



Network

News

September 2009

Air Tightness FAQs

The AECB has asked Paul Jennings of ALDAS to co-ordinate a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs), with a view to developing some corresponding answers, about airtightness and air leakage testing. It is proposed that this may be either a partially or fully iterative process, with draft and, following an opportunity for comments, finalised answers being prepared for an agreed set of questions.

Please note that there will be two types of FAQs we are looking to respond to in this instance:

- the first set of FAQs is about air pressure testing buildings and issues arising from this testing process (Paul Jennings will lead on this set)
- the second set of FAQs is about airtightness in the context of ventilation issues and how ventilation rates affect: air quality (pollutants, CO₂, humidity etc): general issues of occupant perception, health and well being: building structure: buildings' energy balance (heating and cooling). Various AECB experts will respond to this set.

Although the above two sets of FAQs suggests the initial scope of work envisaged, we are of course open to any and all questions, and may also develop the work organically in line with other issues raised.

Paul Jennings is a long-standing AECB member and has presented papers, and/or carried out demonstration air leakage tests, at numerous AECB conferences over the years. As well as undertaking testing for 25 years, he is an experienced trainer of test engineers and has also developed and sold test equipment. Currently his principal activity is advising on the design and supervision of new buildings to avoid air leakage problems during construction.

There is a special area on the forum, go to www.aecb.net/forum/index.php?topic=1927.0

Hot Water Use Key To Cutting Domestic Emissions Says Study

Report calls for action to reduce the carbon footprint of our homes, written by AECB Members:- Alan Clarke, Judith Thornton and Nick Grant.

Hot water use will remain a major cause of domestic carbon emissions – and could even overtake emissions from heating in new homes – unless action is taken to reduce demand and energy losses from inefficient boilers and poorly lagged pipes, says a new report.

A joint study by the Energy Saving Trust and the Environment Agency released today predicts emissions from hot water use will increasingly dominate the carbon footprint of new fully insulated housing – unless progressive regulation in energy efficiency is matched by higher water efficiency standards.

Despite advances in water-saving technology and the introduction of sustainability standards for new housing, the growing popularity of power showers and frequent showering means we are still using the same amount of water today as we were ten years ago – around 150 litres per person per day.

To reduce emissions from domestic hot water use, the report calls on:

- Planners and developers to include water efficiency measures in energy-efficiency retrofit programmes because this would save water and energy as well as cut emissions.
- Government to review the regulatory framework for hot water system design to incorporate a similar level of detail to that given to building and ventilation design.
- Everyone to make simple changes, such as washing up dishes in a bowl rather than under a running hot water tap, because even small actions can reduce energy bills and save money.

The report's other key recommendations include:

- Improvements in pipe layout and insulation for reducing energy and water waste while waiting for hot water at the tap.

- Continued improvements in boiler design to make them more energy efficient.

Water resources in certain parts of the UK are already under pressure. The Environment Agency predicts the amount of water available in England and Wales in 2050 will drop by an average 15 per cent, and up to as much as 80 per cent during summer months, as a result of climate change.

Three Energy Saving Trust advice centres – in London, Cardiff and Edinburgh - will be taking part in the pilot which has received European funding via the EU Life+ programme and starts in September.

The report, Quantifying The Energy And Carbon Effects Of Saving Water, can be viewed or downloaded at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/waterreport.

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.

Community heating is a tried and tested option, he adds, but has suffered underinvestment in the UK. In the Danish city of Copenhagen, 90% of households use community heating.

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

UK Invests £20 Million In New Materials For Energy Applications

UK research and development agencies have announced the funding of 16 university-private sector joint projects into new materials for energy applications worth over £20 million. The Technology Strategy Board and Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council are putting £10 million into the effort, with the rest coming from the partner private sector organisations.

The projects include an effort led by Bangor University to develop a thin and highly efficient natural fibre insulation material for new builds or refurbishment and another – the HeatSave project – led by H+H UK will develop a novel vacuum insulation panel. Two others – one led by Polysolar and another by Arup – will aim to develop low-cost photovoltaic architectural glass and a double-glazed window concept, respectively. The remaining projects span battery materials for electricity generation, cathode materials for fuel cells, composite materials for turbines and novel energy harvesting materials.

