



Network

News

May 2009

AECB Is 20 This Year

Its amazing how time flies but did you know that the AECB was 20 on April 16th this year. Congratulations to Keith and Sally Hall for founding it, thanks for the untiring work of the Board of Trustees for their efforts in promoting and growing the association and to all our members for their efforts to make the building industry a more sustainable and pleasant place to work.

Important Notice For All AECB Members

The AECB's Eco-Building Conference and AGM is being held 11th and 12th June at the Oxford Brookes University, Oxford. The AGM business will be dealt with at 9.00am hours on 12th June and AECB members are invited to attend. The Agenda is set out below and is also on the website with the Annual Report (including the report of the Chairman).

For full details of this exciting and stimulating conference please visit www.aecb.net or refer to the insert that was sent out with your Spring issue of Green Building magazine. If you wish to attend you are encouraged to book as soon as possible as numbers are limited. Please note that any AECB member can attend the AGM business session only free of charge.

If you have been an AECB member for more than 12 months are you interested in standing as a Trustee of the Board? If you are interested please telephone the existing Chairman, Chris Herring, on 01484 461705. He will be able to explain what is involved and the input the AECB needs. It would also be useful to visit the member's area at www.aecb.net where minutes, reports, trustee and company information is posted. If you have any item you wish to include on the agenda for the meeting under Item 8 please let Sally (email: sally@aecb.net or tel: 0845 456 9773) have full details before the 30th May. The agenda, annual report, accounts, minutes of the last AGM and other relevant information can be viewed at www.aecb.net.

Sustainable Cities Web Site Launched

CABE has launched a major new initiative, Sustainable Cities, for the people responsible for planning, designing and managing towns and cities. Sustainable Cities is the result of a two year research programme, working with the English Core Cities and a team of 30 experts. The website cuts through confusion, by offering clear priorities for action. It highlights the places that are getting it right. It asks what urban design and management can do better to address climate change. It looks at key themes, such as water, transport and energy, across a range of spatial scales including the neighbourhood, city and regional scale.

Go to: www.sustainablecities.org.uk/

Queen's Award For Eco Building Products Firm

A leading sustainable building products supplier which promotes low carbon building solutions has won a Queen's Award for Enterprise: Sustainable Development 2009, it was announced today (Tuesday 21 April 2009). Green Building Store has won the award because of its 'pioneering approach to sustainability' and for delivering 'cutting edge sustainable products to the market'. Earlier this year The Green Building Store launched a range of Passivhaus products and is a passionate proponent of Passivhaus design, which can create buildings which use 90% less energy than the UK average. The company has pioneered sustainable practices in window manufacture through its own Ecoplus range of timber windows and doors and also offers leading edge water-saving sanitaryware.

The Queen's Award recognises the role played by Green Building Store in developing the market for sustainable building products: "Green Building Store's actions and achievements have not only delivered cutting edge sustainable products to the market, but in so doing have progressed the nature of this market-place itself". Green Building Store's wider activities and initiatives were also praised for serving to "disseminate and normalise the concept of sustainable building products... driving broader competitor best practice in the process".

Launched in 1995, Green Building Store is a specialist manufacturer/ supplier of timber windows and doors; water-saving sanitaryware; Passivhaus products; and natural building materials. Its own Ecoplus System range of windows and doors, manufactured in Yorkshire, has been at the cutting edge of sustainable window design, pioneering the use of FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Pure 100% certified timber, safer boron timber treatments and advanced glazing specifications in window manufacture.

Green Building Store's new Passivhaus range is at the very cutting edge of low carbon design, with its ENERsign windows and doors offering one of the lowest window U values currently available in the world, with a whole window U value of 0.65 W/m²K. Green Building Store believes Passivhaus design offers the simplest - and most cost-effective - strategy for low carbon construction and that the UK urgently needs to embrace the Passivhaus approach to respond effectively to the threat of climate change.

