actively promotes and facilitates as it is the only way to be absolutely certain that a building is genuinely energy-efficient and real progress is being made."

Members of the AECB team of sustainable building practitioners will soon be available to meet on stand E263 at the forthcoming EcoBuild exhibition, the largest sustainability event ever held in the UK.

CarbonLite Passivhaus Planning Package Now Available

PHPP is based on Excel and runs on Macs and PCs.

First training course on using PHPP on 21 February 2008

First training course on PHPP and accreditation of buildings to the AECB energy standards 22 February 2008

Full details at www.carbonlite.net

Join The Environmental Transport Association (ETA) And Help The AECB At The Same Time

Why the ETA?

They are the only motoring organisation to campaign for a sustainable transport system, 98% of members would recommend it to their friends. The average waiting time is 40 minutes and 80% of breakdowns are fixed at the roadside.

The AECB ETA affinity Number is '1387 affinity', your members need to quote this number when calling to ensure they receive their discount (3 months free breakdown cover and ETA membership).

For more information please ring 0845 389 1010, email eta@eta.co.uk or visit www.eta.co.uk.

Free UK Supplier Promotion At The EISU Web Site

The Environmental Industries Sector Unit (EISU) is a Government unit that operates within the Sectors Group of UK Trade & Investment (UKTI). EISU is responsible for promoting the UK environmental industry overseas.

Over 3500 UK-based suppliers have created a free company profile on the EISU website (www.eisu.org.uk). Potential overseas customers can search the supplier database and contact a company directly. EISU are contacting companies and asking them to create their free company profile.

Visit www.eisu.org.uk, click on the UK Suppliers tab and follow the Free UK Supplier Registration link to create you User account and company profile.

For more information contact the EISU Helpdesk by email (eisuhelpdesk@n1creative.com) or by phone on 020 7539 5528 (Monday to Friday 0830-1730).

Government Has It Wrong On Zero Carbon – Sponge Debate – 3rd of December 2007

That was the overwhelming message arising from a debate in the House of Lords this week at which over 100 Sponge members interrogated the Government's current definition of zero-carbon development. For those of you that weren't able to come along; this year's hotly contested debate topic was "this house believes that off-site renewables have an essential role in delivering the Government's zero carbon building targets".

The debate concluded with an overwhelming majority in favour of the motion. This is likely to strike a chord with all those wrangling with the challenges of delivering low and zero-carbon schemes across the UK in the context of a fluid regulatory environment in which Government has recently issued a revised and highly restrictive definition of zero carbon homes.

A new zero-carbon task force has been established by the UK Green Building Council to independently review the definition in the coming months, and is mooted to have the backing of Housing and Communities Minister Yvette Cooper. One thing is clear; the debate is unlikely to fall silent any time soon.

A full write up of the debate will be available on the Sponge Website www.spongenet.org. The debate follows a Building article www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=747&storycode=3100372 on the issue by Sponge Director Chani Leahong. Read further coverage of the debate from the Zero Champion http://sustainaballs.typepad.com/my_weblog/2007/11/sponge-debate.html.

Home Truths: A Low Carbon Strategy To Reduce UK Housing Emissions By 80%

The Low-carbon Strategy from the Environmental Change Institute at Oxford University identifies the policies needed to deliver an 80 per cent cut in carbon emissions from UK homes by 2050. These cuts are achievable but will require a quantum leap in commitment from Government and a radical new approach.

The policies have been designed not only to dramatically reduce carbon emissions, but also to be delivered equitably. The poorest households will be prioritised for assistance and fuel poverty will be wiped out. The scientific consensus is that for the UK to play its part in helping the world avoid a rise of more than 2°C, we must reduce our carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. The household sector represents 27 per cent of our total emissions and achieving deep cuts here is an imperative.

The low-carbon revolution starts at home.

Go to www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/energy/hometruths.php

The Green Barometer III

The Energy Savings Trust Green Barometer III report unveils research which, for the first time, details the UK's biggest carbon wasters council-area-by-council-area and provides a model to target householders street-by-street with energy saving advice. The findings highlight which regions can save the most energy, what can be done and by whom - individuals or local authorities.

