



Network

News

August 2009

It's Your Call – Join The Phone Coop And Help The AECB At The Same Time

The AECB has formed a partnership with The Phone Co-op to offer members a great deal on phone calls, line rental and broadband.

Like all good relationships, it's a two-way thing. Our members benefit from The Phone Co-op's low cost services and good levels of service, while we will receive a small regular monthly income from The Phone Co-op which will help us grow and develop.

We chose The Phone Co-op as a partner on the strength of our shared values. The Phone Co-op is the only real option for anyone seeking a more ethical and environmentally responsible supplier of telephone calls, broadband and line rental. Owned and democratically controlled by its customers, the co-operative is primarily concerned with giving customers what they want, namely good value, excellent service and a socially responsible, environmentally sustainable approach to business.

Their line rental and mobile services are both rated a 'Best Buy' by Ethical Consumer magazine and their broadband service is also recommended. What's more, the co-operative was winner of the Green England Best for Customer Service Award, so you can be confident that you'll receive high standards of service as well as getting an excellent deal on price.

To find out more, visit www.thephone.coop or call us on 0845 458 9040. Please quote AECB and our Code AF0130

National Green Specification Launch Housing Refurbishment Section

The traditional role of housing refurbishment has been in the upgrading of houses to meet with contemporary expectations of weather-tightness, warmth and modern facilities. With the arrival of the Climate Change agenda there is now the added urgency of reducing the carbon emissions both of our existing and future housing stocks, housing is responsible for 27% of the country's carbon emissions.

Around 50% of the residential emissions result from space heating and a further 20% from heating hot water. And about two-thirds of houses standing in 2050 will have been built prior to 1996. If the planned reduction of 80% of carbon emissions is to be realised, it is action in this sector that will be critical to the success of the Government's ambition. Much of this stock was built before the introduction of modern standards and many homes still fall well below commonly accepted standards of thermal comfort.

For more information go to www.greenspec.co.uk/html/refurb/refurbcontent.html

AECB Member Wins Top Green Award

Green Structures are double prize-winners in the International Green Apple Awards 2009 for the Built Environment and Architectural Heritage. They have been given the Gold Award for their project "Zero Carbon Loft, Hanwell, London." in the contractors and developers category as well as receiving an overall 2009 Green Champion Award.

The trophies were presented by star of stage and screen, author and keen environmentalist Kate O'Mara at a very hot and stunning Hampton Court Palace. The trophies are awarded annually in recognition of building projects that enhance the built environment and/or protect our architectural heritage.

The judges commented: "This project converts not just a loft space, but a lifestyle. With energy management features such as a passively heated warm room to remove the need for a tumble drier, to a main room that is fully heated with 15 minutes of winter sun, the passive energy reclaim abilities of this build are remarkable."

The award-winning project will be featured in the next National Treasures guide and they will also be presented with a prestigious Green Plaque later in the year, during a special prize giving ceremony at the House of Commons. The Green Apple Awards campaign is run by The Green Organisation, an independent, non-political, non-profit organisation that recognises rewards and promotes environmental best practice around the world. Their supporters include the Environment Agency, the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and various other professional bodies.

National Organiser Roger Wolens commented: "We had hundreds nominations this year, so they did particularly well to triumph against some very strong competition."

More details at www.greenappleawards.com

New Services Announced By AECB Member

AECB member JLH (BROS) Limited from Kenilworth in Warwickshire is proud to announce the launch of its new website with the aim of providing an unrivalled service in the design and installation of high performance fenestration products for use in low energy buildings.

For more information, please visit the new look website at www.jlhbrosLtd.co.uk

Straw Bale House Open Day

The Straw Bale Cottage at Village Farm, Brind, Howden, East Yorks, DN14 7LA

The Straw Bale Cottage will be completed in time for open days to be held on Friday 31 July (10am – 6pm) and Saturday 1 August (10am – 4pm). Councillor Doreen Engall will preside over the official opening ceremony at 1pm on Friday. From start to finish, it has taken mother and son team Carol and Sam Atkinson nearly 16 months to complete the super-insulated holiday cottage. Natural materials used in the construction include local wheat straw, local hemp, local timber other from managed forests, sheep's wool, lime render, clay plaster and natural finishes.