For further information go to www.innovateuk.org and www.epsrc.ac.uk

UK's Warm Front Scheme Failing Those Most In Need

The UK Government's Warm Front scheme is failing the poorest and most vulnerable households, according to the report from the Public Accounts Committee. The scheme was set up to assist eligible households install heating and energy efficiency measures to improve overall energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty. 'Fuel poor' households are defined as those that spend more than 10% of their net income on heating costs. Since 2007, rising energy costs have added an extra 1.5 million households to the 3 million already in fuel poverty.

However, the Warm Front scheme is giving too much funding is going to households that are already energy efficient, says Committee chair Edward Leigh MP. The report also found that over £15 million has been spent on measures like energy efficient light bulbs, draught proofing and hot water tank, which have little effect on the overall energy efficiency of households and are unlikely to significantly benefit fuel poverty.

According to the report's figures, only around a third of the genuinely fuel poor qualify for help under the scheme, while about three-quarters of those who do receive assistance are not in fuel poverty. The scheme, which was the responsibility of Defra until it was handed over to the Department of Energy and Climate Change in 2008, has handed out over £852 million to 635,000 households between June 2005 and March 2008.

The Committee criticises the fact that the scheme does not prioritise the most energy inefficient homes. And nor has it increased the £3500 (or £6000 for oil central heating) maximum grant available since 2005, although costs have

risen over 7% in the same period. This is not the first time that the Government's Warm Front scheme has come in for criticism. Earlier this year, the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee called for the Government to rethink its policies on fuel poverty and consolidate its current energy efficiency programmes into one.

Meanwhile, the Mayor of London Boris Johnson is calling on the Government to widen the scope of the scheme to help more Londoners, who face higher housing costs in the capital. According to a report from the Mayor's office, 24% of the capital's households are living in fuel poverty, way above the 10% suggested by the Government. Johnson is also calling on the Government to simplify the funding of energy efficiency improvements to lower income households and take a more holistic approach instead of supporting piecemeal improvements.

For further information go to www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_Committees/committee_of_public_accounts.cfm and www.london.gov.uk/mayor/publications/2009/07/fuel-poverty.jsp

Energy Efficiency Could Yield Energy Savings Worth \$1.2 Trillion, Says Mckinsey

A new report from consultants McKinsey says that a large-scale, holistic approach to energy efficiency could yield the US economy energy savings worth more than \$1.2 trillion. The US has the potential to reduce annual energy consumption 23% – excluding transport – by 2020, says the report Unlocking Energy Efficiency in the US Economy. The commensurate reduction in greenhouse gas emissions would be equivalent to taking all US cars and light trucks off the road.

This significant level of saving will require the US to make an initial up-front investment in energy efficiency measures of \$520 million and overcomes the “widespread and persistent” barriers to their implementation. The major issue, says the report, is that the potential of energy efficiency measures are “highly fragmented, spread across more than 100 million locations and billions of devices used in residential, commercial and industrial settings.”

Some progress is already being made, says the report, pointing to decreases in energy consumption per unit of floorspace in both residential (11%) and commercial (21%) sectors since 1980. Meanwhile, industrial energy consumption per dollar of GDP has decreased 41% over the same period. However, the pace needs to accelerate to realise the full potential of energy efficiency measures. And the problem of the fragmentation of energy efficiency means that it is the highest priority for virtually no one.

First of all, pursuing a major energy efficiency strategy will require proper recognition that it is an important energy resource. US authorities will also need to formulate and implement an integrated range of proven approaches at national and regional levels. In the longer term, it will also be important to foster the development of next-generation of energy efficiency technologies, says the report.

These approaches will have to include information and education about the benefits of energy efficiency, as well as codes and standards to drive improvements by manufacturers and provide clarity for consumers. Key to these efforts will be finding ways of providing the necessary upfront funding to implement energy efficiency measures across all sectors from domestic buildings to industrial processes.

