

AECB News

August 2012

Less Is More: Energy Security After Oil (LIM) From The AECB.

This report has been published at the end of an unprecedented 15 years in UK energy policy history. It began with the formal acceptance of the need for a climate change policy by the last Conservative Government in 1997 and culminated with the Climate Change Act and the 4th Carbon Budget. LIM is a significant new contribution to the debate. A full copy of the report is available to download here.

We also have a small quantity of printed copies of the report available to purchase at a price of £20 each (inc P&P). To place your order and arrange payment please contact sally@aecb.net.

Please feel free to circulate the report to others. When you have had an opportunity to read the report please disseminate any feedback on the AECB Forum discussion board at <http://aecb.net/forum/index.php/topic.3540.0.html>

Passive House Planning Package (PHPP) Version 7 (2012)

The Passive House Planning Package (PHPP) is a design tool for use by building architects and designers. It comprises a manual and CD-Rom which incorporate the energy specifications for quality-approved Passivhaus buildings. A clear understanding of the calculations and predictions involved in low-energy building relies upon the use of accurate modelling software.

Based on dynamic thermal simulations validated by data gathered from hundreds of low-energy buildings, the Passive House Planning Package (PHPP) is the software to use to calculate energy use and CO2 emissions. PHPP's level of sophistication enables it to take into account a wide range of variable characteristics which affect heat loss and subsequent energy use, allowing for a superior fit between predicted energy use and real-world performance.

PHPP contains a series of tools for:

- Calculating energy balances
- Designing comfortable ventilation
- Calculating the heat load
- Summer comfort calculations
- Other useful tools for reliable design of Passivhaus dwellings

The 2012 version of the software and user manual are now available directly from the AECB for £150.00 inc. VAT. To order your copy of the Passivhaus Planning Package 2012 please visit <http://www.aecb.net/carbonlite/phpp.php>

Suitable for both residential and many non-residential applications, PHPP is supported by the AECB CLP courses (run by Warm Associates) to help you get the most from this software.

For further information about the course and costs visit www.aecb.net/carbonlite/courses.php

Carbonlite Retrofit Questionnaire – Please Give Us Your Input

The AECB wishes to develop a new service to help its members take advantage of the growing market for energy efficiency retrofitting services. It is designed to overcome the shortfalls in The Green Deal, as currently envisioned by the UK Government.

The AECB is uniquely placed to create a programme, provisionally named CarbonLite Retrofit, that will benefit participants through a series of support modules: encompassing training, assessment, design and technical detailing, contracts, design and onsite quality assurance, evidence collation and a form of project certification (for quality assurance and financing purposes), monitoring and knowledge dissemination. Designed for domestic and non-domestic buildings, it is intended that this will be an additional paid-for service on top of

existing AECB benefits - for those who want it. The charge for this will be based on the cost of delivery in order to allow the scheme to be financially self-sustaining for the AECB and its membership.

To help us shape the offer, we would very much welcome your feedback by filling in this questionnaire by 12th August 2012. The link for the survey is:

<http://www.questform.co.uk/user/takesurvey.php?cid=2662&fid=2383>

Soapbox: Embrace BIM – It’s A Great Tool For Sustainable Design

In this month’s Soapbox Elrond Burrell of architects practice Architype explain how he and his colleagues have embraced BIM – as a key tool for facilitating innovation, collaboration and the rigorous attention to detail needed for sustainable design that really delivers.

BIM, variously understood to be Building Information Model, Building Information Modelling or Building information Management, has become a buzz phrase in the UK construction industry, since last year’s Government Construction Strategy mandated fully collaborative 3D BIM as a minimum on all government projects by 2016. Before then it had been an acronym only used by early adopters in the industry.

To read this month’s Soapbox article go to <http://aecb.net/news/category/soapbox/>

Enhanced Member Listing

Promote your business through your online member profile. The Member Profile is divided up into sections which can be completed individually. You do not have to complete all the questions in each section before publishing your Member Profile (e.g., you may wish to only answer a few questions within each section). However, to publish your profile and make it visible to everyone you must complete any required fields. This ensures a minimum amount of information is available to users reading your profile. During searches profiled member entries are listed above non profiled members.

This service is free to 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.

AECB On Facebook

AECB Trustee, Neill Lewis, has uploaded 20+ photographs of members from the 2012 Conference onto the AECB Facebook page. We would encourage you to become member of the AECB Group on Facebook to view the photographs.