Go to [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/uploads/documents/aboutest/Green-Barometer-Web\(spread\).pdf](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/uploads/documents/aboutest/Green-Barometer-Web(spread).pdf)

Wales Launches First Climate Change Commission In UK

The first Climate Change Commission in the UK gathered in Wales for its inaugural meeting on the 10th December.

The Welsh Assembly Government Commission was chaired by the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing Jane Davidson at the Senedd. She was joined by Commission members from a wide range of political, business, local authority, trade and rural organisations.

The first meeting of the Commission, which is one of the first of its kind in the world, was addressed by guest speaker Professor Kevin Anderson Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, who is one of the Commission members. The Minister and Professor Anderson outlined the vision and overview of the Commission during the open session of the meeting.

'Let's 'Green Up' The World's Universities' Say UK Academics

British university lecturers and researchers have urged their colleagues in universities throughout the world to become active on climate change and negotiate with their employers to 'green' their university and 'green' the curriculum. The University and College Union (UCU) has submitted ideas and recommendations to an international conference of higher education unions, many based on good practice in the UK and on UCU's own emerging environmental policy.

The ideas are contained in a discussion paper 'Climate change, a trade union responsibility in higher education' which was presented to the international Higher Education and Research conference of the Education International - the international organisation of education unions - in Malaga, Spain on 12-14 November. The union argues that lecturers and researchers should use both their professional role and their trade union role to promote sustainable development. It encourages the creation of union environment reps and for lecturers to design the 'greening of the curriculum', bringing awareness of climate change into courses.

For the full paper visit www.ucuorg.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2955

The UK's First Ever Foundation Degree In Sustainable Communities Is Starting In January 08

This new part time foundation degree is part of ASC's drive to train people to develop and deliver sustainable communities. Bursaries are available. This course - which is accessible for people in full-time employment - will develop the skills you need to have a positive impact on communities. Sustainable communities are about more than bricks and mortar. They need - good governance - public participation - partnership working - excellent public services - civic pride. They are about learning from the mistakes of the past and linking social, economic and environmental planning.

This course was designed to respond to the government's aim to train people to develop and deliver sustainable communities. It was created by the Academy for Sustainable Communities - the national centre for delivering the skills and knowledge to create better places - and Sheffield Hallam University. For more information about how you, your colleagues or staff, and the communities you are regenerating can benefit from this course please contact the course administrator, Amanda Cook, quoting reference NS/HE/01.

Her contact details are tel: 0114 225 3188 or email a.cook@shu.ac.uk

The 2030 Challenge Targets Adopted By The California Energy Commission

On December 5, 2007, the California Energy Commission unanimously adopted the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) plan for achieving zero net energy residential buildings by 2020 and commercial buildings by 2030. "The Energy Commission endorses these ambitious goals and will, with support from the CPUC and the utilities, strive to achieve them through successive cycles of the building standards and appliance standards in combination with other program efforts," according to The Committee Final Report.

Source: Architecture 2030 E-News Bulletin

House Passes Energy Bill Containing The 2030 Challenge Targets For Federal Buildings

The House of Representatives passed the Energy Independence and Security Act on December 6, 2007. The bill now goes to the Senate. Section 433 of this bill requires that all federal building's meet the energy performance standards of the 2030 Challenge. The key passage in this section states that:

"buildings shall be designed so that the fossil fuel-generated energy consumption of the buildings is reduced, as compared with such energy consumption by a similar building in fiscal year 2003 (as measured by Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey or Residential Energy Consumption Survey data from the Energy Information Agency), by the percentage specified in the following table:

Fiscal Year Percentage Reduction:

2010 – 55%, 2015 – 65%, 2020 – 80%, 2025 – 90%, 2030 – 100%"

Source: Architecture 2030 E-News Bulletin

The City Of Frankfurt Issues A Passivhaus (PH) Decree

Every new building, and as far as possible every building in renovation has to be a PH. Otherwise the developer will have to argue the case for why this should not be so! This is mandatory for every building in the public sector or the companies of the city of Frankfurt.