The McKinsey report says that greater alignment between utilities, regulators, government agencies, manufacturers and consumers will also be necessary.

For further information go to www.mckinsey.com/client-service/electricpower/naturalgas/US_energy_efficiency/

Consultation Review Of Scottish Building Standards - Section 6 (Energy)

Reducing CO2 Emission and Energy Demand – Continues until 2nd October 2009

The Scottish Government is committed to addressing Climate Change and, as part of this process, reducing carbon dioxide emissions from buildings. The Sullivan Report - 'A Low Carbon Building Standards Strategy for Scotland' (2007) includes amongst its recommendations, staged improvements to energy standards for new buildings in 2010 and 2013 with the aspiration of net zero carbon buildings by 2016/17 if practicable. In February 2009, Scottish Ministers announced the intent that the 2010 revision of the Scottish building regulations should deliver a 30% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from new buildings. This consultation focuses on changes needed to deliver this intent and proposes amendment of standards and guidance within Section 6 (energy) of the Scottish Building Standards Technical Handbooks, together with consequential revision to address building ventilation within section 3 (environment).

Go to www.sbsa.gov.uk/latestupdates/consul_energy09.htm

Roof Tiles Will Soon Be Made From Recycled Nappies

Knowwaste, the recycling specialist, will open the plant next year and the roofing products will be made by Mailbox Mouldings and distributed by Knowwaste's spin-off company Small Planet Building Products. Until the plant is up and running, the tiles will use recycled plastic from a variety of sources. The roof tiles will be available in black, green, grey, red and brown.

The recycling process turns the waste into plastic and cellulose organic residue for green energy. The plastic will also be used for decking and cladding.

Source: Hargould ecoSHOWCASE eNEWS

Straw Homes Are On The Way.

Building work on the country's first straw social homes has begun in North Kesteven, Lincolnshire

Work at the site in Waddington is now underway, with the foundations poured and work above ground scheduled to start this week. North Kesteven District Council is the driving force behind the construction of the first strawbale council houses in the country. It is overseeing the project in order to directly tackle the problem of providing affordable homes in the District, as well as improving the sustainability of the community.

Two houses are being built in Waddington, with another two planned for Martin. These three bedroom family homes will look like conventional brick built properties, and be the first 'typical affordable council houses' to be built by a local authority using strawbale construction. The houses have been designed by Amazonails from Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

Work on the main elements of the house, such as the walls, windows and roof, is scheduled to be completed by October 2009, with the project as a whole due to be completed by March 2010.

Source: Hargould ecoSHOWCASE eNEWS

Earthscan Announces New Earthcast Series

Live interactive web events from sustainability experts at www.earthscan.co.uk/earthcasts

Beginning on August 19th 2009, Earthscan will offer a free one-hour webcast on a different topic each month, giving viewers the opportunity to learn from, and interact with, leading authorities from a range of different fields. The audio presentations will be accompanied by illustrative slides and viewers will have the opportunity to contribute to discussions by submitting questions during the events. The subjects covered will include all of Earthscan's specialties, including business, climate change, energy, the built environment and natural resource management.

The first Earthcast, entitled Carbon Markets and Climate Change Mitigation, was broadcasted on Wednesday 19th August 2009 when the authors of Carbon Markets and Voluntary Carbon Markets debated the effectiveness of market based mechanisms in helping to mitigate climate change. Nicholas Howarth from the Oxford University School of Geography and Environment, Arnaud Brohé from CO2logic, Kate Hamilton from Ecosystem Marketplace and Ricardo Bayon from EKO Asset Management Partners will be analysing the current state of carbon markets, discussing possible future trends and fielding your questions on the issue. You can hear the archived version of this on line.

The second Earthcast, entitled Sustainable Business Practice: Process and Implementation, will be broadcast at the end of September 2009. Join the authors of The ISIS Agreement, The Step-by-Step Guide to Sustainability Planning and The Business Guide to Sustainability for an event that presents different yet complementary methods of providing sustainability training.