The AECB Facebook page is an informal and fun forum for members to show off their projects, share information about events or just to keep up to date. Members do not need to divulge any information that they do not want to and you can set up a gmail or yahoo email address rather than divulge your own.

Come and join in!

For those of you who are not members of Facebook a full gallery or pictures from the 2012 Conference is available on the AECB website at <http://www.aecb.net/conference2012.php>

Sustainability Blog - Bdonline

AECB Trustee, Nick Grant, is writing the monthly Sustainability Blog for Bdonline, although the views expressed are his own! Read it here <http://www.bdonline.co.uk/sustainable-building-without-the-greenwash/5039516.blog>

AECB Carbonlite Passivhaus Courses

The next Passivhaus Designer course will be at the Green Building Store, Huddersfield.

This is a unique opportunity to meet some of the pioneers of Passivhaus design, see various construction methods and materials first hand and of course see the Denby Dale Passivhaus:

	Huddersfield
Week 1	
Intro to Passivhaus	17-Sep
Science of Passivhaus	18 - 19 Sept
Construction of Passivhaus	20-Sep
Thermal Bridging (optional)	21-Sep
Week 2	
Services	15 – 16 Oct

PHPP	17 – 18 Oct
Revision	19-Oct
Exam	20-Oct

For further information please visit http://www.carbonlite.org.uk/carbonlite/course_details.php?cld=15, please book with Tim Martel 01752 542546 or tim@peterwarm.co.uk.

Podcast: “House Planning Help”

AECB member and owner of Regen Media, Ben Adam-Smith has recently launched a podcast investigating the homes we should be building in the 21st century. As a newcomer to the construction world, he hopes to be asking the questions that any person looking to renovate or build a new home might have. Having the time and passion to do on-going research, Ben believes that the podcasts will provide access to information from experts with whom people might not otherwise engage.

Having found the AECB a great meeting of minds, he has already interviewed several members in addition to Dr Wolfgang Feist. The podcast aims to look at house building as a whole, considering that everything that is built will have an effect on the area, covering a wide range of issues from style, sustainability and energy efficiency to community, landscaping and much more.

The podcast will be available to download from iTunes from 1st August 2012 with a new episode every fortnight. Find out more at www.houseplanninghelp.com

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.

Forthcoming Local Group Events in August and September:

- Central Scotland Local Group

Linda Forbes has organised an Energain presentation by Gary Norris for the Central Scotland Local Group on 4th September 2012 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Venue: The Melting Pot, Rose Street, Edinburgh

For more information visit: http://energain.co.uk/Energain/en_GB/index.html

- Cornwall Local Group

The Cornwall Local Group will be meeting on 6th September 2012 with an event at Adam Rowse' house. For more details visit <http://aecb.net/news/category/events/>

- Kent Local Group: September Meeting Dates

Paul Mallion (Conker Conservation Ltd) and Mark Saich (Green Building Solutions) have organised the following events for the Kent Local Group during September.

- Insulation of Old Buildings, Part 1: Walls – Ashford 4th September 2012
- Insulation of Old Buildings, Part 2: Floors – Ashford 25th September 2012
- Pedalhaus Bike Tour 8th or 15th September

Following the success of the 2011 Pedalhaus, the 2012 bike tour is planned through West Kent, visiting a number of interesting projects. A possible route would start at Ashford International station; Staplehurst, High Halden and returning via the Singleton Environment Centre. If you have an interesting Eco or conservation project in this area please contact debbie@aecb.net.

For more information visit <http://aecb.net/news/category/events/> or contact debbie@aecb.net to be added to the Kent Group mailing list

AECB Member News

ech2o Newsletter Keeping You Informed Of All Things Water!

There's loads to highlight this issue, so we hope you enjoy it, and it takes your mind of the rubbish weather going on outside. Of course we badly needed some rain, but really... why can't it just fall in the winter?

