

Local Meetings –Venues And Themes

Whether you are looking networking business opportunities or finding out about a new product or system, you will find them at meetings of the AECB Local Groups happening all over the UK. There are also informative talks by those at the top of the sustainable building industry and the opportunity of finding out about 'green' projects in your area.

However, one of the main reasons for members attending meetings is the chance to get together with like minded people. Here are a few examples of what is going on around the country. For further details of events, press the 'Regional Groups' button on the home page of the AECB website or email Debbie Mauger, debbie@aecb.net.

Examples of events coming up soon:

- Site visit to a new housing in Kent built using Beco Wallform insulated concrete formwork
- Milton Keynes has Dr Neil Cutland to talk about the governments new "Green Deal"
- Kent visit a large 'green' building at Canterbury to find out, is it 'green dream' or 'green wash'?
- Birmingham at the City Council offices - Building Regs Part L presentation and discussion
- A tour of a new 'green' retail building in Leicestershire designed to reduce energy consumption

Carbonlite Courses – May Dates

CarbonLite courses – May dates in London now bookable

- Understanding the Passivhaus Standard, Principles and Methodologies

9th May 2011 | Westbourne Grove, London

- Using PHPP to Design Low Energy Buildings

10th May 2011 - 11th May 2011 | Westbourne Grove, London

- Thermal Bridging

12th May 2011 | Westbourne Grove, London

Go to www.carbonlite.org.uk/carbonlite/events.php for more information.

You Can Help Promote The AECB

Have you got a counter or a table where you meet clients or colleagues?

Then it's easy! All you need to do is drop a line to sally@aecb.net, telling her who you are, and she'll send you a bundle of attractive AECB postcards which you can display for prospective members to take away with them, encouraging them to join.

Conversation With The BRE

AECB CEO Andy Simmonds and Oliver Novakovic, Director of Housing Futures at BRE, have had an initial discussion to explore the potential for a more fruitful exchange between the two organisations. It was felt that more structured engagement could potentially help the advancement of sustainable building nationally, whilst maintaining the AECB's role as an independent 'critical friend' to organisations in the field. They also had a preliminary conversation exploring potential collaboration around the BRE's planned National Centre for Refurbishment, and a further meeting to discuss this has been planned between AECB, BRE and EST later this month.

It is important that the views of members inform such potential developments, and AECB is planning a survey of members' opinions concerning the existing and potential relationship with BRE. If you are a member and would like to suggest a survey question exploring this issue please email sally@aecb.net. Please keep your proposed survey question short and succinct remember these are questions that will be asked of other AECB members.

Please mark emails ' BRE/AECB' in the subject line. We won't be able to reply - but we will read your email, and aim to use members' suggestions in the survey.

Share Your Passivhaus Project With The World!

With Passivhaus being everywhere at Ecobuild last week, now is a great time to upload your Passivhaus project onto the AECB/TSB's joint Low Energy Buildings Database, and demonstrate just how much action and experience is backing up the enthusiastic talk. The Database is not just for Passivhaus of course – any project where there are (or will be) energy monitoring results to share, is very welcome.

You don't have to load the data all at once: so long as you are committed to monitoring and sharing project's performance, you can open your account now, and load design information and images before your first monitoring results are in.

To find out more about the Database, and open or update an account, go to our new Low Energy Buildings Database landing page at <http://www.carbonlite.org.uk/carbonlite/lowenergybuildings.php>. If you want to know more about how to load your project contact Eric Parks at info@retrofitforthefuture.org.

News

Training Grants For Sustainable Community And Built Environment (SCC) Businesses In The East Of England

The Beyond 2010 programme www.beyond2010.co.uk enables businesses to harness their full potential by reimbursing up to 70% of the training cost of eligible courses. This funding is only available during 2011.

The East of England includes businesses based in the counties of Beds, Cambs, Essex, Herts, Norfolk and Suffolk.