Alan AtKisson and Marsha Willard will tackle the issues faced by organisations attempting to implement sustainable practices, and explore the practical experiences of consulting firms AXIS Performance Advisors and The AtKisson Group in an international context.

For more information, and to register for the events, visit www.earthscan.co.uk/earthcasts

Cut Out Christmas Cards And Help More People Escape The Cycle Of Homelessness

Crisis, the national charity for single homeless people, is asking companies to 'Cut out Christmas Cards' and donate their Christmas card budget to Crisis instead. In return you will receive major public acknowledgement. Your company will be featured in 2 double page adverts in the FT as well as featuring on FT.com. Crisis will also provide you with a fantastic video e-card which you can send out, fully personalised, on behalf of your company.

2009 is the 14th year that the Financial Times has supported Crisis and we are proud to have raised nearly £7million since the campaign began. This year Crisis needs to raise £650,000 to help thousands of homeless men and women turn their lives around this Christmas. Make your Christmas card budget work harder this year and display your commitment to social responsibility even in the most testing of economic climates.

To find out more about this year's Christmas Card Challenge, visit www.crisis.org.uk/christmascard or contact the Crisis Corporate Partnerships Team on 020 7426 3848.

Events

Eco Architects: Trail Blazing Pioneers –13th September 2009, 2.00 to 5.00pm, Lexi Cinema, 194b Chamberlayne Road, Kensal Rise, London NW10 3JU

This double bill at The Lexi Cinema features Daren Howarth talking about his experience in building the Brittany Groundhouse and the screening of the documentary film Garbage Warrior featuring eco architect Michael Reynolds.

Daren Howarth and Adi Nortje are architectural pioneers based in Brittany, France. Their Brittany Groundhouse, which they themselves designed and built, was recently featured in the Channel 4 television series Grand Designs. This innovative and inspirational build features eco building techniques first pioneered by the American eco architect, Michael Reynolds, who is the 'warrior' featured in the documentary film, Garbage Warrior, which is screened in this double bill programme. Working with Reynolds, Daren also initiated the first full scale Earthship build in Europe, the Brighton Earthship.

Like the 'Earthships' which Michael Reynolds pioneered, the central fabric of the Brittany Groundhouse structure is recycled car tyres ram packed with earth. This technique produces dense, heat-retaining structures which are kind to the planet and highly energy efficient. The build also features rainwater collection tanks buried in the earth which is built up around the back of the house providing a kind of thermal wrap - keeping it warm in winter and cool in the summer. And with solar collection on the front face, grey water recycling and as many reclaimed materials as possible, this low tech building has but a small environmental footprint.

The presentation by Daren Howarth is followed by screening of the film Garbage Warrior. What do beer cans, car tyres and bottles have in common you may ask? Not much unless you're the unconventional architect Michael Reynolds, in which case they are tools of choice for producing thermal mass and energy-independent housing. This film follows the New Mexico-based Reynolds, and his fellow green enthusiasts, who have devoted their time to advancing the art of 'Earthship Biotecture' by building self-sufficient, off-the-grid communities.

Booking: £20 for presentation & screening: buy tickets at The Lexi Cinema

Go to www.theplanetoids.net/events.php for more information.

SEDA Post Occupancy Evaluation (POE) Seminar and Workshop, 15th September 2009, The Lighthouse, Glasgow

The purpose of the event is to bring together the leading experts within the UK to explore the origins and growth of Post Occupancy Evaluation (POE) and more importantly the role of POE in contributing towards improved building performance in the future. POE is rapidly becoming recognised as the vital final step in a construction project where the lessons learned can be used to improve the performance of the completed building and improve the clients understanding of their future needs and performance requirements.

The education sector leads the way and Scotland is at the forefront in mainstreaming POE. Recently the Scottish Funding Council made it mandatory for all new further and higher educational establishments to undertake POE on new buildings as part of the funding requirements.