The spacious cottage is one and a half storey and has an internal floor area in excess of 100m². Upstairs accommodation comprises two large bedrooms and a bathroom. Downstairs there is a kitchen, lounge, study, shower room and entrance porch.

Entry on the open day is free and refreshments will be available. There will be lots of information, displays and photographs to browse and Carol and Sam will be on hand to answer questions. Come and join us.

A further open day will be held on Saturday 12 September (10am – 4pm) in conjunction with the Heritage Open Day in nearby Howden and a weekend course in straw bale building will be run at the Cottage on 3rd and 4th October. There are still a few days availability for holidays in August and plenty from mid September onwards. The Straw Bale Cottage is a cosy hideaway at any time of year!

Contact Carol on 07930 212804 / 01430 410662 / carol@strawcottage.co.uk

FSC Principles And Criteria Review

The revised draft version of the FSC Principles and Criteria has now been published for consultation. This is the first comprehensive review and revision of the FSC Principles and Criteria since their approval in 1994.

Please download the complete invitation to comment, the revision draft and further background information from the Principles and Criteria Review Section of the FSC website at: www.fsc.org/pcreview.html

4th Annual Green Awards Open For Nominations.

The 4th Annual Green Awards to recognise creativity in promoting sustainability is now calling on all eco-heroes to come forward to gain recognition for their actions towards a more sustainable world. Have you taken action on an environmental, ethical or social issue, communicated your message using your own contacts and raised funds with limited resources against all the odds? If so, then you are a worthy campaigner and the Green Awards wants to hear from you!

For the second year in a row, the media and marketing industry's Green Awards is including 'people power' in its annual awards for environmental, ethical or social campaigns. Help us demonstrate that it is possible to make a big impact with very little budget. This year, the Best Green Campaigner Award, sponsored by ASDA, will be promoted in co-operation with the Big Issue Magazine and Foundation, who will receive all entry fees for this category to continue its good work helping the homeless.

Becoming a Green Awards finalist or winner is visible, high-profile recognition of what you have achieved - and highlights your ambition for the future. Join an exclusive group of Green Awards™ winners that includes Nokia, Co-op, Marks & Spencer and Do The Green Thing and mingle with other eco-champions at the awards night at LSO St Luke's in London on 18th November.

Go to www.greenawards.co.uk for entry forms and apply by 18th September.

Support Vestas Workers

Workers of the Isle Of Wight, Vestas factory have been given redundancy from the end of July. Some of the office workers are sitting in. It seems crazy that with the proposed huge expansion in turbines, Vestas should decide to take the production of blades to the USA. There is a link on the web site to Ed Millibands office. So you can email him as well.

You can support them via their web site <http://savevestas.wordpress.com>

Help Save The Honey Bee

Honey bees in Britain - mainly in rural areas- are dying out. The jury is out on exactly why but the Soil Association is convinced that the use of neonicotinoid pesticides is a major factor -this seems to be backed up by the fact city bees, unencumbered by pesticides are, in contrast, thriving.

You may not have a soft spot for bees but we NEED BEES to pollinate our plants & when pollination rates drop, this has a knock-on effect to the world's food supply and could lead to disastrous shortages and massive hikes in food prices.

So please take just 2 minutes to sign the Soil Association's petition to ban neonicotinoid pesticides and forward this to as many people as you can.

Go to www.soilassociation.org/Takeaction/Savethehoneybee/tabid/434/Default.aspx

Scotland Sets High Target For Climate Change Legislation

The Scottish Government has passed some of the strictest climate change legislation in the world setting a target of a 42% reduction in emissions by 2020 and an 80% cut by the 2050. The emissions covered by the Bill include those from the controversial sectors of international aviation and shipping. The UK Government will not decide on whether to include aviation and shipping in its climate change legislation until 2012.

The Scottish Bill also sets significantly higher interim targets than the UK legislation, which requires a 34% cut in emissions from 1990 levels by 2022. Last week the Scottish Government published details of how the targets can be achieved in a delivery plan. The Bill has been endorsed by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who says it sends a message to the world that it must act now. It has also been welcomed by environmental groups, including WWF Scotland.