The Sustainable Communities and Built Environment (SCC) Sector is being delivered by Enterprise Partnerships (East of England) Ltd. To discuss your needs and find out if your business and the training you seek are eligible contact Anne Williamson by e mail in the first instance anne.e.williamson@btinternet.com or 07748 261804

Business support delivered by Essex County Council and funded by the East of England Development Agency and the European Social Fund.

Targeting All Yorkshire & Humber Construction Businesses – New Initiative Shows How To Win New Contracts

Construction Target under the umbrella of the Construction Sector Network (CSN) is re-launching a much needed initiative to highlight how Yorkshire & Humber based SMEs in the construction sector can access procurement opportunities. Construction Target will be one of the main vehicles for tender announcements in both the public & private sectors.

Construction Target is a new business support initiative led by the regional Construction Sector Network based at Leeds Metropolitan University. The Network brings industry partners together & leads on strategic best practice initiatives, delivering exemplar projects based on its five themes of Procurement / Supply Chain Management, Innovation, Carbon Reduction / Zero to Landfill, Employment and Skills and Economic Regeneration.

The recently launched network aims to add much needed value to this key sector where dwindling head counts, as firms lay off staff at a quicker pace, coupled with weakened confidence about future business performance, suggests that the construction industry still has some concerns over the stability of the recovery and is therefore in need of ongoing support.

A series of events & focussed workshops, delivered along with both industry & project specific partners (including principal contractors) will be supported by online announcements through www.constructiontarget.com to ensure that local businesses are more aware of where opportunities are arising and more importantly – how to respond to them.

How To Create Jobs And Reduce Deficit Spending

An independent analysis in the US, conducted by Architecture 2030 illustrates that the Administration's Better Buildings Initiative (BBI) can put the nation's commercial real estate (CRE) market on the road to recovery, creating at least 300,000 new U.S. jobs and boosting tax revenue to begin putting money back into federal, state, and local coffers.

This comes as the nation's ongoing CRE crisis continues to threaten the recovery, with \$1.4 trillion in CRE loans becoming due between now and 2014 (half of which are underwater) and commercial vacancy rates showing little sign of improvement. Meanwhile, those hardest hit – construction workers, small businesses, and small banks – are still bearing the brunt of this debacle. Construction unemployment is now at 22.5% and, in the first two months

of 2011 alone, another 23 community or regional banks shuttered their doors (for a total of 320 bank failures since 2009). The Administration's BBI plan, unveiled early last month, spurs CRE recovery by leveraging a commercial building efficiency tax credit of \$.60 to \$1.80 per square foot for meeting energy reductions of 20% to 50% below the ASHRAE 90.1-2004 standard. The Administration's initiative mirrors similar CRE tax incentives called for by Architecture 2030 in the CRE Solution (June 2010).

Go to <http://org2.democracynaction.org/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=kuC%2B2NdIWU4S6XGLHmF1FASraCfUThRj> for more information.

In a Fact Sheet published today, Architecture 2030 reports that for each \$1 billion in BBI commercial building efficiency tax credits, the program will generate \$16.4 billion in new private spending and \$3.6 billion in new federal tax revenue. The program will not only pay for itself, but also reduce deficit spending by \$2.6 billion.

Although commercial buildings are often thought of as big-box stores or high rises in city centres, 90 percent are actually smaller than 25,000 square feet. These are mostly one- and two-story, single- or double-occupancy buildings that are easy and inexpensive to add on to and/or renovate. If Section 179D is amended, the tax credit would apply to property placed in service on or before December 31, 2013.

For the Architecture 2030 Better Buildings Initiative Fact Sheet and companion analysis, go to <http://org2.democracynaction.org/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=hhN7BVfd7Kl6cqOoQwINUGhgTtfZ%2Fk5P>

Obama Calls For 80% Clean Energy By 2035

In his State of the Union Address yesterday, US President Barack Obama called for 80% of US energy to come from clean sources – wind, solar, nuclear, clean coal and natural gas – by 2035. Obama outlined plans for new standards to create a market that supports clean and renewable energy sources.