There are many articles in this newsletter, for example

- The wettest drought on record

In the ech2o office "another day, another downpour" has pretty much been our mantra ever since the hosepipe ban was announced back in April! The drought, followed by unprecedented rains and the associated flooding, has kept water in the news pretty much non-stop since then. Meaning that, in the summer issue of Green Building Magazine, Cath's usual 900 word column became a 2000 word article about the drought which you can access here: <http://www.ech2o.co.uk/downloads/BFF%20Summer%202012.pdf>

- A year of showering variously

The experiment continues and the April, May and June blogs are now up. Thanks in no small part to Patrick McCool who emailed ech2o in the middle of June saying "you need to update "a year of showering variously" what happened in April and May - did you just not shower?!" and inspired me to start blogging again. Read what Dylan Thomas thought about showers, why size doesn't matter when you talk shower performance, and the calculations required to work out whether an electric or gas shower has the lower environmental footprint. Go to <http://www.ech2o.co.uk/showering.shtml>

- Is the 5 minute shower an urban myth? Part 2

This is now available to download at www.ech2o.co.uk/reports_shower.shtml and analyses shower use from a further 785 respondents across the UK. It follows on from the very well received first report of the same name. Neal Landsberg, Chair of SWIG commented "Practical, effective and down to earth as ever, Cath and her team at ech2o highlight the importance of whole system thinking about water use."

And much more – go to http://www.ech2o.co.uk/newsletter_12summer.shtml to read it

BERE Architects: Mayville Community Centre Wins Best Retrofit In The UK Passivhaus Awards 2012

BERE Architects are very pleased to announce that the Mayville Community Centre won best retrofit in the UK Passivhaus Awards 2012.

These were the inaugural UK Passivhaus Awards, launched by the Passivhaus Trust to coincide with the trust's second anniversary to celebrate the achievements of those practices pioneering Passivhaus in the UK and projects were assessed on their performance in the following areas: energy consumption, indoor environment, occupant feedback, design philosophy innovation, aesthetics and other sustainability features. The objective of the awards is to promote the Passivhaus standard in the UK and to highlight that Passivhaus can apply to any building type of any function and size and that Passivhaus design can create beautiful buildings. Dr Wolfgang Feist, co-founder of the Passivhaus standard, was on the judging panel and present at the awards.

Full list of Award winners:

Residential (sponsored by Beattie Passive)

- Wimbish Passivhaus, Parsons & Whitley

Non Domestic (sponsored by Ecological Building Systems)

- Oakmeadow Primary School, Architype Architects

Retrofit (sponsored by St Gobain)

- Mayville Community Centre, Bere Architects

The short-listed projects for this year's awards were:

Residential (sponsored by Beattie Passive)

- Camden Passivhaus, Bere Architects
- Denby Dale Passivhaus, Green Building Store
- Wimbish Passivhaus, Parsons & Whitley

Non Domestic (sponsored by Ecological Building Systems)

- Bushbury Hill Primary School, Architype Architects

- Hadlow Rural Regeneration Centre, Eurobuild
- Oakmeadow Primary School, Architype Architects

Retrofit (sponsored by St Gobain)

- 100 Princedale Road, Paul Davis + Partners
- Grove Cottage, Simmonds.Mills Architects
- Mayville Community Centre, Bere Architects

For all the latest news from the Passivhaus Trust <http://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/news/>

News

International Green Awards 2012

This year, we are awarding organisations for overall sustainability strategy and vision, thereby raising the competition benchmark. As part of the process, entrants will benefit from a sustainability review and comprehensive feedback outlining current strengths and future areas of opportunity.

Launched in 2006 to critical acclaim, the International Green Awards were set up to recognise strategies that use creativity in an engaging and effective manner, leading to more sustainable outcomes. It is now an established event on the global sustainable business-calendar.

By showcasing “best in class” examples of effective, innovative and creative approaches to sustainability, the International Green Awards aims to be an agent of change. To this end, the Awards team searches the globe every year to find true influencers, leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators, identifying worldwide sustainability success stories that inspire and motivate others. It is no exercise in fluffy back-patting.

The awards are aligned with the Brundtland Commission’s definition on sustainable development, stated as: “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

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

US Energy-Related Emissions Hit 20-Year Low

US CO2 emissions from energy use during the first three months of the year were down to their lowest level in 20 years, according to the government’s Energy Information Administration (EIA). Emissions are usually at their highest during the first quarter of the year because of high demand for heating as temperatures fall.

But this year, a particularly mild winter has led to less heating demand and, therefore, energy use. Meanwhile, low wholesale gas prices have led to a decline in coal-fired electricity generation. The final factor reported by the US EIA is a fall in gasoline demand.

