

AECB News

December 2011

Member Offer: “Heat Pumps For The Home” By John Cantor (Illustrated By Gavin Harper)

AECB members are able to purchase copies of “Heat Pumps for the Home” by John Cantor and illustrated by Gavin Harper at 35% trade discount (cover price £14.99) plus free P&P (minimum order 2 copies).

Please contact sally@aecb.net to place your order.

John Cantor has 30 years experience with heat pump systems. His enthusiasm to experiment combined with a hands-on approach has led to a broad and detailed knowledge of the topic. He now mostly acts as an advisor and consultant.

AECB – The Sustainable Building Association

As part of your membership with the AECB, members are entitled to download and use the AECB logo from the Members Only area of the website. Subject to the conditions therein the logo may be displayed on letterhead, promotional literature, vehicles and sign boards.

Please note that the older green and black logo has now been discontinued and the term AECB – the sustainable building association, should be used whenever you refer to the organisation.

If you are attending an event and would like to use the opportunity to help publicise the work of the AECB, we can provide suitable materials including membership leaflets, etc. Two weeks' notice would be greatly appreciated! Contact our Business Operations Manager, Gill Rivers on gill@aecb.net.

Enhanced Member Listing

During difficult economic times such as we are currently experiencing there is no better time to upgrade/update your member profile on the AECB website. The Listed Profile service is free to members and gives you a chance to promote your services, show examples of projects, contact details, etc and your company details will come out at the top of the member search above non profiled members.

The following link <http://www.aecb.net/myaccount> will guide you through the step by step process to adding your member profile to the website.

The Green Deal

The Government has finally published its long-awaited consultation on the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation late last month – all 238 pages of it, along with numerous associated documents, all of which can be viewed here

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/green_deal/green_deal.aspx#code

AECB is offering some ‘companion’ documents that highlight points within the consultation that might be of interest to members, and on which they may wish to comment. The first part is available to download from the AECB News pages and further downloads will be added in the coming days.

Soapbox

Look out on the AECB News pages for a new Soapbox item – one will be added before Christmas.

Date For Your Diary: 2012 Conference

The 2012 Conference will be held on 29th and 30th June 2012 at Goldsmiths College, South London. Please put the date in your diary but we are not taking bookings yet.

Ecobuild 2012 – 20th To 22nd March

Ecobuild 2012 takes place at the ExCel exhibition and conference centre at the heart of the new Green Enterprise District in London’s Docklands. Visit us on Stand N70. For further information see www.ecobuild.co.uk.

Localism Bill Get Royal Assent

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) has supported the underlying objectives of the Localism Bill and very much welcome the central role of planning at the heart of the localism agenda. But we believe the new Localism Act will fail to deliver workable planning system unless a number of key issues are resolved including robust transition arrangements, changes to the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Local Planning Regulations and also proper resourcing for the new planning system.

AECB Water Standards

The SWIG - The Sustainable Water Industry Group - first Awards Ceremony was at the top of the GLA building, where you get a 180o panoramic view of London roofs. The purpose of the ceremony was to raise the profile and awareness of

sustainable water use, publically recognising the nominees and winning projects. A warm welcoming address was given by Mr Kulveer Ranger, the Mayor's Director of Environment. Awards were presented by leading industry personality and TV presenter, Dusty Gedge. As part of his introduction he included the study of the potential for greening London roofs. He suggested that the area of roofs within 6km circle centred on Trafalgar Square that could be greened is 10 million m² of which about half a million m² has been installed so far! So that was an encouraging start to the proceedings.

Each award was introduced very carefully, so that you got a good idea of why the prize was awarded, and the AECB standard which won a 'products' award, was particularly praised for its good sense. The two tier structure, 'good' and 'best' practice was particularly mentioned, and the main comment was that the AECB should be promoting the standard and encouraging its wider uptake. The standard is used by designers in both domestic and non-domestic buildings, to optimise the efficient and effective use of water and energy.

For more details on our Water Standards please see <http://www.carbonlite.org.uk/carbonlite/>

AECB Member News

We are keen to hear from AECB members wishing to share a news item about themselves or their company to include on the AECB News Platform. This could be an award you have recently won for a project, a product or your service. This is strictly an area for promoting AECB member news only and we will therefore not be able to publish any items which AECB considers to be purely advertising of products or services. AECB retain the right to reject straightforward advertising items.