For more information go to www.scotland.gov.uk/Home

EU Energy Project Funding Overlooks Energy Efficiency

The EU has approved a major allocation of €3.98 billion in economic recovery funds for energy projects, but energy efficiency and renewable energy projects will only get what is leftover. The 47 'priority' projects include 18 gas infrastructure projects worth €1.44 billion, nine electricity infrastructure projects worth €910 million and 13 carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration projects worth €1.05 billion. The only renewables projects are five offshore wind farms, which will receive €565 million.

Following criticism from MEPs that the allocation did not include enough for energy efficiency and renewables, the plans include a provision to allow any unspent funds by the end of 2010 to be put towards these areas. Proponents argue that investment in the gas infrastructure is needed to prevent another crisis like the dispute that arose in January between Russia and Ukraine, which led to the severing of gas supplies to part of Eastern Europe. Major investment in CCS is also needed now if the technology is to get off the ground.

For more information go to www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/misc/109042.pdf

UK Government Launches Consultations On Clean Coal

The UK Government today published details of its plans for developing clean coal, which include carbon capture and storage (CCS) for all new power stations. Coal currently accounts for 37% of the UK's electricity capacity. Clean coal, according to independent research by AEA Group, which is also published today, could bring £2-4 billion a year into the UK economy by 2030 and mean 30,000-60,000 new jobs.

The Government's consultation document proposes that new coal-fired power stations could only be constructed in the UK if they demonstrate CCS on at least 300 MW of capacity. These demonstration projects would also have to store 20 million tonnes of CO₂ for 10-15 years. The document recognises that Government intervention is vital to progress in CCS, and will continue its competition for a post-combustion demonstration project. The Government is also proposing a financial incentive funded by electricity suppliers to support a further three CCS demonstrations, including pre-combustion technology.

Once CCS is a 'proven' technology, which the Government estimates will be reached around 2020, it will become mandatory for all power stations. Existing facilities will have five years from this time to retrofit CCS technology. But if the development of CCS takes longer than expected, the Government is proposing the introduction of extra measures to reduce emissions from coal-fired power stations such as an annual cap, a limit on running hours or the introduction of an emissions performance standard.

In a letter to The Guardian newspaper, a group of green and environmental organisations including Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and WWF UK is calling on the Government to "provide international leadership" on coal power stations emissions ahead of the Copenhagen meeting this December.

The Government's consultation document is open for comment until 9 September 2009.

Go to www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/clean_coal/clean_coal.aspx

UK Housing Minister Promises New Standard For Zero-Carbon Homes

UK Housing Minister John Healey followed up last week's publication of the Government's Low Carbon Transition Plan with the publication of standards for energy efficient zero-carbon homes. In a written statement, Healey reconfirmed the Government's commitment to achieving zero-carbon new homes by 2016 and announced the definitions and standards that will be legislated.

The Government first unveiled its zero-carbon homes ambition in 2007 and began a consultation at the end of last year. Following that consultation, Healey published the Planning Policy Statement on Friday, which sets out the

standards for green homes. New zero-carbon homes will have to show zero or negative carbon dioxide emissions from energy use across the year and meet a minimum 'carbon compliance' standard for on-site mitigation of 70%. The rest can come from what's known as 'allowable solutions' – either further on- or off-site carbon reduction measures.

To meet these stringent requirements, homes will have to be highly energy efficient. But Healey admits that the UK does not have an appropriate established energy efficiency standard for the purpose of zero carbon homes. He is therefore setting up a specialist task force that will report back in the autumn on the energy efficiency metrics and standards that will be needed. A decision on a new standard will be announced before the end of the year, he adds.

Healey says he will also announce a decision on the controversial 'allowable solutions' by the end of the year, but looks likely to favour the options supported by the consultation that include fitting of energy efficient appliances, advanced building control systems, exporting low carbon or renewable heat to other developments and investing in community heat infrastructure.

For more information go to www.communities.gov.uk

UK Government Eschews Energy Efficiency For Home Extensions

In a U-turn that has infuriated the building sector, the Government has dropped plans to implement stringent energy efficiency requirements on home extensions and major refurbishments. The draft consultation on Part L of the Building Regulations for 2010, which had promised to force properties undergoing 'consequential improvements' – such as extensions – to also implement energy efficiency measures, contains no such provision.