The Queen's Award will be presented to Green Building Store Directors and staff at a ceremony later in the year.

Go to www.greenbuildingstore.co.uk

Design Competition - Last Call For Entries 2009

This year the closing date for Transform the Future, Dalsouple's sustainable design competition, is 31 May 2009, so there is still time to enter.

'Transform the Future' encourages designers and students to go out into the community and spread the word that in design, 'sustainable' doesn't mean 'boring'. By seeking sustainable solutions to design problems, tomorrow's designers will make a huge contribution to the environmental performance of the built environment. And as Dalsouple's massive range of gorgeous colours and textures clearly shows, these days 'green design' should be anything but dull.

The 2008 competition attracted entries from every corner of the international design community, with the winners coming from Argentina. In February this year, the two students Leonardo Bercovich and Noelia Canizares crossed the Atlantic to take up a work placement with leading design agency Graven Images in Glasgow as part of their prize. Dalsouple has arranged for free flooring from the design to go to the winning project, the Luis Braille School for visually impaired children in Tucuman, Argentina.

For 2009, the competition format will expand to acknowledge the growing importance of sustainability as an element in the design mix. There will be a category for products as well as interiors, and the competition is now open to both students and design professionals. The judges will be looking for ideas that offer a creative, colourful, sustainable solution to a design problem.

Sponsored by Dalsouple, makers of highly sustainable natural rubber floorcoverings, together with Sustain Magazine. Entry is free. To enter contact julie@dalsouple.com or visit www.dalsouple.com and download an entry form.

Guardian Energy Stories:

Can Energy Monitoring Change Our Habits?

Adam Vaughan reviews the latest crop of energy monitoring gadgets in The Observer, Sunday 19 April 2009. He includes devices that record electricity usage via wireless handheld displays, web pages and electronic flowers that wilt as we guzzle power. He also covers the launch of Google PowerMeter (www.google.org/powermeter). The prototype PowerMeter beams real-time electricity use straight to a user's iGoogle homepage. According to Adam Vaughan most homeowners cut their electricity bills by 3% to 15% when given a gadget to monitor their usage, which translates into saving of up to £70, based on the average electricity bill at the end of 2008 of £475.

Full story at www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/apr/19/energy-monitoring-ethical-dilemma

Eco Refurbishment Is Officially "In"

Monday 20th April saw the launch of the Guardian's "New Green Home Initiative" giving readers the opportunity to follow Alok Jha's greening of his Victorian terraced house. A further four projects are planned to follow.

Full story at www.guardian.co.uk/environment/video/2009/apr/20/greenbuilding-carbon-emissions

And

'Energy Wasting Day' (Wednesday 1st April 2009). Official video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1_O6NDTbvw

Europe Sets 2019 Deadline For Zero-Energy New Buildings

By the start of 2019, all new buildings constructed in Europe will have to be energy efficient and produce as much as energy as they consume from renewable sources. The amendments to the 2002 Energy Performance of Buildings Directive were overwhelmingly backed by the European Parliament in a vote late last week. MEPs are also calling for more investment in energy efficient buildings.

The European Parliament defines zero-energy buildings as those where "as a result of the very high level of energy efficiency of the building, the overall annual primary energy consumption is equal to or less than the energy production from renewable energy sources on site". This definition of zero-energy buildings – or a similar one – should be agreed and adopted by all Member States, says the directive.

European countries will also be required to draw-up national plans by mid-2011, which set out financial support measures for energy efficiency improvements to buildings such as low-interest loans, rebates on income or property taxes or assistance from energy suppliers. The European Commission is also being urged to adopt additional measures such as increasing the portion of European Regional Development Fund money available for energy efficiency programmes and establishing an Energy Efficiency Fund financed by the Commission, the European Investment Bank and Member States.