The three factors taken together cut emissions from energy consumption by 8% compared with the same period last year to 1.34 billion metric tons. The EIA reports that coal-related CO2 emissions were down 18% on last year to the lowest level since 1986. The trend looks set to continue as the US moves toward more gas-powered electricity generation.

Go to www.eia.gov/

Chinese Per Capita Emissions Now Equal The EU

Chinese per capita emissions of CO2 now stand at 7.2 tonnes, only just under the EU level of 7.5 tonnes, according to the latest figures from the European Commission. The report by the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) reveals that overall global CO2 emissions rose by 3% in 2011 to reach a new record level of 34 billion tonnes.

While emissions from the EU are falling, down 3% in 2011, and 2% lower in the US and Japan, according to the annual report Trends in global CO2 emissions, China’s emissions have grown over the same period by 9%. China remains the largest emitter, accounting for 29% of global emissions, followed by the US (16%), the EU (11%), India (6%), Russia (5%) and Japan (4%).

OECD countries now account for one-third of global emissions, while China and India between them are responsible for another third. But in a tiny chink of good news, growth in renewable energy is accelerating. While it took solar, wind and biofuels 12 years from 1992 to double their share of global energy production from 0.5% to 1%, it only took six years to double again to 2.1% in 2011.

Global renewable generation is now saving some 800 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions a year, equivalent to the total output from Germany. The EC report says it is still possible to limit global temperature rises to 2°C above pre-industrial levels if total CO₂ emissions between 2000 and 2050 can be kept to 1000-1500 billion tonnes.

But the report warns that if the current trend in CO₂ emissions continues without change, cumulative emissions will exceed this limit within the next 20 years.

Go to <http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/CO2REPORT2012.pdf>

Energy Bill Will Deter Investment And Add Costs, Warns Committee

The proposed Energy Bill will impose costs on consumers, deter much-needed investment and lead to less competition in the market, warns a committee of MPs. The Bill is supposed to reform the electricity market through a new system of long-term contract for energy generators to guarantee a price for low-carbon electricity and reduce the risk of investment in projects with high up-front costs like offshore wind farms or nuclear reactors.

But chair of the Energy and Climate Change Committee, Tim Yeo, has slammed the report saying that the government is "in danger of botching its plans to boost clean energy". Following an examination of the draft legislation, the Committee highlights that under the new model for the Contracts for Difference (CfD), which will be introduced by the legislation, the government will no longer guarantee the contracts.

Instead the liability will be spread across various energy companies, raising concerns that the plans are "too complex and possibly not legally enforceable".

The Committee also criticizes the spending cap introduced by the Treasury to limit the green levies that can be passed on to customers. The levy cap will potentially ration the number of contract available, creating uncertainty among investors, warn the MPs.

He also warns that community-owned projects and independent generators could also be squeezed out of the market under the current plans. But Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Davey defended the Energy Bill, saying it would secure, low carbon, affordable energy.

Environmental group Friends of the Earth is urging the government to take on board the Committee's advice.

The damning report on the plans follows the surprise resignation of the permanent secretary to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, Moira Wallace. Wallace has headed the department since it was established four years ago but is now leaving the civil service and taking a sabbatical before embarking on another role.

Go to www.parliament.uk/ecc and www.foe.co.uk

Government Confirms Final Cuts To Microgeneration Subsidies

The government has confirmed cuts to its package of subsidies for microgeneration provided by the feed-in tariff (FIT) and renewable heat incentive (RHI). The final changes to the FIT, following the furore and new consultation earlier this year, will cover all newly eligible technologies from December this year. Changes to tariffs for solar installations will come into force from August.

In addition to the current rate cuts, a degression mechanism will be introduced for anaerobic digestion, wind and hydro installations from April 2014. Like the degression mechanism introduced for solar power, the rate cut will depend on the uptake of the technology. As technologies become more popular, and prices come down, the FIT rate will decrease commensurately, with the lower tariff rate published two months before the degression date.

A similar degression scheme will also be applied to non-domestic installations under the RHI as they also become more popular. The government says the changes will provide certainty for the microgeneration industry, which has been widely critical of how the FIT for solar technologies has been handled.

The Minister also confirmed that the energy efficiency requirement, which now stipulates that homes must meet a certain level of energy efficiency before they can receive the FIT, will be waived for community and school buildings.