The new standards will be coupled to new efforts to improve energy efficiency – both at home and in the workplace, as well as in schools, municipal buildings, universities and hospitals. The President also issued a challenge to the country's scientists and engineers to invent new clean energies that will "lead the world".

The new commitment to clean energy will be paid for by ending taxpayer subsidies of oil, gas and other fossil fuels, Obama said, which currently total around \$4 billion a year. The funds will go towards increasing clean energy technology investment by a third compared to 2010, including an expansion of the successful advanced research ARPA-E programme and a doubling the number of Energy Innovation Hubs.

The President also says he wants investment in energy efficiency to double and that in renewable energy to increase by over 85%. New investment in clean energy research and development will push the '\$1 a watt' drive to make solar power cost competitive, as well as more support for geothermal renewable energy and industrial efficiency.

The final part of the vision, according to Obama, is putting one million advanced technology vehicles on the road by 2015. The President's Budget will include measures to support electric vehicle manufacturing and the market, through measures such as consumer rebates and incentives for investing in electric vehicle infrastructure.

Go to www.whitehouse.gov/

Starbucks Bottom Of Ethical Rating Despite Going Fairtrade – Ethical Consumer Report

As Fairtrade Fortnight kicks off, in the latest issue of Ethical Consumer magazine a buyers' guide to coffee shop chains reveals that despite being the biggest buyer of Fairtrade coffee in the world Starbucks scores worst when rated across 19 ethical categories from workers' rights to anti-social finance.

Walk down your local high street and you're quite likely to be presented with a choice between the big three UK coffee shop chains: Starbucks; Costa or Caffe Nero [See Notes for company profiles]. Of these only Starbucks sells Fairtrade coffee, so is Starbucks the high street choice for the ethical consumer? Not according to co-editor of Ethical Consumer magazine and report author Dan Welch:

Since the end of 2009 Starbucks has gone Fairtrade in the UK and Ireland. Since last year all Costa Coffee in the UK is Rainforest Alliance certified. [See Notes for Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade].

To see a copy of the coffee shops buyers' guide go to www.ethicalconsumer.org/coffeeshops_report.pdf

Government Considering Options For Water Metering

The Coalition Government is reported to be considering the options for making water meters mandatory for all the country's homes. Water meters promise improved efficiency – particularly for water utilities to detect leaks more effectively – and could deliver water savings among customers.

Currently, only around 40% of homes have water meters, but Caroline Spelman, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is reputedly in favour of moving towards a system in which water charges are based on metering. While the advantages for some are that charges will be based only on what is used, rather than on the basis of property size, those with heavy usage could be worse off.

There could also be problems for water utilities in the provision of water meters for blocks of flats or multiple-occupancy residences. The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is scheduled to launch a

consultation on water metering, but the ongoing furore over the Departments plans to dispose of the nation's forests over coming years could delay the announcement.

For more information go to ww2.defra.gov.uk/

Sheffield Bids To Become The UK's First Energy Self-Sufficient City

Sheffield City Council has announced plans, in partnership with energy company E.ON, to become the UK's first energy self-sufficient city. The plan was endorsed by Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne yesterday during a visit to the city's University and Sheffield College.

The city plans to generate enough renewable energy to cover all its power needs within ten years and ultimately produce an excess, which could be sold back to the national grid.

Last summer, in one of Huhne's first acts as Energy and Climate Change Secretary, he overturned legislation preventing councils from selling energy from local sources to the national grid to generate revenue. But his encouragement of local renewables projects has been thrown into jeopardy with the announcement of a review of feed-in tariffs for larger-scale solar projects.

For more information go to www.sheffield.gov.uk/

Co-Op Launches Ambitious Sustainability Plan

The Co-op has launched an ambitious sustainability plan on Friday that promises to cut carbon emissions by 35% by 2017 and deploy over £1 billion of green energy finance by 2013. The organisation, which is the UK's fifth largest food retailer, the third largest retail pharmacy chain, largest independent travel business and provider of funeral services, says its carbon reduction target is the "most progressive of any UK business". The Co-operative Group has already reduced its operational carbon emissions by 20% since 2006.