The European Parliament also added its weight to calls for VAT reductions on energy efficiency and renewable energy goods and services. The Federation of Master Builders in the UK has been campaigning for a cut in VAT to 5% to help support low-carbon building and refurbishment work.

For further information go to www.europarl.europa.eu/parliament.do

EU Extends Energy Efficient Housing Funding Across Region

The European Parliament last week approved an extension of the EC's funding for energy efficiency housing to all member states. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which supports energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, currently only covers the 12 countries that joined the EU between 2004 and 2007. The new rules will allow all member states to use the ERDF to invest in the installation of renewable energy such as solar panels or retrofitting homes with insulation, double glazing and efficient boilers.

Member states are limited to spend 4% of their ERDF allocation on such schemes, but new EU countries will be able to increase their spending to 6%. The changes also relax the rules about applying the funds only to low-income households. National governments will now be able to decide for themselves which categories of housing should be eligible. Although no new funds are to be released, the EU estimates it could save around 28% energy in the building sector by 2020.

For further information go to www.europarl.europa.eu/

Greenpeace Report Calls For Major Home Efficiency Programme

The UK Government should be investing in a major home energy efficiency programme as part of its fiscal stimulus package, according to a report commissioned by Greenpeace. The report, Energy Efficiency and Jobs, by Impetus Consulting says that an annual investment of £5 billion in home energy efficiency measures would create 55,000 jobs, address fuel poverty and reduce CO2 emissions by 1.6 million tonnes. To encourage households to become more efficient, the report is calling for the Government to introduce energy MOTs for homes, set up financial support mechanisms for improvements and offer incentives such as Council Tax rebates or Stamp Duty waivers.

For further information go to www.greenpeace.org.uk/efficiencyandjobs

Cities Can Cut Emissions To Nearly Zero, Says Siemens

Cities can cut their CO2 emissions by up to 90% by 2050 through energy efficiency measures and renewable energy, according to a study commissioned by Siemens. The study by the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, Sustainable Urban Infrastructure: Munich – Paths toward a Carbon-Free Future, looked at how energy efficiency measures – particularly in buildings – could cut emissions in the German city of Munich.

City populations are growing – currently 50% of the world's population lives in cities but this is expected to climb to 60% over the next 15 years. Increasing insulation in new and existing buildings would drastically cut heating needs, says the report, leading to a surprising problem – district heating grids would become unprofitable to run. For district heating grids to work under these conditions, new low temperature networks will be needed. Homes and businesses could also switch to energy-efficient appliances and lighting. The resulting energy savings would mean that the entire city's electricity demand could be met by renewable sources.

According to the report, Munich would need to invest an extra €13 billion to refurbish existing stock and construct new buildings to a passive-house standard. This works out at around €200 per city resident per year – but these costs would be offset after 2050 by savings of €1200-2000 per resident. Siemens carried out a similar report on London last year. But if the authorities, utilities, urban planners, investors and residents get together, it would be possible to create virtually carbon-free cities.

For further information go to www.siemens.com/sustainablecities

Wales Introduces New Rules To Improve Efficiency Of Homes

The Welsh Assembly Government is introducing new plans aimed at improving the energy efficiency of homes in the region. The plan, which will introduce new rules for the home energy efficiency scheme (HEES), will mean more assistance for low-income homes to reduce fuel poverty by improving insulation and heating. Fuel poverty is defined as those individuals or households who spend more than 10% of their income on heating. The Welsh Assembly Government has set a target of eradicating fuel poverty in the region by 2010.

Individuals on benefits who have inefficient homes will now be eligible for an improved package of help including solid-wall insulation or microgeneration systems. Until now, help had only been available for households on benefits with children under 16, over 60s and the disabled and chronically ill. The plan will also provide better information and advice for the public wishing to improve the efficiency of their homes, as well as support for small businesses, and also commits the region to halt any public investment in high-carbon home heating.

Since 2000, the Welsh Assembly Government has invested £100 million through the HEES scheme to improve the efficiency of over 100,000 households in the region.