Larger projects will also benefit from a system of preliminary accreditation for anaerobic digestion and hydro projects, so developers will know in advance if they will be eligible for the FIT. The tariff will also be guaranteed for six months to two years to give further certainty.

The head of the Micropower Council, Dave Sowden, welcomed the package of measures as "broadly very positive" for investors and customers. The Renewable Energy Association (REA) has also responded positively to the proposals but calls on the government to consider introducing tariff guarantees for renewable heat projects as well as microgeneration.

Go to www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/fits_rev_ph2b/fits_rev_ph2b.aspx

UK Licences First Permanent CO2 Storage Site In North Sea

The Crown Estate, which manages the UK's coastal waters, this week licensed the first site in the seabed of the North Sea for permanent storage of CO2. Shell UK and SSE CCS received the agreement for lease (AfL) for the depleted Goldeneye gas field site 65 miles off the north east Scottish coast.

The two companies plan to use the site as part of their Peterhead carbon capture and storage (CCS) project, which would capture CO2 from the 385 MW Peterhead power plant and pump it to the Goldeneye gas field for storage. The AfL provides a time-limited option for the applicants to take their project through to the next round of financial investment decisions.

Shell and SSE are seeking government backing for the Peterhead project under its new £1 billion demonstration competition. The Crown Estate, which owns all storage rights on the UK continental shelf, says it has to date received several requests for options on sites, seven of which are now the subject of public notice.

Go to www.thecrownestate.co.uk

Top Marks For Manchester High School

A Greater Manchester high school has gained "top marks" for energy efficiency. St Peter's RC high school's new building has received an 'A' rated Energy Performance Certificate, putting it in the highest category for energy efficiency.

The £2.8 million development on Kirkmanshulme Lane, Longsight, sees young people aged 11 to 16 educated in an environment designed to be top of the table in the low carbon and high efficiency leagues.

Manchester based firm BCM ensured that the new school building will produce approximately 50% less CO2 emissions than a standard school building. Over half of the new school's energy is provided by onsite renewable air source heat pumps, which act like a fridge in reverse.

The new teaching block was provided with an optimum glazing strategy to effectively harness the daylight into the classrooms. Whilst limiting the potential for overheating. This resulted in an average daylight factor of 2.5% within each of the teaching spaces and achieves 70% saving in energy consumption on the lighting energy compared to a typical building.

Also within the new building, pupils are benefiting from cleaner, fresher air in their classrooms thanks to the installation of a new specially adapted ventilation system, which boasts enhanced performance, reduced noise levels and takes up as little space as possible, sitting within the ceiling.

The low energy achievements were the result of a partnering arrangement under Manchester City Council's Framework 101. BCM's sustainable energy solutions were incorporated in to the design and construction of the building by Ellis Williams Architects and F Parkinson Ltd, who together ensured that the building met the initial design criteria.

For more details visit www.bcmconsulting.co.uk or contact Brian Morris 0161 831 7900

Events

Open Days To Show Eco-Refurbishment At Its Best

Pioneering owners of some of the UK's most eco-friendly SuperHomes will host free Open Days this September. SuperHomes are older homes refurbished by their owners for greater comfort, lower bills and fewer carbon emissions - at least 60% less! In short, these homes represent eco-refurbishment at its best.

Visitors can expect to come away with plenty of ideas for greening their own properties, including home improvements likely to be eligible for future Green Deal finance. Most SuperHomes have superior insulation; many have alternative heating sources and some produce their own energy. Georgian, Victorian, Edwardian and post-war properties are amongst those open to the public.

Over 40 SuperHomes are set to open in September, of which 11 will open for the first time, including the first SuperHome in Northern Ireland.

To find out more or to pre-book a place on a tour, visit www.superhomes.org.uk

ICE Retrofit Solutions For Non-Domestic Buildings 2012

Wednesday 26th September 2012, London

Reduced registration fee for AECB members – find out more a www.ice-retrofitnondomestic.com

Approximately 45% of the UK's carbon emissions come from the built environment, including 20% from non-domestic buildings. Estimates are that 80% of the buildings that will be standing in 2050 have already been built.

To achieve the Government's commitment to lower carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 the need to improve the sustainability of our buildings is undeniable.