By 2017, the Co-op wants to generate an equivalent of a quarter of its energy needs from renewables but aims to be carbon neutral in its operations by next year. The Group also pledges to reduce its water consumption by 10% over the next three years. Meanwhile, the financial arm of the Group will double its support for renewable and energy efficiency projects from £400 million to £1 billion and offer a range of ethically-screened insurance products.

The Co-op also plans to undertake a major conversion to Fairtrade products, aiming for 90% of primary commodities by 2013, as well as tightening up its pesticides policy and setting targets on use of palm oil and soya.

For more information go to www.co-operative.coop/join-the-revolution/

Energy Efficient Buildings Aren't Enough, People Matter Too

Energy efficient buildings and technologies like smart meters aren't enough on their own to cut energy usage, warns a new study. Efforts to reduce energy usage must focus on educating people and changing habits in the long term as well, says Kathryn Janda, author of the study and researcher at UK Energy Research Centre.

According to Janda, around half of our energy consumption is down to personal choices and actions. She looked at US data showing that 'zero-energy' homes while using less energy than the average community still show the same variance in high-, medium- and low-energy usage.

In an article in Architectural Science Review, Janda says that the personal actions on individuals account for around half of consumption while other factors – like building performance – make up the rest. Studies indicate that education and information alone are not enough, users typically respond to feedback such as real-time meters or itemised bills.

Janda suggests that a new professional group, focused on the architecture and engineering professions, could take on such an educational role.

The report has been welcomed by consumer organisation Which?, that has been campaigning for the education of consumers alongside the Government's smart meter rollout programme.

Kathryn Janda. Buildings don't use energy: people do. Architectural Science Review (2011) 54:1, 15-22

Go to <http://earthscan.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/earthscan/asre/2011/00000054/00000001/art00003>

Solar Power On Brink Of Economic Breakthrough, Says Report

Solar power could be on the brink of economic breakthrough, reaching investment levels of €70 billion in 2015, according to a major study out this week. The report, Solar Generation 6, by the European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA) and Greenpeace International estimates that photovoltaics could meet 12% of European demand by 2020 and up to 9% of the world's demand by 2030.

The technology has seen major improvements in power efficiency in recent years and a drop in prices of 40% since 2005. By 2015, the cost of photovoltaic systems is expected to drop by a further 40% making it cost

competitive in many parts of Europe. The study estimates that global solar capacity could grow from 36 GW to nearly 180 GW by 2015, with European capacity increasing from 28 GW to just under 100 GW.

One country leading the charge is Spain, which according to Red Eléctrica generated nearly 3% of its total electricity from solar power in 2010. Spain has a total solar capacity, mainly photovoltaics, of 4000 MW. Meanwhile, according to Gestore dei Servizi Energetici, Italy installed 1850 MW of solar photovoltaics in 2010, taking its total installed solar capacity to around 3000 MW. The country aims to reach 8000 GW by 2020.

One of the planned new installations will be a 24.2 MW solar power plant in the Lazio region, which is being developed by REC Systems, a business unit of REC, and constructed in conjunction with ABB. Elsewhere in Europe, Greece's Public Power Corporation is planning to issue a tender for a 200 MW photovoltaic solar development in western Macedonia, as well as a facility to produce the panels.

Meanwhile, Nur-MOH – a joint venture between Nur Energie and one of Greece's largest companies, Motor Oil Hellas (MOH) – has been given the go ahead for a concentrated solar plant on the Greek island of Crete. The 38 MW facility will use BrightSource Energy's technology. In the US, solar developments are also pushing ahead with NRG Energy receiving a loan guarantee of \$967 million from the Department of Energy for the 290 MW Agua Caliente Solar project in Yuma County, Arizona, which it acquired from FirstSolar last year. FirstSolar will still supply the thin solar panels to be used in the development.