For further information go to <http://wales.gov.uk/>

Energy Efficient Buildings More Attractive To Buyers And Renters

Commercial buildings with a high Energy Star rating command higher rents and are more attractive to buyers, according to new research. The study of just under 900 buildings in the US commissioned by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) from researchers at Maastricht University and the University of California, Berkeley found an Energy Star rating attracts a rental premium of 3% per square foot compared with otherwise identical 'ordinary' premises. When rents are adjusted for occupancy levels, the premium is even higher at 6%.

Energy Star rated buildings appear to be even more of a draw for buyers attracting a premium of 16%. This significant improvement means that upgrading the average commercial building could boost its capital value by as much as \$5.5 million, say the researchers. Interestingly, the researchers found that LEED-rated buildings did not appear to attract a premium in this study.

The researchers suggest that the Energy Star label, which focuses on energy usage, is more attractive to buyers or renters than the LEED label, which has a much broader sustainability scope. RICS hopes the study will provide convincing evidence to persuade developers and landlords to invest in energy efficient construction and refurbishment.

For further information go to www.rics.org/Knowledgezone/Researchandreports/doingwell_300309_research.htm

London Hospital Goes Green

A planned redevelopment of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London will mean the new hospital generates all its own energy, can supply 20% green energy to other parts of the site and be carbon-free. The new 30,000 m² Mittal Children's Medical Centre, designed by UK-based architectural practice Llewelyn Davies Yeang (LDY), will consist of two buildings – the completely new Morgan Stanley Clinical Building and the reconstructed and refurbished cardiac wing.

The buildings, which will house wards, operating theatres, imaging facilities, offices and restaurants, have been set a target of a 120% reduction in carbon emissions and 60% renewable energy contribution. The Morgan Stanley Clinical Building, which will be developed in the first phase, will rely on two tri-generation combined cooling, heating and power (CCHP) units for all its energy needs, as well as generating an excess for other parts of the site. The CCHP system will initially run on natural gas, reducing emissions by 60%. Ultimately, the system could run on biofuel from sustainable sources.

The building will also be fitted with sensor taps and efficient toilets, showers and appliances. Maximum use of natural light and LED lighting systems, as well as presence detectors to turn off lighting in empty rooms, will also reduce energy usage. A range of natural paints and materials will be used for the internal fittings and the building will feature a green sedum roof. The redevelopment, which will cost an estimated £321 million, is scheduled to begin next spring and will be completed in 2016. The Government is contributing £75 million, with the rest coming from charitable donations.

For further information go to www.ich.ucl.ac.uk/

One-Stop-Shop For Resource Efficiency Advice

The UK Government is bringing together six organisations to provide a one-stop-shop for advice about resource efficiency for businesses, organisations and households. Environment Secretary Hilary Benn announced yesterday that Defra is uniting Envirowise, Action Sustainability, the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme, Business Resource Efficiency and Waste local authority programmes, Construction Resources and Waste Platform and the Centre for Remanufacturing and Reuse under the leadership of the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

The streamlining, which will come into effect from April next year, is part of a Government programme that is aiming to reduce the number of publicly funded business support schemes from over 3,000 to less than 100 by 2010. The new WRAP-led body should make it quicker and easier for organisations and individuals to garner advice about using resources more efficiently.

For further information go to www.defra.gov.uk

Businesses Say New UK Legislation Threatens Renewables

A group of businesses and organisations has sent an open letter to minister for energy and climate change Joan Ruddock warning that new UK legislation will threaten renewable projects. The letter from the Aldersgate Group, which includes signatories such as BT, Aviva, Eurostar, IKEA, Motorola, Microsoft, Sun Microsystems, News International and Reed Elsevier, says the reporting rules in the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) undermine the business case for on-site renewable energy generation.

