



November 2014

AECB News

AECB Water Blog No 4.

Cath analyses the difficulty UK users have with ledge toilets, asks whether you should shower before you swim, and starts to explain the joy of plumbing conundrums to any interested architects. As detailed and eclectic as ever. You can read Cath's water blog at <http://www.aecb.net/welcome-aecb-water-blog-4-october-2014/>.

AECB Water Standards

Would anyone, who has applied the **AECB Water Standards** to a project, like to speak at Ecobuild next year on the subject? If so please contact gill@aecb.net

AECB Response to Government's Consultation on Fuel Poverty Strategy

Last month the AECB responded to the Government's consultation on its fuel poverty strategy (*Cutting the Cost of Keeping Warm: a new fuel poverty strategy for England*). The AECB urged the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to:

- Aim for deeper retrofits than the published targets of EPC E,D and C by 2020, 2025 and 2030 respectively
- Prioritise occupant health, which means addressing moisture movement and air quality in parallel with insulation and heating
- Take steps to ensure that performance is delivered in reality, as well as on paper

The AECB warned the Government that current fuel poverty programmes are wholly inadequate, and it simply was not possible to sustain the level of investment needed mostly or entirely on the back of electricity bills as happens at present and as was proposed in the strategy.

A much wider strategy is needed, and to that end AECB welcomed DECC's recognition that tackling fuel poverty potentially offers significant economic, social, health and welfare benefits. The AECB therefore urged the government to use these benefits to justify and resource a much more ambitious home energy efficiency programme.

To view the full response: <http://www.aecb.net/fuel-poverty-consultation-response/>

To view the DECC consultation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cutting-the-cost-of-keeping-warm-a-new-fuel-poverty-strategy-for-england>

Passive House Planning Package (PHPP) 2013 Version and SketchUp Design plugin: design PH

The English version of the 2013 issue of PHPP (PHPP8) has been released and is available to purchase at £125 plus VAT online from: www.aecb.net/carbonlite/carbonlite-programme/phpp-software.

If you already have a copy of an earlier version of PHPP (eg PHPP7) you can upgrade to PHPP8 at the reduced price of £105 plus VAT. This can now be done online at www.aecb.net/carbonlite/carbonlite-programme/phpp-software

The AECB has entered into a contract with the Passivhaus Institute (PHI) to sell the new SketchUp plugin designPH (English version). You can buy it now at the AECB member rate discounted prices online via the AECB website at: www.aecb.net/carbonlite/carbonlite-programme/phpp-software

Prices are listed below. Please note these exclude VAT and depend on the version of PHPP you have. For full details of the new designPH please visit: www.designph.org/

- Upgrade from PHPP7 to PHPP8.5 PLUS designPH plugin: £210
- **NEW** PHPP8 PLUS designPH plugin (includes latest upgrade for PHPP8 to PHPP8.5): £280
- If you have a copy of PHPP8 you can have the designPH plugin only : £170

(including upgrade to PHPP8.5)

*Please note that if you do not have a copy of PHPP you cannot purchase DesignPH on its own. **The above prices are for AECB members only.***

Omnisense Remote Monitoring System

The AECB has negotiated an ongoing rate of benefit to members and can offer the Omnisense remote monitoring system at significantly preferential terms to AECB members for projects that would benefit from environmental condition monitoring. The Omnisense system is a web-based remote monitoring system for buildings that measures relative humidity, temperature and moisture level. Currently members who have taken up this offer are monitoring various internal wall insulation constructions, insulated suspended timber floors, conditions within brickwork that has been externally insulated, etc

To obtain a quotation for the Omnisense Remote Monitoring System please contact gill@aecb.net. A forum board has been set up for discussion – click [here](#) to read more.

AECB CarbonLite Passivhaus Designer courses

With Passivhaus expertise more and more in demand, AECB CarbonLite courses offer the chance to gain the internationally recognised Certified Passivhaus Designer qualification. At the same time you will be benefiting from material uniquely tailored to UK building situations and showcasing UK examples. You can take the full Passivhaus Designer course, leading to the exam, or individual modules, such as 'Fundamentals of Passivhaus', to improve specific areas of knowledge.

Our trainers are highly experience UK experts who are actually designing/ building Passivhaus in UK. Amongst others, Bill Butcher, Eric Parks, Mark Siddall, Alan Clarke and Nick Grant. Not to mention Peter Warm and the rest of the WARM staff who have supported over 200 buildings in low energy design, and are Passivhaus certifiers. Their collective experience includes non-domestic buildings, large residential schemes and real Passivhaus construction experience.