Please send your short item (max 200 words) plus a link to your website and one picture, to AECB Business Operations Manager, Gill Rivers – gill@aecb.net.

Koru Architects, Hove

AECB members, Koru Architects in Hove have been awarded the RIBA Downland Prize 2011 for sustainability for their house/studio in Hove.

The Downland Prize for Architects is awarded annually to a Chartered Architects based in south east England. It celebrates the added value that an architect brings to relatively small project (total cost under £1.5 million) and the 'chemistry' between architects, clients, contractors and suppliers of successful buildings.

The house/studio project cleverly makes use of a constricted, sloping site through split-level design and creates a series of interesting, unique spaces. A top lit vertical circulation volume floods the house with daylight and acts as the 'lungs' by ventilating and cooling the spaces on warm days. Glazing to the south-facing rooms maximises passive solar gain, and a roof-integrated solar pv and thermal array provides part of the family's electricity and hot water, the mains grid and a biomass boiler covers the shortfalls in winter.

Mark Pellant and Abi Torr, directors of Koru Architects have over a decade's experience in the design and construction of low energy, sustainable buildings. They combine inspiring design with in depth knowledge of sustainable building technologies. For further information please refer to their website www.koruarchitects.co.uk.

AECB CarbonLite Passivhaus Courses – 2012 Course Dates:

- Introduction to Passivhaus

Birmingham: 27th February 2012

London: 16th April 2012

Plymouth: 21st May 2012

- Science of Passivhaus

Birmingham: 28th and 29th February 2012

London: 17th and 18th April 2012

Plymouth: 22nd and 23rd May 2012

- Construction of Passivhaus

Birmingham: 1st March 2012

London: 19th April 2012

Plymouth: 24th May 2012

- Thermal Bridging

Birmingham: 2nd March 2012

London: 20th April 2012

Plymouth: 25th May 2012

- Building Services for Passivhaus

Birmingham: 12th and 13th March 2012

London: 14th and 15th May 2012

Plymouth: 5th and 6th June 2012

The two day course 'Using PHPP to Design Low Energy Buildings' practical hands-on course will provide purchasers of PHPP with the skills necessary to design low energy and CO2 buildings to the AECB standards. The course is £499 plus VAT for AECB members and £599 plus VAT for non members.

PHPP Courses dates for 2012:

- Birmingham: 14th and 15th March 2012
- London: 16th and 17th June 2012
- Plymouth: 7th and 8th June 2012

Further information on CarbonLite courses and Certified Passivhaus Designer assessment is available at www.carbonlite.org.uk/carbonlite/courses.php or contact Dawn Padley at dawn@peterwarm.co.uk.

Local Group News

Full details of the events listed below and forthcoming events can be found on the website Forum (follow the blue link to Local Groups), AECB News Platform or email debbie@aecb.net to request that your name be added to a Local Group mailing list

Hampshire Local Group

The Hampshire Local Group have arranged for a presentation by Zehnder Comfosystems, a founder members of the Passivhaus Trust.

Date: 12th December 2011

Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Venue: Zehnder Comfosystems, Brookside Avenue, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 3LF.

AECB Local Group meeting in Burnley with NFB, CIA and CIOB – January 2012

AECB Trustee, Peter Wilkinson, has brought together the National Federation of Builders, Chartered Institute of Architectural Engineers and Chartered Institute of Building for a joint regional event on 26th January 2012. The meeting will include a presentation by Stephen Baker of Natural Building Technologies.

Further details to follow in January network or visit the AECB website <http://aecb.net/news/category/events/>

News from the Local Groups

The AECB London Group met on 16th November 2011 for a revisit of the 2011 Conference workshop topic "Does Language Matter". Cath Hassell and Melissa Taylor introduced the evening with their thoughts, Cath exploring the meaning and use of the word 'black water' finding it to have a racist origin, while not illuminating the meaning 'foul water' or 'sewage treatment for direct or indirect use'. See her article at <http://www.greenspec.co.uk/words-water-meaning.php>.