The row centres on the stipulation in the CRC, which comes into force next year, that any on-site electricity generation is counted as having the same average carbon intensity as the national grid supply. If an organisation

wants its on-site renewable power generation to count towards its rating under the CRC, it must forgo Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs). The Aldersgate Group argues that it is only the subsidies available under the ROC scheme that makes many renewable energy and other eco-friendly initiatives financially viable. The Government, however, says that this is the only way to prevent low-carbon energy sources being 'double counted' under different schemes.

Sun Microsystems says it has suspended plans for solar and wind installations on its Guillemont Park Campus in Surrey until the legislation is revised. BT has also criticised the impact of the new rules on its planned 250 MW wind farm. The Aldersgate Group is aiming to meet with officials from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to put their case forward and force a change to the legislation.

For further information go to www.aldersgategroup.org.uk/hom

McCloud Launches Green Refurbishment Campaign

TV presenter and eco-pioneer, Kevin McCloud, has launched a nationwide campaign to urge the Government to help people to undertake energy-efficient green refurbishments in their homes. He launched the Grand Designs Great British Refurb campaign at Grand Designs Live London, with backing from Grand Designs Magazine, the Energy Saving Trust, UK Green Building Council and WWF. The campaign urges the public to take positive action by signing a petition that will ask the Government to do more to help consumers finance the green refurbishment of their own homes. Twenty seven per cent of carbon emissions come from energy used in the home.

The campaign wants the Government to Offer householders new ways to pay for green refurbishment; Provide better financial incentives for householders to refurbish their homes to make them greener and more energy efficient; and ensure installers are qualified and approved to undertake the work. The Government has conducted a public consultation to seek views on its longer-term ambitions for how we can transform the way we use heat and energy in our homes to achieve an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050. But with at least 80% of homes that will be standing in 2050 already built, our existing homes will need to be radically transformed in order to meet this target. The ultimate goal of the campaign is to provide a receptive audience for the Government to take action on existing homes.

For more information go to www.granddesignslive.com

SUDS Law: If Something Can Flood It Will

The government plans to ensure that developers provide sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) on all new developments in England and Wales by removing the automatic right to connect to a public sewer. Proposals are set out in a consultation launched by Defra alongside publication of the draft Flood and Water Management Bill. A set of national standards for SUDS is expected to be in place by 2011 after detailed consultation, after which developers will have to seek approval for their SUDS provision before being allowed to connect any residual water drainage to a public sewer. SUDS standards will also become a material consideration in planning decisions.

The moves are part of the government's flood risk reduction policy and draw heavily on the recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt's review of the hugely damaging floods of summer 2007. One of Pitt's conclusions was that the right to connect to a combined public sewer is one of the main reasons why SUDS are rarely adopted in new developments, despite their well-publicised benefits. Defra predicts that well designed surface water drainage for developments on large greenfield sites will rarely need to connect to the public sewer system as there should be sufficient opportunity for adopting SUDS techniques. Therefore the proposed national standards would only come into play on more constrained sites.

There is a wide range of SUDS techniques, from the use of permeable paving and roads to swales and wetlands, while on more restricted sites more engineered solutions such as attenuations tanks may be demanded. Local authorities would be able to demand a SUDS bond from developers to ensure compliance as with current arrangements for adopted surface water sewers. Local authorities would then adopt the SUDS and be responsible for maintenance, although the proposal is that where SUDS are on a single property they would not be adopted. This raises the question of the owner's responsibility for maintaining SUDS and the proposed solution of bringing the redevelopment or alteration of SUDS within the development control system.

For more information go to <http://riba.msgfocus.com/c/1RdvTkviczaoBz>

Source: RIBA Practice Bulletin No. 493 - 30 April 2009

Events

Weekend Tour Of UK Strawbale Buildings 16-17th May.