This is not the first time that the 'consequential improvement' clause has been dropped from building regulations – former Housing Minister Yvette Cooper removed the clause from the 2006 update to Part L Building Regulations.

At a meeting in London on Wednesday, John Fiennes, director for sustainable buildings and climate change at the Department for Communities and Local Government, said the clause had been dropped to give new Housing Minister John Healy time to consider all the options. However, there is no firm data for when the clause could be reconsidered. Andrew Warren, director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, warned at the same meeting that failure to push forward on this measure will leave the UK lagging behind the rest of Europe. The incoming Swedish leadership at the EU plan to recast European buildings directives to include consequential improvements, he said.

One the stumbling blocks appears to be the complexity and interrelations of existing legislation. The Code for Sustainable Homes will also be updated in 2010 and energy efficiency requirements must be aligned to those proposed in the updated Part L regulations. Add to that the ongoing consultation on the Standard Assessment Procedure for the Energy Rating of Dwellings (SAP) and you have a recipe for confusion – and inaction, say industry experts.

For more information go to www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/partlf2010consultation

UK Government Increases Funds For Energy Efficiency Home Makeovers To £3.5 Billion

The UK Government yesterday announced plans to increase investment in measures designed to improve the energy efficiency of the country's homes to £3.5 billion. The plans will increase energy companies' investment in the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) scheme and introduce a new Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP). The changes to CERT will bring an increase in the carbon emissions reduction target of 20% and in the amount that energy companies can earmark for energy efficiency technologies such as microgeneration and solid-wall insulation (from 6% to 10%). The measures that can be offered under CERT will now include home energy advice and audits, but direct mail outs of low-energy bulbs will no longer be eligible.

Meanwhile, the CESP – which will begin this autumn – will help up to 100 community schemes provide energy makeovers to households in low-income areas. The programme will promote partnership between local authorities, community groups and energy companies, who will be obliged to take part for the first time.

For more information go to <http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/closed/closed.aspx>

UK And France To Develop Common Rating Tool For Buildings

BRE Global in the UK and CSTB in France are to work together on a pan-European environmental assessment method for buildings. The two organisations have their own successful assessment methods, BREEAM administered by BRE and HQE in France. They are now joining forces with CERTIVA, a subsidiary of CSTB, to align the two certification schemes.

BREEAM is one of the most widely used environmental assessment methods for buildings, which are rated on their sustainable design and environmental performance across eight categories. Buildings receive credits on a scale of Pass, Good, Very Good, Excellent and Outstanding or a one to five star rating. CSTB, which is under the supervision of the French Ministry of Housing, acts to improve the comfort and safety of buildings and covers research and innovative engineering, evaluation of buildings and dissemination of information.

Ultimately, aligning the BREEAM and HQE schemes could allow the development of an assessment method common across the whole of Europe.

For more information go to www.breglobal.com/

US And China Join Forces On Energy Efficient Buildings

US Energy Secretary Steven Chu has signed an agreement between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Chinese Ministry of Urban-Rural Development (MOHURD) to join forces on energy efficient buildings. Nearly half of the world's new floor space built every year is in China and, over the next 15 years, the country is expected to construct the equivalent of the entire US building stock.

The new agreement aims to foster collaboration between the two nations on efficient building design, including high-performance HVAC, insulation, lighting, cold storage, geothermal heat pumps, building-integrated photovoltaics and solar thermal systems. Specialists from both countries will share experiences and compare options for regulatory reform and incentives to improve energy efficient development in China. The collaboration could extend to a joint demonstration project of energy saving buildings and renewable energy technologies.

The US will also provide support for MOHURD's 'eco-cities' initiative, which is working toward the building of sustainably designed cities that rely on renewable power. The two nations will develop standards and guidelines for eco-cities together. The two countries are also to collaborate on a \$15 million joint research centre. The US-China Clean Energy Research Centre will focus activities on building energy efficiency, clean coal including carbon capture and storage, and clean vehicles. The Centre, which will have headquarters in each country, will facilitate joint research and development projects between scientists and engineers from both countries.

For more information go to www.energy.gov

Source: Energy Efficiency News

New UK Standard To Help Businesses Improve Energy Efficiency

A new standard published this week will help UK businesses manage their energy usage and improve efficiency, says standards and certification body BSI. The standard, BS EN 16001, which lays out the requirements for energy management systems, includes the need to identify an organisation's past, present and future energy consumption and develop an energy policy and a monitoring – or metering – plan.