ICE Retrofit Solutions for Non-Domestic Buildings 2012 will bring together the retrofit supply chain to overcome some of the challenges associated with retrofitting the buildings in which we work.

The conference will deliver case studies of successful retrofit schemes, detailing sources of finance, procurement methods, the physical installations and the engagement with buildings' users to ensure that the measures are correctly used.

Delegates at ICE Retrofit Solutions for Non-Domestic Buildings 2012 will:

- Understand from end users, including Marks & Spencer, TfL and Land Securities, what they want from the supply chain
- Improve their understanding of BREEAM and Ska and the appropriate applications of each through discussion with BRE and RICS
- Gain a better understanding of the UK Climate Change Act through Q&A with the Committee on Climate Change
- Understand the importance of modifying occupants' behaviour as well as the fabric of the building
- Grow their business by making new connections with senior decision makers from across the construction industry

Go to www.ice-retrofitnondomestic.com

Good Homes Alliance

Good Homes Alliance are delighted to offer AECB members 10% discount on all their events.

Visit <http://www.goodhomes.org.uk/what-we-do/events> for further information or telephone 020 7704 3503. Please include "AECB Member Booking" in header of email.

The GHA has organised an exciting range of visits again this year.

- 10th September. 14:05 - 16:00 'The Wrap Around', Wellesbourne. EnerPhit refurbishment project on a pair of Wimpey no fines houses by Orbit Housing.
- 12th September. 14:00 - 16:00 Community in a Cube, Middlehaven, Middlesbrough. A residential complex housing 80 apartments and meeting EcoHomes Excellent standard.
- 20th September. 14:00 - 16:00 Hanham Hall, Bristol. Barratt Homes' 185 new homes with Hanham Hall as the centrepiece.

Free to GHA members. Non members £50 + VAT (£60).

For further information visit www.goodhomes.org.uk/what-we-do/events

Retro Expo – 30th October – NEC Birmingham

Don't miss Retro Expo this autumn - the UK's first major exhibition and conference dedicated exclusively to low carbon retrofits. Delivered in partnership with the Building Research Establishment and The Department for Energy and Climate Change, Retro Expo will bring the whole refurbishment supply chain together from installers, architects and manufacturers through to local authorities, financiers, buyers and policymakers.

Taking place at the NEC, Birmingham from Tuesday 30th October – Thursday 1st November 2012, Retro Expo comprises of four core elements:

- The Green Deal Summit – quite simply the definitive conference on The Green Deal. Bringing together leaders from across the value chain the Summit will address key issues such as finance, generating demand, ensuring high standards of workmanship and achieving affordable technological solutions. Moreover for the first time ever all of the UK's leading city councils – Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Bristol and Greater London Authority - will be coming together at this national platform to talk about their retrofit plans. The Green Deal Summit is the only conference you need to attend to get clarity on and insight into The Green Deal and the lowdown on those who are leading the retrofit revolution. Key speakers include Paul Joyner, Travis Perkins; Paul Davies, PwC and Green Deal Finance Company; Philip Sellwood, Energy Saving Trust; Sally Hancocks, Gentoo Green; James Pitcher, Tesco; Miles Keeping, Drives Jonas Deloitte and Liz Peace, BPF.
- Retro Expo – over 150 exhibitors showcasing innovative technologies, products and services and a series of FREE educational seminars and demonstration areas including Technical Masterclasses on Building Services and Building Fabric; the Technology Strategy Board's Retrofit Case Studies Hub; and The Green Deal Journeys Hub that will help all professionals to find their niche in The Green Deal.

- Retrofit Buyer's Forum – a networking opportunity connecting large-scale buyers of goods and services in the refurbishment sector with manufacturers and service suppliers.
- Retro Expo Awards – recognises excellence in retrofit products, projects and people across the domestic, commercial and public sector markets.

To find out more visit www.retro-expo.co.uk

Integrated Habitats Design Competition – Conference 15th October

The Integrated Habitats Design Competition champions working with nature and natural systems, ensuring biodiversity and biodiverse green infrastructure are integral to the design, construction and management of the built environment. The IHDC is open to all, and welcomes interdisciplinary approaches that show how to combine ecological, spatial and social understanding.

The IHDC 2012 Conference, Public Exhibition and VIP Awards Ceremony is being held at the Natural History Museum on 15th October 2012. For more information visit <http://www.ihdc.org.uk/>

Courses

Clayworks Courses

Clayworks run courses in clay plaster application in the UK for both novices and professionals.