A weekend tour of some of the UK's most interesting strawbale buildings, led by three of the world's leading experts, is being made available by Todmorden strawbale design and construction company - amazonails. Barbara Jones, founder and Director of amazonails and recently named as 'Woman of Outstanding Achievement in Science, Engineering and Technology', will be joined by Arizona-based strawbale builders and authors, Athena and Bill Steen. The tour will give building professionals and potential self-builders alike an insight into the different

techniques developed by amazonails and the wide range of sizes and shapes of building possible. The tour is arranged for the weekend of 16th and 17th May and will cost £180 including meals, and accommodation for the night of 16th May. Places, which are very limited so early booking is advised, can be booked by telephoning amazonails on 0845 458 2173 or emailing info@amazonails.org.uk.

Participants will have the option to stay overnight and visit the amazonails Training Workshops in Todmorden on the Monday morning, as well as joining the 2 day 'Beauty of clay' workshop to be taught by Bill and Athena in Todmorden or attend a lunchtime talk on 21st May in London. There is a regular train service from Todmorden to major terminals in Manchester and Leeds.

How To Make Non-Domestic Buildings Green 21st May 2009

A one day conference at the Thistle Hotel, Brighton Organised by RIBA South East and SECBE, supported by the Low Carbon Trust.

How can we make sure that new and refurbished offices, schools, churches, hospitals meet the latest standards for building sustainability? What are those standards? And isn't sustainable design for buildings an irrelevant luxury at present anyway?

This conference will look at every aspect of sustainability in nondomestic buildings – including how much green features would cost and how soon they would pay for themselves. Making even small, sustainable modifications to the design or retrofitting of non-domestic buildings can have a huge impact on the carbon footprint of the UK – and, of course, to the building owners' energy bills.

At the conference, speakers, case studies, workshops and debate will give you opportunities to explore cost-effective and up-to-date sustainable techniques, finishes and features - and how to incorporate them into building designs. At the same time, you will gain more understanding of the hard economics of green design and retrofit in all types of non-domestic buildings.

For more information contact RIBA South East on 01892 515878 or email cpdribasoutheast@inst.riba.org

Build Green with Great Britain, 28 May 2009, British Embassy, Budapest

The Green Building issue is gaining momentum in the CEE so it is the perfect time for UK companies to come and help Hungarian local governments and architects to think UK-green. To help raise the profile of UK expertise in this area, the UKTI team in Budapest is organising a seminar on green and energy efficient solutions in construction, with an option to expand your stay and continue talks with local decision-makers.

We will invite local municipalities, architects, planners and property developers. The possibility to talk to them in person will be ensured.

More information is available from Nora Singer. Call +36 1 429 6252 or send an email to nora.singer@fco.gov.uk

Green Vision: Demonstrating Approaches To Sustainability In Construction & Built Environment, 9th June 2009

A prestigious one day event for those in Construction and the Built Environment, representing a unique opportunity to learn about the drivers, implications and methods for change, including regional examples demonstrating the benefits for change. Speakers include: Dave Hampton, Carbon Coach, Martin Watson, BRE, Emma Gardner, Faber Maunsell, Professor Malcom Bell, Leeds Metropolitan University

To be held at The Rose Bowl, Leeds, Tuesday 9th June, 09:00 - 16:30, Delegate Fee: £25.00

For further information and to book a place for this event please visit www.green-vision.org.uk

Greener Homes And Buildings Seminar, June 5th

Inspiring speakers are being lined up to address professionals involved in planning, designing and constructing greener homes and buildings at a major seminar and show in Mid Wales this summer. Packed with seminars and leading exhibits, the Greener Homes and Buildings Show is being staged at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells from June 5-7.

This major three-day event - a must for all professionals involved or interested in green building - is organised by the Welsh Assembly Government with support from the Welsh Timber Forum and Local Authority Building Control and is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. The first day of the show is designated a Trade and Professional Day, aimed at updating developers, architects, specifiers, planners and policy makers on the latest developments in sustainable building as well as offering practical and professional advice.