The framework laid out in the standard deliberately does not prescribe exactly how operations should be run. Rather than stipulate a range of technical solutions, it encourages embedding energy efficiency measures in all of an organisation's decisions. The guidelines suggest that organisations appoint specific staff to manage energy use and promote efficiency measures, set specific energy use or saving targets, install monitoring systems and regularly review progress.

The BSI says that it believes there will be a great demand for the new standard. According to a recent survey of 800 public and private sector organisations in the UK, only half of respondents said their energy management practices are good or very good, despite over three-quarters rating energy management as being important or very important to senior management.

For more information go to www.bsigroup.com/bsen16001

Sweden Puts European "Eco-Efficiency" Top Of The Agenda

Sweden, who officially took over the EU presidency last week, has pledged to put energy efficiency at the top of its agenda. A report put together by the Stockholm Environment Institute will form the basis of the first informal meeting of energy and environment ministers later this month. A European Eco-efficient Economy says that while Europe is leading the way in climate change commitments, it must make greater efforts in energy efficiency and promoting innovation to continue to attract new investment and business.

Sweden says one its priorities for its six-month term leading the EU will be to promote an eco-efficient economy, where economic growth and climate-friendly policies go hand-in-hand. The report suggests that EU policy should focus on three areas for greatest effect: energy efficiency and sustainable city planning, new technologies in renewables and transportation and working towards global carbon pricing. Energy efficiency investments in insulation and energy-saving appliances, along with more fuel efficient cars and clean energy, are particularly attractive in the current downturn, says the report.

For more information go to www.eu2009.se/en/the_presidency

No Single Solution For A Low Carbon Future, Say Scientists

Leading UK scientists say there is no single solution to meeting future energy needs and tackling climate change. In a report, "Towards a low carbon future", for the Royal Society, the scientists call for an end to the UK's "half-hearted" approach. The country lacks a coherent energy system able to meet the challenges ahead, says the report, and needs a new vision for the future.

Over the next decade, the UK must deploy renewables such as wind, tidal and biomass, while implementing demonstration carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology and revisiting nuclear power. Beyond that, from 2020 to 2050, the UK will have to implement new marine, bio-energy and advanced solar technologies to continue the decarbonisation of its electricity supply, while also pressing ahead with alternative fuels for transport and widespread installation of CCS.

In the longer term beyond 2050, the report suggests more advanced technologies, particularly energy storage options like lithium-ion batteries or super-capacitors to allow wider use of renewables, as well as more distant

prospects like nuclear fusion. In addition, the country needs to focus on retrofitting existing buildings to reap the rewards of savings through improve energy efficiency.

The report cautions, however, that while there is a great deal of existing knowledge and technology to make this feasible, implementation does not appear to always bring the expected improvements. No improvements can happen at all, says the report, without a major increase in the amount of funding dedicated to energy research and the implementation of new technologies.

For more information go to <http://royalsociety.org/document.asp?tip=0&id=8174>

Events

The Future Of Sustainable Housing - Part L1A 2010, Part F And SAP2009 Events

BRE, in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust and the Zero Carbon Hub, today launched a series of half day events which will provide housing professionals with an in-depth, yet simple and practical look at what the requirements for low carbon housing will look like in 2010.

By attending one of these regional events you will:

- Discover how amendments to Part L1A and Part F will affect design compliance and the delivery of new housing in 2010.
- Receive free SAP2009 software and get practical experience in using SAP2009.
- Have the opportunity to input into the consultation process using hand-held voting equipment.

Prominent speakers from Communities and Local Government, BRE, the Energy Saving Trust and the Zero Carbon Hub will be present at each event. Delegate numbers are strictly limited to 35 per event to allow interactive sessions and discussion on the changes to Part L1A and SAP2009 with the speakers.

These events have been designed to meet the needs of developers, architects and housing associations in England. Further events in other regions are also planned. The content is suitable for all housing professionals, but prior knowledge of Part L and SAP is recommended.

Venues:

4th August Birmingham, 5th August Nottingham, 6th August Cambridge, 18th August London, 25th August Liverpool, 26th August Manchester, 27th August Leeds, 28th August Newcastle, 2nd September Bristol, 3rd September Exeter.