Other recently announced developments include Western Massachusetts Electric Company's 4.2 MW solar facility in Springfield; SOLON Corporation and Tucson Electric Power Company have completed a 1.6 MW solar power plant in Tuscon, Arizona; Duke Energy and Sun Edison, a subsidiary of MEMC Electronic Materials, are on the final stages of a 17.2 MW solar farm in Davidson County, North Carolina;

Go to www.epia.org/publications/epia-publications.html

Green Technologies Could Give European Economy A 600 Euro Billion Boost

Increasing investment in green technologies could give Europe's GDP a €600 billion boost, according to a report by Germany's Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK). Europe could benefit from the boost with just a modest increase in investment from current levels of 18% to 22% and embraced a tougher greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 30% by 2020.

The report, A New Growth Path for Europe - Generating Growth and Jobs in the Low-Carbon Economy, says that climate change could be an opportunity to revitalise the European economy. By focusing on improving the energy efficiency of buildings and upgrading the energy grid, Europe could benefit from a construction boom.

However, opinion across Europe is divided over increasing the region's emissions reduction target to 30%. While the UK, Germany and France have been pushing for the more stringent target, many Eastern European states that are still heavily dependent on fossil fuels have resisted the move.

Now while Europe's climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard has welcomed the report from PIK, Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger remains publicly opposed to a 30% target. The UK's Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne, who is a strong adherent of the higher target, has also backed the report's findings.

For more go to www.pik-potsdam.de/

UK Government Sets Green Economy Council On Course

The Green Economy Council, set up by the UK Government to bring together industry with policymakers on the transition to a low-carbon economy, met for the first time yesterday. The Council brings together ministers from the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS), the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) with business leaders from a cross-sections of industries.

Members include Peter Young, chair of the Aldersgate Group; Neil Bentley of the CBI; Henry Winand, CEO of Intelligent Energy; Andreas Goss of Siemens; Gearoid Lane of energy company Centrica, Stephen Leonard of IBM UK and Ian Goodfellow of Shanks and chair of the Environmental Services Association. The Council will discuss 'green' growth policies affecting infrastructure, innovation and investment, as well as regulation.

Top of the agenda for its first meeting was the Green Economy Roadmap, which is being developed by Government to address climate change and environmental issues and will be published in the spring.

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne said that the Coalition is putting in place a framework to encourage low-carbon investment – such as the Green Deal, Green Investment Bank and the electricity market reform – but that the country needs to get over its addiction to oil.

One of the Coalition Government's first actions once in power was to oversee a 'bonfire of the quangos', which saw the axing of a number of advisory bodies including the Sustainable Development Council. Other organisations like the Carbon Trust and the Energy Saving Trust have seen their budgets radically cut.

Renewables Could Raise £12 Billion For Cash-Strapped Councils

Renewable energy could raise up to £12 billion for cash-strapped councils over the next twenty years, according to a new report. The study, Power and Money, by the New Local Government Network (NLGN) says that local

authorities should make better use of subsidies such as feed-in tariffs (FITs) and the proposed renewable heat incentive (RHI) to garner income from renewables like solar panels on social housing and other authority properties.

Last summer Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne overturned legislation preventing local authorities from selling renewable electricity back to the grid and urged councils to take up the opportunities offered by FITs. But according to the latest figures, only around 275 local authorities are registered under the FIT scheme, out of a total of nearly 20,000.

Meanwhile, the UK renewable energy trade association RenewableUK yesterday published a 'protocol' that could pay local communities receive a minimum of £1000 per MW per year for wind farms. The communities would be able to decide how the funds were allocated. The Government is also supporting RenewableUK's suggestion to let host communities keep the business rates paid by onshore wind farms.

According to RenewableUK, the local economic benefits of onshore wind can top over £1 million per MW over the development and operational lifetime of a wind farm. For the moment, the protocol only covers England, but similar arrangements are expected for Wales and Northern Ireland later in the year, while the Scottish Government is currently consulting on its own proposals for community payments.