In simple terms, why wouldn't you want to know how your building performs? And if you think you have already found the answer, wouldn't you want to check this out objectively and apply that information to future buildings? This event is aimed at those who are both new to the subject and are keen to know more, as well as those who already see POE as an opportunity to vastly improve the economic, social and environmental performance of the Scottish built environment.

The event brings together a range of contributors leading the field in POE research and the use of POE in building modelling including Oxford Brookes University, Usable Buildings Trust, BRE, Bennetts Associates as well as input from SEDA, RIAS and views from clients and recent research by SUST into the use of building data and what gets done with it once collected. Also featured are examples from elsewhere in Europe and in the UK with contributions from the speakers/ presenters as well as opportunities for questions and contributions from SEDA members who have successfully carried out POE on different types and scales of buildings. There will be workshops to follow and a plenary discussion to end.

Enquiries to Mary Kelly, email: mary@segselfbuild.co.uk

Sustainable Ireland Awards 2009 – 17th September, Belfast.

The Sustainable Ireland 'Energy, Environmental & Waste Management' Awards will be staged at the Ramada Hotel in Belfast on September 17th. All that is best in the various sectors of the industry will be represented, with awards up for grabs in 13 separate categories, covering areas such as waste management, environmental, energy, sustainable development and biodiversity.

There'll be guest speakers, top class entertainment, the awards presentations, of course, and a superb champagne lunch! This will be the fourth annual Sustainable Ireland awards ceremony, being held in association with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

The event gets underway at 12 noon with tea, coffee, danish, and there are only a limited number of places left; tickets cost £45 plus vat each, while a table of 10 works out at £450 plus vat.

Please visit www.sustainableireland.co.uk

European Biofuels Expo And Conference EBEC 8 – 10th October, Stoneleigh

EBEC will be the largest event of its kind in Europe.

The bioenergy market is one of the fastest growing and fastest moving in the world today. If you are already involved in biofuel or bioenergy production or thinking about adopting bioenergy for your organisation, this is your chance to explore all the latest methods and costs of production as well as performance for yourself.

The 2009 event is showcasing Biodiesel, Biogas, Wood Energy and Fuel From Waste solutions. Visit the Expo where we will have over 200 stands showcasing the latest technology in the bioenergy markets. Entrance is £10 by pre-registration or £25 on the door.

New for 2009 is a partnership with the Renewable Energy Association (REA) who will be bringing their annual Bioenergy Conference into the event. The REA will be organising a wide-ranging 4 or 5 stream Bioenergy Conference over 2 days (8th & 9th October 2009).

We will be running study tours on the 7th - 8th October to a local wood pellet production facility, Biodiesel production plant and also to a local Anaerobic Digestion plant. Please check back closer to the event for more details.

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

BWEA31: The UK's Premier Renewable Energy Event – 20th – 22nd October

Together, by 2020, wind, wave and tidal energy can supply over 30% of the UK's electricity, resulting in £60 billion of investment and 60,000 new jobs. Learn about the opportunities for you and your company at BWEA31.

BWEA is proud to present the industry's annual three day conference and exhibition. An event designed by industry, packed with content. You will hear the best speakers from high level Government and stakeholders, to industry leaders and entrepreneurs discussing developments in UK wind, wave and tidal energy, and small wind systems. BWEA31 also features social and attached specialist events.

Over 180 companies will exhibit at BWEA31. Network and do business while learning about the products and services offered by leading manufacturers, utilities, developers, contractors, consultants, suppliers and service companies, financiers, insurance companies, universities and research institutes, NGOs and more.

BWEA31 will take place at the ACC Liverpool, a landmark regeneration project on the outstanding Mersey River Waterfront next to the famous Albert Dock. The ACC is one of the most sustainable venues in Europe - designed to halve its potential CO2 emissions. It even has its very own wind turbines.

Go to www.bwea31.com

International Passive House Open Days, 6th – 8th November

Register your Project for the 6th International Passive House Days

If you're already enjoying the comforts of your own passive house, we would like to ask you to open your home during the 6th International Passive House Days. You can help us convince people of the Passive House's unique advantages. It's your chance to let visitors experience the pleasant indoor climate and comfort in a Passive House – and to demonstrate your skills and abilities to prospective clients.