FSC Renews Commitment to Leadership – New Global Strategy Launched

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has launched its Global Strategy in Bonn, Germany. Entitled 'Strengthening Forest Conservation, Communities and Markets, the strategy will guide FSC through its second decade. FSC is the only internationally recognized standard setting, certification and labelling organization for responsible forest management. The mission of the FSC is to promote responsible forest management.

The Strategy commits FSC to continued leadership in advancing globally responsible forest management. It stresses the importance of making progress with forest certification in tropical forests and small producers and about growing the market share for FSC certified products and other forest services, such as carbon sequestration.

FSC is reviewing its governance structure to strengthen its network and ensure effective delivery of the goals set out in the Strategy. The FSC membership will decide on a proposal for a new governance structure in November 2008, when it meets for its 5th General Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa.

The FSC Board of Director adopted the FSC strategy after an extensive consultation of FSC members. FSC governance gives social, environmental and economic interests an equal voice and prevents any one interest from dominating.

The FSC Global Strategy is available in English and Spanish language on the FSC web site at: www.fsc.org/globalstrategy. For further information, visit www.fsc.org.

Defra Survey: 'Public Attitudes And Behaviours Toward The Environment: 2007'.

Defra recently published the 2007 survey 'Public Attitudes and Behaviours toward the Environment', painting a representative picture of what people in England think and how they behave across a range of issues relevant to the environment. Over 50 per cent of people believed that recycling more, using a car less, using a more fuel efficient car and/or cutting down on gas and electricity use in the home would have a major impact on the UK's contribution to climate change if most people in UK were prepared to do them, while the behaviours for which the greatest proportion of people thought there would be no impact on the UK's contribution to climate change were 'buying food produced locally rather than abroad' and 'flying less'.

Further information is available from the Defra web site at www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/pubatt/index.htm

IT Carbon Emissions 'Match Aviation'

The ICT sector has a carbon footprint similar to that of the aviation industry and will soon outstrip emissions from flights, according to a new report. Environmental charity Global Action Plan, which commissioned the research, argued the sector now needed to be given the same level of attention as aviation or 4x4s.

An Inefficient Truth, says many UK companies are using vast amounts of energy by inefficiently storing data and failing to adopt sustainable habits such as switching off units at night. It also revealed that many ICT departments have no idea how much energy they are using and are often not involved in their companies' sustainability policies.

Trewin Restorick, director of Global Action Plan, said: "We just cannot make the connection between our use of ICT and climate change. Somehow we have got to change." He accused many companies in the ICT and communications sector of using green claims as a marketing tool.

The organisation is calling on the Government to change legislation governing the way data has to be stored in the UK. The report revealed that the ICT sector is now responsible for around 2% of man-made global carbon emissions. Researchers found that only 40% of ICT departments are using more than half of the available space on their data servers and more than 60% thought they would run out of data storage within a year. The report also raised concerns that more than half of the ICT departments surveyed do not see their organisations' energy bills and two-thirds do not pay their share of bills.

Source: Edie News Summary www.edie.net

Big Business Commits To Carbon Cutting.

Ikea, Sky and Chelsea FC are among a host of top London businesses that have signed up to a new programme to help large companies cut their carbon emissions. Mayor of London Ken Livingstone launched the two schemes this week, aiming to save 3m tonnes of emissions by 2010 and save £300m in energy bills.

The Green 500 scheme will offer practical support to help large businesses and public sector organisations become more carbon efficient, at a cost of £3,500 for the initial membership. Under the scheme, a carbon mentor will help companies put an action plan in place to reduce emissions, and members will have to publish their progress annually.

London's leading commercial landlords will be urged to pay £10,000 to sign up to the second scheme, the Better Buildings Partnership, which aims to improve the carbon efficiency of existing commercial property in the capital. Members of the scheme - which already include Land Securities, Hermes Real Estate and Grosvenor - will have to set benchmark carbon levels for the properties on their books and encourage sustainable building improvements.

The new schemes follow the launch of the London Green Homes programme to improve carbon efficiency in existing private homes across the city.

For more information on the schemes, visit www.green500.co.uk or www.lcca.co.uk

Source: Edie News Summary www.edie.net

Businesses 'Put Off' Green Technology.