Go to www.nlgn.org.uk/

Practical Action Campaign For Energy Access For All – Online Petition

Practical Action is calling for the EU to commit budget to providing access to energy for the world's poorest. Access to energy is essential for cooking meals, lighting, refrigeration of food and medical supplies, earning a living and for education. Yet still a disconnect remains between gaining electricity and realising development benefits.

The call is for renewable, clean and affordable energy. You can access the petition here: <http://bit.ly/ekkU6B>.

Events

Monthly Ecotours – North Pembrokeshire

Monthly ecotours look at a wide range of buildings with Eco features in North Pembrokeshire and neighbouring counties.

Tours include: Lammas new eco-village, passivhaus office, Rhosigilwen culture centre, stone buildings retrofit, timber, strawbale, reticulated roofs, all the renewables on and off grid, self-build, community lifestyles and food production, the range of ranges and wood in heating, vernacular styles, church conversion. The extremes of grandeur and humble living, as well as homely middle styles.

There are a number of different tours, usually on Sunday, take the day and involve a countryside walk between welcoming hosts.

For more information ring Vicky on 01239 820971, email vickymoller@ukonline.co.uk or visit www.ecocymru.org

Achieving Low Carbon Housing; Closing The Gap Between Designed And As Built Performance Seminar: 9th March, 2011 – Good Homes Alliance Event

The Lighthouse, 11 Mitchell Lane, Glasgow, G1 3NU

Registration and lunch: 12.30, Seminar: 13.30 – 17.15 followed by drinks and networking.

This seminar, in partnership with Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust (JRHT) and Architecture and Design Scotland, will examine the results of performance measurement at the JRHT development, Elm Tree Mews, as well as other monitoring by GHA, Ecos and others.

This research has in all cases revealed a significant gap between as designed and as-built energy performance of new homes.

Speakers will explore what is happening in Scotland, including research about sustainability in Building Regulations; the implications for industry and policy-makers; and the experiences of a local housing provider that is mainstreaming innovative approaches to low energy design across Argyllshire.

This event is aimed at all practitioners involved in the delivery of housing; including policy makers, planners, developers, architects, local authorities, housing providers, developers, contractors and supply chain representatives.

Please book in advance by emailing Tanisha or Laura at info@goodhomes.org.uk with your name, job title and appropriate address for an invoice.

There are five free places available to AECB members.

Cost £25.00 + VAT (£30.00)

Green Energy and Power Thursday 17th March – Gateways School , Harewood , LS17 9LE

Green Vision launches their prestigious spring networking series on sustainable energy and property. Following the success of the Construction and Property conferences in 2010, Green Vision has attracted considerable interest as a network for the region to engage Construction and Property professionals to debate discuss and share information on Low Carbon and Energy Efficient property with a monthly seminar series starting with a breakfast networking session on Thursday March 17th.

Forthcoming series events (April 7th - Cutting Carbon in Property, May 12th – How the Law and Politics affect Sustainability, June 9th – Green Technology – Into the Future.

For the full line-up please go to www.green-vision.org.uk/gv%20spring.pdf

Renewable Energy Marketplace – 22 March – Exeter

Regen SW is running a major new initiative - our inaugural Renewable Energy Marketplace event at Westpoint Arena, Exeter, on 22 March.

For the first time the event will bring together the rapidly growing renewable energy sector with all those looking to install green energy to become the south west's leading renewable energy event.

The event, sponsored by Good Energy, will bring together organisations from a whole host of backgrounds - including farming, construction, tourism, local government and the general public. It will be the key place to exhibit, network, learn from industry experts, and ultimately do business.

There will be a full programme of expert presentations covering the latest on the review of the Feed-in Tariff and the forthcoming Renewable Heat Incentive - as well as information on the range of renewable energy technologies.

We hope you'll join us there, either as an exhibitor or delegate, to be part of a day that will help drive forward the south west sustainable energy industry.

Go to www.regensw.co.uk/events/regen-sw-events-/renewable-energy-marketplace for more information.