Melissa gave a thoughtful look at accuracy and ambiguity in language and how both can be useful, with some great illustrations of how bringing people to work together under the umbrella 'sustainability' can be both useful and confusing!

The discussion was quite different from that at the Conference, and ranged pretty widely, thanks to all who took part.

News

Zero Carbon Homes Research

I wonder if you can help me. I'm currently doing an undergraduate research project about the challenges of building zero carbon homes.

I wonder if any of the AECB members might be willing to have an informal telephone interview or might be willing to fill out a quick questionnaire.

I've also got a survey which AECB may prefer to do rather than an interview as it only takes a couple of minutes its online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W6QFW9S>, or email ee08ah@leeds.ac.uk, if you are happy to be interviewed.

UK Environmental Law Association/Cardiff University Survey On Industry Views On The State Of Environmental Legislation

The UK Environmental Law Association is working with Cardiff University's Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS) to find out the views of industry about the state of environmental legislation. An interim report has already been published with Kings College London which provides an initial assessment of whether there are identifiable problems of lack of integration, coherence and transparency. If there are problems are they

possible to reform or improve? We aim to stimulate a broad debate about the state of UK environmental legislation in 2011 – 2012.

Go to www.ukela.org/content/page/2628/interim%20report%20for%20sending%20to%20members%203082011.pdf

We now want to find industry members who might be able to complete a survey giving their views. We are particularly interested in those who might have views on the law relating to waste; water; those covered by environmental permitting; habitats and environmental impact assessment.

If you would like to take part in this email Alison Boyd alisonboyd.ukela@ntlbusiness.com.

Our findings will be launched next May and widely published. Government has already taken an active interest in our project, particularly in relation to the work it's doing on consolidating environmental legislation (including in the Red Tape Challenge). We anticipate that if we can gather a consensus, from lawyers, NGOs, environmental consultants and industry, on some key areas then we will have some solid evidence on which to press for improvements, should any be needed.

Green Awards – Winners Announced

The largest sustainability gathering of the year concluded last week, as the International Green Awards™, in association with Climate Change - The New Economy (CCTNE), announced this year's winners at the much anticipated green gala event at the Natural History Museum on Thursday 24th November.

Hosted by BBC veteran Philippa Forrester and sustainable finance expert Leo Johnson, the ceremony saw 20 organisations applauded for their inspirational and innovative sustainability successes! With the dinosaur in the Central Hall forming an excellent backdrop, speakers Nick Nuttall (UNEP) and Peter Byck (Carbon Nation) engaged the audience ahead of COP17 climate talks in Durban. The evening was completed with entertainment by the 'UK's Green Poet', along with Opera performances by Jennifer Brisk and friendly gorillas running around!

In true spirit of UNEP's 'International Year of Forests', Kenyan visionary Prof. Wangari Maathai, was posthumously honoured with our 2nd Lifetime Achievement Award (partnered by First Eastern Investment Group). The trophy was accepted by her colleagues at the Green Belt Movement followed by a beautiful video speech by Maathai's daughter.

Following an overwhelming response to our public vote, Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bündchen was announced as the 'Best Green International Celebrity', which she graciously accepted and mentioned on all her social networks!

The pinnacle of the awards, the Green Grand Prix, was handed out by our partner Celestial Green Ventures PLC to Unilever PLC for their ambitious 'Sustainable Living Plan'.

Go to <http://www.greenawards.com/>

London's Green Economy Bucks Downturn

London's green economy is bucking the economic downward trend, according to new figures compiled by the Mayor, Boris Johnson. The report commissioned from Innovas finds that the sector grew by over 4% a year during the 2009-2010 period to £23 billion and comprises 9000 companies employing 160,000 staff.

London's strengths lie in geothermal energy, including ground source heat pumps, local heat networks and combined heat and power plants, as well as solar photovoltaics and waste management. But the capital's most successful sector by far is carbon finance, worth nearly £6 billion and accounting for 2000 companies and over 23,000 employees. The carbon finance sector in London represents 97% of the UK's total market.

Innovas's report also predicts that the sector will grow further to reach over £27 billion by the end of 2012/13 – an 18% increase on 2009/2010. But the report also highlights that London underperforms in waste recycling, energy management and building technologies.