Research by Siemens Financial Services found that two-fifths of British firms have implemented measures to reduce their carbon emissions and a quarter of companies measure their carbon footprint. But it revealed that many firms, particularly small businesses, are being held back because of a limited choice of products on the market and the large initial cost of buying new equipment.

A quarter of British businesses surveyed said they do not have the capital to replace their existing equipment with environmentally-friendly alternatives and 57% said the running costs of such equipment must be the same or lower than standard equipment. The report by Siemens Financial Services said manufacturers, vendors and the Government needed to present the business case for green technology.

It recommended extending green product ranges and making finance schemes more easily available, as well as demonstrating to purchasers how much they would save.

Siemens director Rod Tonna-Barthet told edie: "This is just about making green affordable. Going green makes sense financially to your business." He added that Government ministers need to create tax incentives for investing in the technology if they wanted to meet their aims of reducing carbon emissions by at least 60% by 2050.

Source: Edie News Summary www.edie.net

New Hackney City Farm Education Centre Tops For Sustainable Building

A new Education Resource Centre at the Hackney City Farm, the latest strawbale building to be completed by amazonails, was opened on Friday 14th December. Opened by Tommy Walsh, star of the BBC TV garden landscaping programme Ground Force, which transformed gardens across the UK and the USA during its 8-year run, will open the new centre. Tommy is not only patron of Hackney City Farm, he also runs his own small building business in Hackney, specialising in hard landscaping – the part of garden creation which doesn't involve planting.

The 50 sq metre building, built with a workforce of over 100 volunteers including the unemployed, asylum seekers, refugees and people from Adaction, Mind and the probation service, is made entirely from sustainable and recycled materials. The straw bales came from a nearby farm, travelling a total of only 37 'straw miles'. The wool roof insulation is from the farm's sheep. Apart from coppiced hazel from the City Farm Manager's own farm in Kent, much of the timber came from a 1930s 40ft teak boat, the keel being the ramp into the building, the sides are the classroom desks and the rest has provided the outside seating. A large cross-beam in the new building was once part of the Norfolk sea defences. All waste straw created during building was re-used on the farm for bedding.

Strawbale building was brought to the UK by Barbara Jones of amazonails in 1995, and she helped to build the first strawbale building in the UK to have Planning Permission and Building Control approval, a load bearing bungalow, in 1996. The social enterprise amazonails has now been involved in the construction of more than 100 strawbale buildings in the UK, including the largest in the country and a spectacular education centre for the National Trust at Windermere.

For more information on Hackney City Farm, please visit www.hackneycityfarm.co.uk.

Water Efficiency In The Hospitality Sector – New Report Published

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

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

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

Rota-Loo The Convenience For The 21st Century

How one group of allotment holders chose to install a composting loo without the need for water, septic tank or mains drainage? When a group of allotment holders were faced with the problem of providing toilets for its 300 plus members and numerous other community users, it decided to solve it using an environmental solution which is new to the UK.

The Rota-Loo system has a 12V fan which ensures constant ventilation of the store providing aerobic decomposition thus preventing any smells. The store consists of a turn table with six bins which are rotated sequentially once each is filled; when the bins are full they compost down to produce humus which can be used as compost.

Visit Rota-Loo on the Green Shoots stand at Ecobuild 2008

For more information please call Fiona Davis-Coleman on 0208 876 3044 or Jonathan Cooke on 01799 598086

Targeting Comfort and Sustainability in Building Design.

Comfort and Sustainability are two of the hot topics that architects and designers are required to take into consideration in the construction and maintenance of public sector and education buildings. A key area where alternative solutions have been carefully sourced is in the ability to maintain a natural temperature level within the building, without the use of mechanical equipment like air conditioning systems. The PCM Eco-Wall systems offered by Triarch UK give the alternative construction methods required to promote sustainability whilst providing the comfortable working or teaching environment.

PCM (phase changing materials) are crucial in achieving a comfortable working atmosphere. This is in part due to the ability of wax filled microcapsules, contained within either a regular gypsum plasterboard or plaster, to absorb and release large amounts of heat from the surrounding environment. This is achieved through the microcapsules melting or solidifying, and by doing so can maintain an almost constant room temperature. PCM plasterboard or plaster can be used as part of traditional or alternative construction methods for internal walls and has the added benefit that it eliminates the requirement for costly and un-environmental air conditioning systems.