Green Build Cornwall – 8/9 April 2011

A Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust event

A snapshot of the Cornwall Construction Sector

A two day free event @ The Eden Project

Friday 8th & Saturday 9th April 2011

Where does construction need to be in 3 years time?

Innovations in materials and building systems

Go to <http://csbt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/GREEN-BUILD-CORNWALL-8-9-APRIL-2011.pdf>

Sustainable Social Housing Best Practice Conference 2011: 13 – 14th April, Dexter House, Tower Hill, London

The Sustainable Social Housing Best Practice Conference 2011 builds on the success of last year's inaugural event; The 150 delegates at the conference in May 2010 were a mix of technical and development staff from the leading housing associations, local authority housing and maintenance experts, contractors and consultants.

The conference will have a strong focus on "how to" case studies, plus senior level scene-setters on the key political and financial imperatives. As at the first conference, all the presentations will be "peer reviewed" to ensure the quality and calibre of the information and will deliver detailed explanations of the construction and buildability issues involved and the costs and carbon savings delivered.

The first day will look at some of the most innovative refurbishment and upgrading projects undertaken as part of the Government's Retrofit for the Future programme, showcasing the key results from the 87 case studies that have been delivered via this programme over the last year. There will also be case studies showing how to give high rise blocks a sustainable upgrade, and special sessions looking at the role of residents' behaviour, and how this can be modified to help deliver even more carbon savings.

On the second day the focus will be on the most innovative new build social housing projects including the largest Code 6 scheme built to date, and a very innovative rural housing project. We will also look at some of the new Passive Haus projects recently completed in the UK. The day will end with a panel of independent experts explaining the pros and cons of some of the innovative new "green" materials that are now on the marketplace, and a similar session looking at the potential for some of the new eco-technologies that are in the pipeline.

Go to www.insidehousing/sustainablesocialhousing

2nd International Hemp Building Symposium: 27-28 April 2011 – Granada Spain

This event is organised by the International Hemp Building Association (IHBA) come to Granada, Spain for two days of communication between international hemp building experts, academics, architects, policy-makers, large & small-scale builders, hemp building material manufacturers and stakeholders to discuss the present and future trends of this growing sector.

The event will include presentations, and also a fascinating tour of CANNABRIC's hemp brick factory in nearby Guadix with demonstrations.

The Symposium language is English.

To book go to the event page at www.internationalhempbuilding.org on the IHBA website.

SWIG Gala Awards Breakfast – June 22nd – City Hall, London.

SWIG was conceived in 2008 by a group who came together with the idea of applying some 'whole system thinking' to sustainable water management; i.e. pulling together several strands to give a better and more sustainable result.

Participants include manufacturers, installers, professionals, consultants, designers, academics and others from across industry. Some of them are thought leaders but all have seen the relevance of a group that pulls rather than pushes.

Applications should be project centred. Short outlines/case studies. Projects from all of the UK are eligible.

Final submissions Saturday March 26th 2011.

Go to www.sustainablewater.org.uk/awards.html

Courses

Renewable Energy Courses From Green Dragon Energy

The following courses are now scheduled:

- Introduction to Renewable Energy Technologies, Berlin, Germany

18-20 May 2011

Go to www.greendragonenergy.co.uk/pdf/RENAC_Introduction_to_Renewable_Energy_Course_3_Days.pdf

- Solar Electricity Installation Course - Off-grid Applications, Berlin, Germany

2-6 May 2011

For content go to www.greendragonenergy.co.uk/pdf/RENAC_Solar_Off-grid_Course_5_Days.pdf

Green Design In Practice: Building An Earthship

Schumacher College, 21 March – 1 April 2011.

Two week course

On this course, participants will work on the construction of a small earthship structure – a greenhouse – enabling them to learn the theory and experience the practice of most parts of the construction process. Each day will involve the equivalent of about an hour of theoretical input on various aspects of earthship construction, with the remainder of the morning and the afternoon devoted to the actual building tasks. The timetable will be somewhat weather-dependent – on very wet days there will be more talking and discussion, in fine weather more time outside. (In the event of lots of rain, work will have to be continued regardless with weather-proofing over the site.)