CLG is also organising separate events for non-domestic buildings – please visit the website for further information.

Full venue details and agendas for these half days events are provided on www.bre.co.uk/events/partLF

Network For Comfort And Energy Use In Buildings Meeting – 8th September – Edinburg

The autumn meeting of NCEUB is being held in Edinburgh with a host of excellent speakers and the SESG meeting in the evening.

Please notify Fergus Nicol (below) if you are coming so that we can be sure of sufficient refreshments etc. The cost will be just for the food so it should be affordable for all. Please also inform anyone who you think might be interested in coming. They can sign up to the Network at www.nceub.org.uk but are welcome to come along anyway

For more information please contact Fergus Nicol, Low Energy Architecture Research Unit (LEARN), London Metropolitan University, 40 Holloway Road, London N7 8JL or phone 020 7133 4426 email f.nicol@londonmet.ac.uk

Join the Network for comfort and energy use in buildings at www.nceub.org.uk

1st International Hemp Building Symposium, 16 - 18 Sept 2009, Kenmare, Co Kerry, Ireland.

Announcing the very first International gathering of those practicing, or interested in the wide ranging opportunities that hemp materials are introducing to the modern world of construction.

The use of a Carbon Negative Masonry at this juncture is revolutionary and the possibilities of growing our housing stock together with our food resources in a manner that compliments nature and the environment is now of vital importance. The exciting ways in which these natural and low energy materials can be incorporated into economically viable building systems and create a high level of comfort and health, prove the materials work in sophisticated ways and can provide enormous advantages in vastly lowering energy demand to provide housing for communities all over the world. This will be illuminated by the broad interests of the subjects being presented at the Symposium.

From Europe we will have speakers telling of the development of the system and of their projects, both constructing new dwellings and renovating existing buildings. From Canada and the U.S. we will have news of pioneer ecological homes built in very different climates. The continent of Africa will also be represented, as the rebuilding of the townships and the need to also rebuild the immune systems of a young population ravaged by HIV is of prime importance and Hemp is seen as one of ways in which both housing and nutrition can be provided throughout Africa.

We will also have exponents of the system demonstrate the application of the various materials and the beautiful finishes that are possible in Hemp houses. The Hemp building system is where the "green" and "modern" building world meet, where Natural materials and Hi-tech merge for a truly sustainable future.

The Event will be hosted by Steve Allin of Hempbuilding.com, author of the pre-eminent book " Building with Hemp" together with Jayeson Hendyrsan, Canadian Hemp Building Pioneer from Bowen Is. V.C. and will be held in the beautiful heritage town of Kenmare where there are several examples of hemp building in the vicinity.

Go to: www.irelandgreenbuilding.com for details and updates.

European Strawbale Gathering 2009 26th – 30th September, Belgium

International gathering for professionals and organizations concentrating on strawbale building in all its facets

In some European countries strawbale building is actually booming. The self builders are already convinced, now we need well educated straw professionals to cope with the growing interest in sustainable strawbale houses. A small gym of the local primary school is functioning as building site for the demonstration-workshops of the ESBG 09: during these demonstrations and workshops we will build parts of the strawbale walls of this gym. Pupils of a technical secondary school (section wood) are designing and constructing a part of the gym as a try out for a SB-education-programme.

The venue is de Waterburcht - Riemst – Belgium, meeting point of the Euregio Maas-Rijn

For more information and booking details go to www.casacalida.be/ESBG/58

The Smart Energy Show 2009, 1 – 2 December, Wembley Stadium, London

The energy market is being transformed! Energy users, conscious of volatile prices, unstable supply and their carbon footprint, are getting 'hands on' with their own energy saving and self-generation. The Smart Energy Show is a new conference and exhibition aimed at helping those users benefit from the opportunities available.

The decentralised energy market is already growing rapidly, thanks to strong commercial, financial, environmental and political drivers. Climate change, supply uncertainties and price volatility have encouraged new sustainable energy policies worldwide. Europe will be obtaining 20% of its overall energy from renewables by 2020 and a further 20% emissions reduction through energy saving. The new US administration is moving in the same direction. Here in the UK last year's Energy Act introduces new tariffs from April 2010 to incentivise local renewable heat, power and biogas production. This will contribute to accelerated growth in the sector.