Awarded the SCS Indoor Advantage Gold award for Indoor Air Quality by the Collaborative for High Performance Schools, in the U.S state of California, Triarch wall coatings provide the performance and environmental characteristics required in Education buildings. Made primarily of abundant natural materials, Triarch's decorative coatings are durable, breathable, mold and mildew resistant, contain low VOCs, and can be easily cleaned, for long term benefits.

For more information contact Stephen Underwood, Triarch UK, 01920 823703, email info@triarchuk.com or visit www.triarchuk.com

Events

Climate Outreach & Information Network (COIN) - New 2008 Season Of Trainings In London

The Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN) has teamed up with The Environment Council to put on a winter season of discussion, training and action in the heart of London, right by Holborn Tube station, in a season starting January 10th 2008.

The training dates are as follows:

- Climate Change Condensed, Thu 10th January 4:30 - 7:30
- Speaker Training, Fri 18th January 10:00 - 4:30
- Communicating Climate Change, Wed 23rd January 10:00 - 4:30
- Carbon Cafe, Tue 29th January 2:00 - 5:00
- How to win the climate change argument in a 15 minute tea break, Thu 7th February 4:30 - 7:30
- 2nd Carbon Cafe, Tue 12th February 4:30 - 7:30
- 2nd Climate Change Condensed, Thu 28th February 2:00 - 5:00
- Climate Action Groups, Tue 11th March 4:30 - 7:30

Further details at www.the-environment-council.org.uk/winter-season-communicating-climate-change.html or ring The Environment Council on 0207 632 0138/0118

Building Performance Awards Entries Close 14 January

Rewarding high performing commercial, occupied buildings, the Building Performance Awards are unique in their field. These awards celebrate buildings post occupancy that are proven to have a high performance value in terms of efficiency. Located anywhere in the world, but from a UK designer, engineer or consultant, the buildings must be occupied and have been completed 12 to 48 months ago.

The inaugural awards presentation, exhibition and catalogue will take place at MIPIM, 11-14 March 2008.

The following categories are now open for entry.

- Sustainability

- Productivity
- Place Making
- Financial Performance
- Client Satisfaction

Entries close 14 January so make sure you visit www.buildingperformanceawards.co.uk for full details of this unique post occupancy awards event.

Achieving Sustainable Buildings – Client Leadership

Wednesday 23 January 2008 9.30am at The Genesis Centre, Taunton, Somerset. This is an event intended to raise the awareness of construction clients as to the vital role they can play in ensuring the sustainability of their projects. A well informed and proactive client is a plus for any construction project, but where achieving sustainable, low/zero carbon projects is the target client's understanding and leadership can make all the difference to meeting project aspirations.

This one day seminar will raise awareness and provide solutions for clients wishing to achieve sustainable buildings

The price of this event is £165 and includes tea, coffee and lunch. For booking details please contact Gillian Hawkey phone 01823 252934 email gillian.hawkey@somerset.ac.uk and for further information please contact Tim Simmons on 01823 366528 email tim.simmons@somerset.ac.uk.

The Practicalities of delivering Zero Carbon Homes, Thurs 24th January 2008 – Hockerton Housing Project

This workshop will help you to understand more about the new challenge of zero carbon housing and to develop with HHP, and others on the workshop, plans for achieving practical solutions. There are lots of buzz words currently being thrown around and many tempting offers on how sustainability targets can be met. But why not come and found out the reality and practicalities from members of the Hockerton Housing Project that have been living to these standards and using related technologies for over 10 years.

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

Full information is at www.hockertonhousingproject.org.uk/ViewItem.asp?ID=2231

South East 'Going For Green' Conference & Exhibition – 13th February 2008

On Wednesday 13th February the CIH South East Branch and their partners calfordseaden and SEEDA are holding a major event at Jury's Inn Hotel, Milton Keynes. This 'Going for Green' event will draw together key players not only from the UK but also internationally to share their ideas, experiences and innovative housing solutions to achieve a better and greener environment for householders.