Joined by several European Passive House Communities, the EU Project PASS-NET and further partners in Europe and abroad, the "Informations Gemeinschaft Passivhaus Deutschland" (IG Passivhaus) is once again asking all passive house dwellers worldwide to open their homes to the public in November, to allow interested people, builders and experts all over the globe to see, feel and understand the passive house concept.

You can register anytime at our database. Simply visit our homepage www.ig-passivhaus.de

Courses

Using PHPP In A Building Certification Process

Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust, Truro, 17 - 18 September 2009

Part of the CarbonLite Training Programme, this practical hands-on course will provide energy consultants, technical building designers and architects with the skills necessary to design low energy and CO2 buildings to AECB standards using the PassivHaus Planning Package (PHPP).

Go to www.aecb.net/networkfiles/images/Truro.pdf for full details.

Book online at: www.carbonlite.org.uk/carbonlite/training.php

September Events At The Ecos Trust

- Make Mine an EcoHome Wednesday 16th September, Langport, Somerset from 9.15am - 4.30pm

This course is for homeowners and self-builders and will be delivered by Charles Couzens, Director of Ecos Trust. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own source material and designs to contribute to the course and enliven discussion.

Ecoss is a leading sustainable developer in the UK, having recently completed the first Code for Sustainable Homes level 5 development of five homes in Somerset. It also completed an award winning development of 12 sustainable homes and the sustainable refurbishment of a warehouse building at Great Bow Yard in Langport, Somerset in 2006. Charles has a background in training in the environmental sector as well as having undertaken his own sustainable self-build project in Somerset in the late 1990s. He was recently elected to the board of Regen SW – the sustainable energy agency for the south-west.

The Course will cover: Sustainable Construction, Designing a Sustainable Home, Sustainable refurbishment, Renewable Technologies, An example housing design, Review and discussion – cost, environmental impact, aesthetic and practical implications

Fees: £96 plus VAT (£110.40 in total). Including lunch to be served between 12.30pm - 1.30pm

- How to Meet the Code for Sustainable Homes Wednesday 30th September, The Guild Hall, Bath from 1.30pm to 4.30pm (registration from 1.00pm)

This half-day seminar will provide practical and timely information on how to meet the Code which you can take away and apply to your own projects.

All new homes will have to meet the CO2 reduction target of Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (25% lower than current Building Regulations) from next year onwards with a timetable of tougher targets over the coming years. An increasing number of local planning authorities require new homes to achieve certain Code levels. Government funded housing already has to meet at least Code Level 3 in full and this is likely to increase in the near future.

The Seminar will: Show how to meet different levels of the Code based on the experience of a developer that is building one of the first Code Level 5 developments in the country. Look at the design strategies, construction methods, materials, technologies and costs of meeting the Code. Provide a detailed look at the Code and its various parts from an experienced Code assessor. Set out the policy requirements regarding the Code both now and in the future.

Fees: £75 plus VAT (£86.25 in total)

For further information and to book online go to the Ecoss Events pages at www.ecostrust.org.uk or call us on 01458 259400.

Online Course That Provides A Deeper Understanding Of The Sustainable Communities Agenda.

You will work with built environment professionals, community workers and volunteers to gain a shared understanding of how to create and manage sustainable communities.

The 10-week course brings together people from local government, regeneration, housing and the third sector to develop their knowledge about how to create and manage sustainable communities. Regular intakes will commence from September.

The course consists of five tutored workshops designed to help participants understand:

- The term 'sustainable communities' and the different components that contribute towards sustainable communities
- Current national and regional policy
- The roles, responsibilities and skills of the various organisations and individuals responsible for delivery
- The core professions involved in the delivery and the wider stakeholders
- Regeneration issues linked to sustainable communities
- How to put theory into practice.

The course is facilitated by an experienced tutor who will provide advice and guidance. The workshops include a range of learning materials, participant activities and discussion forums to encourage people to share ideas, experiences and knowledge. Participants are expected to dedicate approximately three hours per week to take part in feedback forums and active learning modules. For a limited period, the course cost of £100 will be fully funded by the HCA Academy.