Discounts for REA members, go to www.smartenergy09.org for more information

Courses

London South Bank University One-Day Courses On Environmental Sustainability And Energy Management.

In September we will be running the following courses:

- Energy Management – 8 September 2009

The course will cover the key aspects of developing an energy policy, and an effective awareness campaign. It will look at energy performance, metering, monitoring and targeting, and the important role it plays in energy management.

- Combined Heat and Power – 22 September 2009

This course aims to prepare you with the knowledge needed to start applying CHP to designs and planning. The course will give you the skills needed to carry out feasibility studies, assess the advantages, disadvantages and the economic benefits.

We will also be offering a half-day course on how to save money by becoming less wasteful and reducing your carbon footprint.

This will take place on both Thursday 13 August 2009 and Thursday 10 September 2009

Please visit www.lsbu.ac.uk/rbdo/external/CEREB/CEREB.shtml for more information and a booking form for all courses we are running, email Info.esu@lsbu.ac.uk or phone 0207 815 6944/34

Courses On Renewable Energy And Solar Energy.

Renewable Energy in the Urban Environment, Berlin

This 5-day seminar in Berlin will explore the role of renewable energy in the urban and semi-urban environment. Includes numerous visits to renewable energy installations in Berlin - PV systems, solar thermal systems, heat pumps, bioenergy plants, low-energy and passive solar buildings. The seminar is designed for those who wish to get a comprehensive introduction to renewable energy technologies, especially those which can be used in urban and semi-urban environments. The seminar language is English.

Dates: 7-11 September 2009

Solar Electricity Installation Course - Off-grid Applications (5 days), Berlin

Intensive course on the design and installation of off-grid / stand-alone solar electric systems (not grid-tied) at the Renewables Academy in Berlin. For those who want to install off-grid solar electric systems, start a solar business or seek employment in the solar industry. Includes numerous practical sessions. Aimed at an international audience. The course language is English.

Dates: 21-25 September 2009

The Renewables Academy in Berlin is offering a full range of introductory and advanced courses on renewable energy technologies (technical and non-technical aspects) and on energy efficiency.

The schedule for 2009 can be found at <http://www.renac.de/index.php?id=4&L=1>

For more information email: info@greendragonenergy.co.uk or visit www.greendragonenergy.co.uk

Publications

New Publication From IHS BRE Press

Performance and service life in the Environmental Profiles Methodology and Green Guide to Specification.

IHS BRE Press 1 July 2009 ISBN 978-1-84806-083-8

The environmental footprint of buildings can be minimised by careful selection of materials and products, taking account of their application and use, and their effect on building performance and service life. This Information Paper explains the principles behind BRE's approach to service life determination, details how this was used in updating the Environmental Profiles Methodology and The Green Guide to Specification, and explains how the service life information in these tools was generated.

Telephone 01344 328038, email brepres@ihs.com or visit www.brebookshop.com

Vacancies

New Vacancy For A Code For Sustainable Homes Assessor

Brooks Devlin is a small and very successful Environmental Design Consultancy based in Bridport, West Dorset and is seeking a new team member to assist in delivering their increasing workload. They are looking for an experienced Code for Sustainable Homes assessor, preferably with other BREEAM and SAP accreditations.

The services offered by Brooks Devlin include CSH assessments, renewable energy strategies, daylight modelling and SAP/ new build EPC's. They have a wide client base with projects across the South West, Midlands, South and London regions. Projects range from one-off low energy houses to 5,500 home master-plans, but also include commercial, education and healthcare.

The position is based in Bridport, West Dorset. Remuneration will be commensurate with experience and capability. Interested parties should call 01308 428918/01308 428917 and speak to Nick Devlin or Julian Brooks. Alternatively email CVs to enquiries@brooksdevlin.com. For more information about Brooks Devlin Ltd, Environmental Design Consultants visit www.brooksdevlin.com.

For those of you who do not already know, Julian Brooks, director of Brooks Devlin, was previously the Project Manager for Ecos Trust. His consultancy company is commissioned by Ecos Homes to undertake the assessments for the Code for Sustainable Homes.

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, Lliidiart-y-Waen, Llanidloes, SY18 6JT.