The exhibition will be made available to organisations who share the vision of the conference partnership of a greener, better place for all to live in. With over 150 delegates attending, this exhibition will provide a key opportunity for your organisation to be represented, and to promote your products and services to those decision makers working in this important area of housing. Registration and refreshments will be served within the exhibition area, giving you high visibility and maximum exposure to delegates throughout the day.

For more information please contact Jodie Willis 02476 851772 or email jodie.willis@cih.org

Greener Homes and Buildings Exhibition 7th 8th and 9th March 2008 Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells.

Celebrity television presenter and author Dick Strawbridge will be making a star appearance at the Greener Homes and Buildings National Exhibition, an inspirational three-day event at the Royal Welsh Showground at Builth Wells from March 7-9, 2008.

The exhibition is the only UK event of its kind for both professionals and members of the public dedicated to greener, sustainable homes and buildings. This stand-alone event is being funded and organised by the Welsh Assembly Government with support from the Welsh Timber Forum.

The exhibition opens with a Trade and Professional Day on Friday, March 7 for those involved in planning, designing and constructing greener homes and buildings. Jane Davidson, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing in Wales, will join delegates.

Strawbridge will then arrive on Saturday as the exhibition opens to the general public for two days.

Packed with seminars and leading exhibits, it promises to be an unmissable event for anyone interested in greener homes and buildings. Whether you're involved in the renovation of a historic building or looking to see what you could incorporate into your new home, there will be something of interest for everyone at the show.

One Stop Shop For A Greener Home

- UK's largest exhibition of green building products and services for DIY, self build and renovation projects for the public

- 100's of ideas and products to see
- Dick Strawbridge, TV presenter is attending on 8th March to share his experiences
- Helpdesk for information
- Workshops
- Professional Day, 7th March. Conference and Exhibition aimed at professionals involved in green building projects.
- Public Days, 8th-9th March 2008 – Exhibition and workshops

For more information and to book tickets visit www.greenerhomeshow.co.uk or telephone 0845 602 4087 email: info@greenerhomeshow.co.uk

All-Energy '08, Aberdeen, 21-22 May 2008

All-Energy is the UK's largest renewable energy exhibition and conference.

The conference has developed to encompass critical issues – such as the grid; finance and funding; health and safety; supply chains; skills shortages – as well as renewable energy sources. Special sessions will be aimed at farmers; communities; the professionals interested in the installation of all forms of microgeneration; and cover clean coal and the nuclear industry as well.

Sponsorship packages, exhibition opportunities and details of All Energy 2008 informal call for papers can be found at the website: www.all-energy.co.uk

Publications

Conserving Water In Buildings; A Practical Guide – Nick Grant

Conserving Water in Buildings; a Practical Guide is just out, written by AECB Member Nick Grant, this is available free from www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/geho1107bnjree_1934318.pdf

Green Roofs (CIBSE Knowledge Series KS11) – Cath Hassell and Ben Coombes

This publication is mainly aimed at design professionals who require a concise understanding of the advantages of green roofs and the implications for design once specified. Key topics exploring the drivers for installing a green roof are introduced with an overview of potential benefits to single buildings and wider environmental goals.

The fundamental considerations and potential obstacles facing the designer are dealt with in a clear and concise manner with topics spanning the process from conception to implementation. Issues covered range from understanding relevant legislation and whether existing buildings are suitable for retrofit, through to specific dynamics such as choices of vegetation, substrate and drainage and their bearings on structural capacity, biodiversity and sustainable drainage systems (SUDS).

Important questions regarding cost, maintenance and aesthetic appeal are also examined, giving designers valuable tools with which to assess and discuss with clients how best their goals are to be met.

The publication also covers issues for contractors during the build process, for building managers who are required to maintain green roofs and for clients who are considering incorporating green roofs into their buildings.

The environmental advantages of green roofs are many and varied and it is hoped that this guide will result in more green roofs being incorporated into the built environment in the UK.

This is a well written and researched guide from 2 AECB Members, showing the case for green roofs, the key design factors in specifying, constructing and maintaining a successful green roof. The publication is packed with clear diagrams and photos along with practical and technical guidance. There are plenty of references for further reading and research and is a must for anybody considering a green roof. (ED)

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.