Feedback from participants of previous courses has been positive.

For more information go to www.hcaacademy.co.uk/courses/nutshell. To book a place on the course, contact Kelly Brewell on 0113 394 9387 or email Kelly.brewell@hcaacademy.co.uk

Courses at Ty Mawr, Brecon.

- Introduction to Lime in Building - Friday 4th Sept, Friday 2nd Oct
- Lime Plastering - Friday 11th Sept, Friday 9th Oct
- Decorative plasterwork (running in-situ, casting enrichments etc) - Saturday 12th Sept
- Pargetting - Sunday 13th Sept

- Dry Stone Walling - Friday 18th Sept

Lime and Insulation, a day looking at energy efficiency and active moisture management in old buildings is being planned for the autumn, date to be confirmed.

Details of these and other courses run by Ty Mawr are at www.lime.org.uk

Renewable Energy Training Courses – 8th and 9th September, 3rd and 4th November.

Midlothian Innovation Centre, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9RE. Cost £350 +VAT

Energy Saving Trust training. This two day training course will cover the principles behind the design and installation of small scale renewable heating and electricity generating technologies in Scotland and will cover the following renewable technologies and information:

The course is aimed at energy advisers, local authority and housing association officers, planning officers, developers, architects, building services engineers, energy managers, community representatives and interested householders. Course attendees will gain a detailed understanding of renewable technologies and where they can be successfully installed. You will be able to give basic guidance on different system types and their relative merits, component parts, controls and maintenance, design, sizing, costs, savings and payback times. You will learn how to go about getting renewables installed and the support and grants available.

Please contact Jason Leon or Richard Witney at On Site Generation to reserve a place on the course, tel 0131 440 9020 email info@onsitegeneration.co.uk or visit www.onsitegeneration.co.uk

Refurb For Real: Sustainable Refurbishment, 14th October, Glasgow

One day course, cost £287.50 - 3 for 2 Offer – If you book 3 places you get one free.

Refurbishment is the new headline topic for the housing sector. Why wait years to be told what to do? Get ahead now. Sustainable Homes in partnership with ECD Architects and Keegans have developed a new course which gives you real solutions based on real case studies. You will benefit from our first-hand experience of refurbishment of existing stock with up to 80% less carbon emissions.

Download the agenda from Sustainable Homes website: www.sustainablehomes.co.uk/refurb_for_real.aspx, email info@sustainablehomes.co.uk or call 0208 973 0429 for further information.

Certified European Passive House Designer Course And Associated Exam

Module 1: 2nd - 6th Nov; Module 2: 16th - 20th Nov; Exam: 5th December, ESRU, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, G1 1XJ

This course is being delivered through an EU funded project (www.passivehousedesigner.eu) with the support of the Passive House Institute Darmstadt. For over 10 years the Passive House Standards have been adopted for many building types - both new build and renovations - and interest is rapidly increasing worldwide. The supply chain has matured and a wide range of Passive House Standard products are available. In order to promote adoption of this advanced standard and ensure that it is implemented with the correct quality, the EU has funded the CEPH project to deliver robust training and certification for Passive House Designers across the EU member states.

Cost and registration information for the November 2009 course is available from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. Two further courses will be offered in 2010. Contact Sabeeta Ghauri email sabeeta.ghauri@strath.ac.uk or phone ESRU, University of Strathclyde, 0141 548 3747

Vacancies

"Green" Architects Wanted - Borders Or Edinburgh Area

We have recently bought a 1/2 acre plot of land, with outline planning permission, near Kelso and want to build as sustainable a home as possible, ideally to passiv haus standards. We hope to apply for full planning permission next year and start the build in 2012, completing it by winter 2013.

Any architects based in The Borders or Edinburgh, who are experienced in this kind of project and would be interested in further details, may contact us by email on lesley.blackthorn@btinternet.com or phone 01904 631204 (evenings/weekends). Peter Snell & Lesley Blackthorn

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.