Despite Johnson's high profile refurbishment schemes, RE:NEW and RE:FIT, the capital still has some of the lowest levels of home insulation.

For further information: www.london.gov.uk

UK Government's Carbon Plan Focuses Attention On Energy Efficiency

The UK government's Carbon Plan, outlines a path for the reduction of emissions by 80% by 2050 and the saving of billions through energy efficiency. The Carbon Plan sets out the government's plans for reducing emissions in line with its four carbon budgets covering the period between now and 2050.

The latest update to the plans details, department by department, the government's action plan over the next five years on climate change both at home and overseas. According to the Plan, the UK has already cut its emissions by over 25% on 1990 levels and should easily exceed the 34% target set by the Climate Change Act. The government also says that there will be no additional cost implications for meeting the fourth carbon budget of a 50% cut in emissions by the mid-2020s.

Over the next ten years, the UK must complete the cost-effective measures started in the previous decade, particularly focusing on improving energy efficiency. Following that, the UK will need to focus on a mass rollout of technologies – which are not yet set in stone. The government says it will support the development of a "portfolio of technologies" for each sector rather than "picking winners" at this stage.

However, those technologies need to include ways of making buildings – particularly the heating of them – lower carbon, reducing emissions from transport and new low carbon generating capacity, including 3-5 nuclear reactors of the type planned for Hinkley Point, 3-5 times more renewable energy and carbon capture and carbon capture and storage on up to 10 GW of fossil fuel plant.

The Plan puts off, until 2030 and beyond, dealing with 'hard-to-treat' sectors like industry, shipping and agriculture. Options such as carbon capture and storage, bioenergy or low-carbon electricity in industrial processes and efficient agricultural practices will be tested during the 2020s, says the government, ahead of rollout. In his statement on the Plan, Energy Secretary Chris Huhne said that the Plan should send a clear signal to negotiators at the United Nations climate summit in Durban that the UK is "walking the walk" to live up to its promise to show climate leadership.

He also moved to reassure the public and business sector that the Carbon Plan would gradually rebalance the UK's economy away from carbon and could even deliver a net benefit of £1 billion... although costs could reach around £20 billion.

WWF-UK warns that time is running out for the world to prevent the worst effects of climate change and that the UK must move to unconditionally adopt its proposed Fourth Carbon Budget.

The CBI welcomes the Carbon Plan's emphasis on energy efficiency but echoes WWF's comments that it needs to be backed up by consistent government policy.

For further information go to www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/carbon_plan/carbon_plan.aspx

Events

The Co-Operative Opportunity: How To Reboot A Sustainable Economy – 15th February 2012

Hear from leading thinkers including Jonathan Porritt (Forum for the Future), Noreena Hertz (economist, author, campaigner), Len Wardle (Chair of The Co-operative Group) and others; see how The Co-operative, the UK's largest co-operative, will lead the way on social responsibility; meet and interact with the new wave of sustainable and co-operative enterprises.

Date: Wednesday 15th February 2012

Venue: Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster SW1P 3EE

The event: 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start – 9.00pm

Short speeches followed by drinks, canapés and networking

RSVP – TheCo-operative@co-operative.coop

Delivering the Green Deal: Building Partnerships, Tackling Fuel Poverty, 22nd March 2012

Central Hall, Westminster

At Delivering the Green Deal you will learn how to build effective partnerships with the commercial sector to ensure a strong degree of take-up, to ensure that all households have access to fair funding and that installations meet quality standards. Given the rising costs of energy bills, and the 5.5 million UK households defined as living in fuel poverty, local authorities have a pressing need to meet the energy efficiency challenge.

Go to <http://www.publicserviceevents.co.uk/programme/205/delivering-the-green-deal>

Bristol Green Doors Open House Event, March 17th and 18th 2012

Following two successful 2011 open home events in March (Insulation) and June (Solar) it is great to announce that our next general energy saving open homes event will be on March 17-18th 2012. This will feature around 35 homes across Bristol. Many thanks to Bristol City Council for their commitment to making this happen. Our last event (Solar Saturday) in June went extremely well on www.bristolgreendoors.org/sites/default/files/EVALUATION_Solar_Saturday.pdf

Bristol University have been researching the economic impact of Bristol Green Doors 2010. The first part of the study is now available online at <http://www.bristolgreendoors.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=113&qid=8005> Thanks to all visitors to last September's event for your contributions, you will be contacted soon about part two.