Jane Davidson, Welsh Assembly Government Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing, will address delegates and host for the day is Mai Davies, ITV Wales political editor. Professor Phil Jones from the Welsh School of Architecture will discuss the principles of good design, including airtightness, insulation and thermal mass in timber framing systems and John Williamson, of JPW Construction, Machynlleth, will speak about PassivHaus design and construction. Mr Williamson designed Canolfan Hyddgen in Machynlleth, the first public sector building in the UK to be certified by the Passivhaus Institute.

The Wales Institute for Sustainable Education (WISE) project at the Centre for Alternative Technology, near Machynlleth will be the subject of Phil Horton's address. Stuart Pocock from the Renewable Energy Association will speak about buy-in tariffs while Carl Purslow from Npower, will give an energy supplier's viewpoint on the carbon emissions reduction target. A workshop themed 'Energy solutions for new build' will be led by Steven Passmore from the Energy Savings Trust.

The afternoon session begins with a wood fuel overview of best practice by Marc Howell from Wood Energy Ltd while Dr Tim Rotheray from Micropower will speak about the way forward for microgeneration. The case study will be a small scale hydro power project in the Brecon Beacons National Park, with Grenville Ham the presenter. Delegates will have a choice of presentations to attend, as a second seminar room will be running simultaneously. Neil Hemington will speak about the technical advice note TAN 22 and its impact on housebuilders in Wales and Lance Jones, construction project manager for WRAP, will focus on site waste management plans.

The Welsh Assembly Government will be represented by Jeff Perren, who will speak about the Assembly's sustainability agenda and move to zero carbon, Francois Samuel, who will discuss the road ahead for devolved building regulations and Lisa Wheatley, who will speak about the launch of a house refurbishment programme and competition. A hi-tech waste management project in the Swedish eco town of Hammarbysjostad will be the case study, with David Birbeck as presenter.

The Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) Wales Awards for offices, bespoke, industrial and court building projects will also be presented at the event. BREEAM is the world's leading environmental assessment method for buildings. It sets the standard for best practice in sustainable design and has become the recognised measure of a building's environmental performance.

From renewable energy to passive solar design, modern insulation materials to traditional building techniques, the show will give visitors the knowledge and materials to take their building projects a step further. Exhibitors include all the leading Welsh green building companies.

Delegates attending the Trade and Professional Day will be charged £95 plus VAT, which includes entry to the show, all seminars, refreshments and lunch. Registration and online booking will be available until May 22. For more information or to book a place at the professional day online visit www.greenerhomeshow.co.uk or call Tel: 0845 602 4087.

Those unable to attend on the Friday can take along their friends and family to the two public days on Saturday and Sunday, June 6 and 7, which will be attended by celebrity television presenter and author Dick Strawbridge. As an added attraction this year, the show will have a children's activity area.

Advance tickets for the public days can also be purchased online before May 15 for £6 or £8 at the gate, with free entry for children under the age of 16.

For more information about the show visit www.greenerhomeshow.co.uk or call Tel: 0845 602 4087.

European Biomass and Bioenergy Forum 8-9 Jun 2009 – Moving Towards Sustainable Growth

Increasing dependence on imported fuels created an urge for EU to shift away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy sources. Regulations put pressure on fossil fuel energy production and targets are created for renewable energy. Operators recognise that diversified feedstock and product portfolios represent stabilizing, cost-cutting and rewarding strategies.

The bioenergy sector is growing exponentially. However operators are challenged by uncertainty in biomass sustainability, supply and pricing, evolving regulations and market conditions, and possible slacks in financing due to capital markets volatility. Players in the bioenergy field strive to optimise production and achieve maximum technological flexibility in order to be able to utilise biomass of various types and qualities, also in combination with other types of fuels.

This 2nd annual conference is an unprecedented opportunity to learn from players in bioenergy industry addressing the burning issues of procurement, effective use of existing and new technologies, strategies for economic viability and risk management; benchmark your systems and learn how you can achieve world class status in bioenergy industry.