The philosophy underpinning this course will mirror that used for short courses at Schumacher College. There will be a daily timetable with a dedicated facilitator, with participants organised into community activities. The food will be similar to that served at Schumacher, cooked by Schumacher staff and helpers who will also be present throughout the course to see to people's needs, reinforcing the sense of community so intrinsic to Schumacher College courses. Participants will be accommodated in single or double rooms in Sharpham House, a beautiful Georgian property set high on a hill overlooking the Dart. The earthship itself will be built in the grounds of the Barn, a Buddhist meditation retreat centre located on the estate. Morning and evening activities will take place at Sharpham House, where there are a range of rooms for meeting and socialising. Participants will spend the day at the Barn working on the construction, and lunch will be served there.

Course Fees Two weeks: £1,550 Single Room, Two weeks: £1,400 Shared room (Twin or double, or single applicant allocation to share a twin room with another participant)

All course fees include accommodation, food, meals, field trips and all teaching sessions and materials.

A limited number of bursaries are available for this course. We are particularly seeking applications from the following groups of people:

For further information about Schumacher College please go to www.schumachercollege.org.uk/about/schumacher

To provisionally reserve a place for 5 days, email us your contact details and the name of the course admin@schumachercollege.org.uk

Publications

New Publications From BRE

- LIST (Low Impact Shopfitting Tool) For Designing Greener Shopfitting Display Equipment (Ref: IP1/11)

ISBN: 978-1-84806-170-5

A new web-based tool, Low Impact Shopfitting Tool (LIST), has been developed by BRE in partnership with Leggett & Platt Store Fixtures Europe, FITCH and M&S to enable a sustainable solution to loose shopfitting display equipment. LIST allows retailers, designers and manufacturers to evaluate and compare the environmental impacts of shopfitting display materials and equipment from the initial design stage. This instigates consideration of the impact on the environment from the preliminary designs through the whole life-cycle of the shopfitting display equipment. LIST can be used to compare several designs of shopfitting equipment and determine whether one will have a lower environmental impact than another.

- Ventilation For Healthy Buildings: Reducing The Impact Of Urban Air Pollution (Ref: FB30)

ISBN: 978-1-84806-147-7

This report provides practical guidance on developing effective ventilation strategies for reducing the ingress of external pollution into buildings, while at the same time maintaining adequate ventilation. It takes into account all relevant air pollutant sources (near and far) and assesses their combined impact as a function of a number of parameters before providing a potential ventilation strategy.

Building designers are increasingly encouraged to consider sustainable or low-energy ventilation as a primary design option for both new and refurbishment projects. There is thus much debate about how optimum ventilation may be achieved in urban areas where external contaminants can cause the quality of the incoming air to be unacceptable.

- UK Needs Carbon Reduction Project Rules - BRE Trust Report (Ref: FB31)

ISBN: 978-1-84806-168-2

Funding for small-scale solar, biomass and other carbon reduction projects in the UK could rise significantly if consistent reporting guidelines for these schemes can be agreed, a study from BRE Trust, owner of the UK's leading building research body BRE showed.

Many companies interviewed for the report "Financing UK Carbon Reduction Projects", published by IHS BRE Press, said they would prefer to support green projects in the UK rather than invest in schemes abroad provided a standardised mechanism for reporting on the projects is created.

This standardised reporting framework would allow companies to compare projects in terms of the investment they involve, the amount of carbon emissions saved and associated non-carbon benefits including biodiversity improvements as well as community enhancement.

BRE is working with corporate partners on a proposal for a reporting framework which it plans to deliver later this year.

These projects could provide a valuable contribution to the UK's target raising renewable energy output and achieving its goal of an 80 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions relative to 1990 by 2050.

Go to www.brebookshop.com

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Closing date for applications: 9am on Monday 21st March 2011

If you have any news, events or courses you would like to publicise in Network then please email details to network@aecb.net