New homes. We are always looking for new homes to add to our selection. If you can demonstrate a real commitment to domestic energy saving, through measures in the home and lifestyle, you may want to be involved. If so please go to <http://www.bristolgreendoors.org/sign-2012>

Interested in holding a similar event for your own area? Kate is currently mentoring organisers in Solihull and Bath. If you are interested in this support, please contact kate@bristolgreendoors.org

Courses

Transition in Practice – January 3 – 13, 2012, Schumacher College.

Naresh Giangrande, Rob Hopkins, Sophy Banks, Jonathan Dawson plus various entrepreneurs and economic activists

This short course is a platform for showcasing the strides that Transition Town Totnes is making in the economic sphere. In addition to learning about the theory and principles of Transition from the home of this global movement, you will have an

intense and rewarding exposure to the many small enterprises that are flourishing in neighbouring Totnes and the surrounds of Schumacher College.

One example is the ATMOS project, a cutting-edge collaboration between Transition Town Totnes, the Development Trust and the local council to buy a swathe of commercial land for community ownership. There's the Food Hub project which has just won lottery funding to bring together dispersed food producers, retailers and individuals for online food purchasing, a redesign of the infamous local currency and development of the community energy company TRESOC.

Go to <http://www.schumachercollege.org.uk/courses/transition-in-practice>

Publications

New From IHS BRE Press.

- Lessons learned from community-based microgeneration projects: The impact of renewable energy capital grant schemes (ref: FB 43)

ISBN: 978-1-84806-197-2

This report presents lessons learned from government-funded renewable energy schemes using solar PV and solar thermal technologies, wind turbines, ground source heat pumps and wood-fuelled boilers in schools, colleges and community buildings. Key issues investigated include: community engagement, grant process, installation, specification, operation and performance. The nine case studies provide an overview of the benefits of the installations, the issues surrounding project implementation and how to ensure the system performs in line with the specification.

- Sustainable refurbishment of the BRE Victorian Terrace - Part 2: The construction process (ref: IP12/11-2)

ISBN: 978-1-84806-237-5

This Information Paper is the second in a set of three looking at the various processes associated with the refurbishment of the BRE Victorian Terrace. The Victorian Terrace is a demonstration project converting a disused stable block into a number of energy-efficient spaces, including a terraced house, two flats and a presentation room, using some of the latest processes and materials for refurbishing existing buildings.

Starting from the point where the specification was finalised – the position set out in Part 1 – Part 2 looks at the construction process, during which the various products specified were installed. It covers the period of the actual refurbishment process on site from February 2010 through to completion of the first phase in July 2010, and describes in detail BRE's CALIBRE construction efficiency tool and how it was applied to the project.

- U-value conventions in practice: Worked examples using BR 443 (ref: FB 42)

ISBN: 978-1-84806-197-2

This publication will assist designers who need a better understanding of how to calculate U-values and kappa-values for use in calculation tools. It aims to:

1. support the implementation of building regulations on conservation of fuel and power and legislation on the energy performance of buildings
2. help raise awareness and understanding of U-values (thermal transmittances) and kappa-values (thermal mass values)
3. encourage a unified, consistent and up-to-date approach to calculating U-values and kappa-values.

The calculation methods are explained using worked examples for wall, roof and floor designs encompassing the main construction types in BR 443. The examples can be used to support training programmes for practitioners carrying out energy assessments and using U-value calculation software. Information is given about calculating U-values using standard simplified methods.

- Assessing the sustainability of office refurbishment with BREEAM (ref: IP 19/11)

ISBN: 978-1-84806-232-0

This Information Paper illustrates the application of BREEAM to an office fit-out project with a target BREEAM rating of Excellent. The case study describes the fit-out assessment process and how it differs from other forms of BREEAM assessment. It reviews the approach taken by the project team given the challenges that were encountered, and highlights examples of good practice in decision making, project management and the prioritisation of activities. The project demonstrates that an Excellent rating can be a realistic aspiration for many typical refurbishment projects.

Go to <http://www.brebookshop.com/>

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