For more information contact Sumreen Rizvion 020 3002 3277 or email sumreenr@marcusevansuk.com or visit www.marcusevans.com/html/eventdetail.asp?eventID=15489&SectorID=3&divisionID=

Passivehouse2009, 11 – 13th September 2009

A comfortable house, heated for the price of one cup of coffee a day. It's possible! By means of thorough insulation and a well considered house orientation, the use of a conventional heating system becomes superfluous. We now have individual dwellings, offices, schools and other types of buildings in the same, efficient, passive house standard. In times of rising energy prices and urgent climate problems, this concept offers an answer on numerous challenges for the coming years.

The two Belgian Passive House organizations, Passiefhuis-Platform vzw and Plate-forme Maison Passive asbl, have established a tradition in the Benelux years ago with their annual event 'PassiveHouse', the largest

symposium and fair exclusively on very energy efficient building. From 11 till 13 September at Tour & Taxis (Brussels) you can pick up the latest energy efficient building trends.

The combination of a SYMPOSIUM and a FAIR aims to inform everybody. Friday 11 September the professional can update his expertise at the symposium. While on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September the fair opens its doors for free. Companies, technical experts and occupants of passive houses will provide an answer to all of your questions.

Register for the 7th PassiveHouse Symposium of at <http://shop.passiefhuisplatform.be/index.php?id=58&L=3>. All general information and the provisional program can be found on www.passivehouse.be

Aqua Enviro Technology Transfer, 2009 Conference Calendar

24th June, Wetland Technology to Achieve Compliance: Problems and Solutions, Slimbridge, Glos

2nd July, Optimising the Potential of Biogas, Hilton, Leeds

22-23rd September, 3rd European Water & Wastewater Management Conference & exhibition, Think Tank, Birmingham

9-11th November, 14th European Biosolids & Organic Resources Conference & Exhibition, Royal Armouries, Leeds

For more information go to www.aqua-enviro.net or phone 01924 257891

Aqua Enviro Technology Transfer, 8, Appleton Court, Calder Park, Wakefield WF2 7AR

Courses

Introduction To Self-Building An Earthship

This is a two-day course run at Earthship Brighton in partnership with Brighton Permaculture Trust. There are two courses in June and two in September 2009: all days are 9am to 5pm.

Course 1: Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 June 2009

Course 2: Tuesday 9 & Wednesday 10 June 2009

Course 3: Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 September 2009

Course 4: Tuesday 15 & Wednesday 16 September 2009

The course is for anyone thinking about building their own home and anyone interested in learning about Earthships. It is suitable for complete beginners, as well as those who are familiar with eco-building and want to know more.

We will go through how a building can use the sun instead of central heating and how to build in natural, passive ventilation. We'll look at how it's possible to live off-grid, this includes; how you can harvest and recycle water and an outline of the relative merits of micro-renewable technologies like solar, biomass, wind and hydro. We will look at what you need to think about when sourcing environmentally friendly materials and how to avoid the most damaging materials. And we will look at the practicalities of turning the dream into a reality. There will also be a hands-on practical on ramming car tyres that make up the walls of an Earthship, and a practical on earth rendering. This course will build on the good work of Mike Reynolds and focus on adapting Earthships to the UK climate.

For more information go to www.lowcarbon.co.uk/education/training-courses

Aqua Enviro Technology Transfer, 2009 Training Calendar

11-13th May, Private Water Supplies, Wakefield

14th May, Introduction to Sludge treatment, Wakefield

21st May, Primary, Secondary & Lamella Settlers, Wakefield

4th June, Anaerobic Digestion of Sewage Sludge, Wakefield

For more information go to www.aqua-enviro.net or phone 01924 257891

Aqua Enviro Technology Transfer, 8, Appleton Court, Calder Park, Wakefield WF2 7AR

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.