Details of their next course:

Category: Two-day Clay Starter training for novice plasterers
 When: Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th August 2012
 Where: Upton Cross Primary School, Upton Cross, Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 5AX
 Time: 11.00am-4.30pm
 Cost: £215 ex.VAT per person (includes lunch) for two days
 What: Training day for novice plasterers. Get familiar with the application of Clayworks Base and Top Coat Clay Plasters

Contents: Teaching will be focussed on trowel skills for applying Clayworks basecoat and top coat plasters, mixing plaster, identifying suitable wall surfaces, preparing wall surfaces, application and finishing techniques, principles of using clay plaster in buildings.

For more details: Write to courses@clay-works.com

Reset Development

CPD accredited interdisciplinary master classes are being held around the UK and Ireland from September 2012 - March 2014. Led by experts in urban green infrastructure design, policy and implementation, these events will explore the local potential to adapt our towns and cities to climate change by working with the grain of nature.

For more information visit <http://reset-development.org/#/ecosystem-services/4564468796>

Publications

Earthscan From Routledge

July has seen the publication of some fantastic new titles; from how architecture and design can help to prioritise well-being, how issues of urban growth can give us the catalyst for positive change, to approaches that consider learning and collaboration as central processes in agriculture.

Order online and save 20% using code EN712

Go to <http://www.routledge.com/sustainability/>

New From HIS BRE Press

- Earthships in Europe

ISBN 978-1-84806-236-8

The new IHS BRE Press book *Earthships in Europe* looks at the experiences of people who have built environmentally friendly earthships, drawing lessons about sustainable architecture as well as the legislative and regulatory culture that affect their construction.

Earthships were pioneered in the desert in New Mexico and use waste materials for much of their construction, with a negligible carbon footprint in their day-to-day running. The book looks at energy, water, building with waste, and construction methods, and assesses the future of these buildings.

This book presents case studies of earthships in France, Spain and the UK, and a round-up of other projects. It also includes analysis of the most detailed thermal monitoring ever carried out on an earthship and the only airtightness test undertaken.

The book considers the future of earthships in Europe – whether they will become a model for large-scale low-carbon housing or remain the preserve of a few brave self-builders.

- Rainwater harvesting for domestic properties (GG 82)

ISBN: 978-1-84806-272-6

This Good Building Guide covers the use of rainwater in a domestic property. Most houses have some means of collecting run-off from one or more locations including the house, garage, shed and greenhouse roofs and, possibly, paved areas.

Local water suppliers have encouraged this collection of rainwater by making available, at reasonable cost, water butts together with diverters to fit in the downpipe. Systems are now available to store collected rainwater and pump it for use for irrigation and WC flushing. The different options are described together with system design, components and materials.

It will be useful to designers and building owners wanting to reduce water consumption.

- A guide to the use of urban timber (FB 50)

ISBN: 978-1-84806-230-6

This illustrated guide to using timber culled from the UK's urban timber resource (street, park and urban woodland trees) gives advice on the selection and identification of high-value stems, processing, drying, transport, storage and the logistical problems associated with felled material.

The report aims to promote the use of many common and exotic urban tree species for high-value solid wood products rather than being processed for firewood, chipped to produce mulch or sent to landfill. The guidance will help local authorities to maximise the value of timber produced in towns and cities and to develop best practicable options for using solid wood produced during normal maintenance procedures.

Go to www.brebookshop.com

Vacancies

Short-Term Job Opportunity - What Is Ecological Design?

Schumacher College have an exciting opportunity for someone with experience and ideas in the area of whole systems design and regeneration to bring together a new Masters programme scheduled to start in September 2013.

Run in partnership with the School of Architecture, Design and Environment at Plymouth University, it is hoped that this programme will bring together the leading thinkers and practitioners in ecological design worldwide, and appeal to the catalysers, facilitators and change-makers of the future.

If you are available for a six month contract between August 2012 and March 2013, on a 2 day per week basis, then please send your CV and a covering letter addressing the above question and your thoughts on what Schumacher College brings to this debate to: jon.rae@schumachercollege.org.uk

The closing date for applications is 15th August 2012.

Remuneration will reflect experience and both food and accommodation can be provided if required

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