Our courses have been running and continuously updated for over 5 years, with proven experience of delivering successful Passivhaus buildings. The 2-week programme is delivered using a mixture of lectures, group and individual learning, and includes site visits to innovative Passivhaus developments, a chance to socialise and to build a support network of Passivhaus professionals.

Find out more at <http://www.aecb.net/carbonlite/carbonlite-programme/training-courses/>

Our next course is coming up on the 9th February 2015, please email us at training@peterwarm.co.uk or call Ingrid on 01752 542546 to book a place.

CarbonLite 2015 training calendar

	PLYMOUTH	LONDON	HEREFORD	LONDON
Week 1				
Fundamentals of Passivhaus	9th Feb	27th Apr	7th Sept	2nd Nov
Science of Passivhaus	10-11th Feb	28th-29th Apr	8-9th Sep	3-4th Nov
Construction of Passivhaus	12th Feb	30th Apr	10th Sep	5th Nov
Thermal Bridging (optional)	13th Feb	1st May	11th Sep	6th Nov
Week 2				
Building Services of Passivhaus	9th-10th Mar	11-12th May	21-22nd Sep	16-17th Nov
PHPP	11-12th Mar	13-14th May	23-24th Sep	18-19th Nov
Revision	13th Mar	15th May	25th Sep	20th Nov
Exam	28th Mar	29th May	10th Oct	4th Dec

Cost: £2,000 + VAT for AECB members, (£2,349 + VAT for non-members); from £249 + VAT for modules. See <http://www.aecb.net/carbonlite/carbonlite-programme/training-courses/> for details.

NEW Multiple Booking offer: available for advance multiple bookings from the same company for the whole Designer course and all delegates sitting the same course. Email us at training@peterwarm.co.uk or call 01752 542546 for more details. Terms and Conditions apply.

AECB Member News

Launch of School of Natural Building

Straw Works, the leading UK company for strawbale building and design, based in West Yorkshire, has launched the School of Natural Building (SNaB) following an increase in demand for their training courses.

Natural materials include strawbales, timber, lime, clay, hemp, sheep's wool, wood fibre board, brick, stone and other materials.

One of the aims of the School is to provide quality training in the use of these materials, both in design and in practice, and to provide a pool of natural builders who are recognised as having professional levels of skill, knowledge and experience.

Another of the School's aims is to encourage 50% women & 50% men trainees. That way Straw Works hopes to address the current situation where only 1% of the construction workforce are women.

Through the School of Natural Building (SNaB) the high standards that are currently associated with Straw Works' work & courses will be perpetuated. The trainees will undergo a rigorous programme which will be taught, examined and certified by the School's Principal, Barbara Jones. <http://www.strawworks.co.uk/barbara-jones/>

Barbara discovered strawbale building in 1997 and in doing so found her passion. She was the first person in the UK to design and build strawbale council houses back in 2008 and currently works tirelessly to raise the profile of strawbale building. 'In view of climate change and other factors such as health, cost and accessibility we need to raise awareness about how natural materials can be used effectively for construction.' says Barbara.

Twelve trainees have started on the SNaB programme which has two stages: Practical Building and Professional Development. Previous experience is taken into account and is recorded on Individual Learning Logs. Assessment is timed to suit individual trainees, so there are no cohorts going through the programme at the same time. However trainees who meet on different modules are tending to form support groups. In time their communication will be facilitated by a closed Facebook page, and successful trainees will be able to advertise themselves on a School website.

Straw Works has no dedicated budget for the School, but just like Incredible Edible, the need is here so we're going to do something about it! Todmorden will now also be the home of Attainable Sustainable, and the SNaB will be offering quality training to everyone who wants to be part of a healthy 21st century construction industry. All courses are self funded, but in time we will be able to offer bursaries to those who would otherwise be excluded because of their financial situation.

To join the School, email Jane at strawworks@gmail.com. She will ask you to fill in a form about any previous experience and to send your CV. If suitable, we will then ask you for interview.

Find out more about Straw Works here www.strawworks.co.uk and here <https://www.facebook.com/StrawWorksUK> and about the School here <http://www.strawworks.co.uk/the-school-of-natural-building/>

AECB Member News – Can You Contribute?

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.

Member Benefits – Make The Most Of Your Membership!

If you are already a member of the AECB, you will already be enjoying the popular Green Building Magazine and Passive House Plus Magazine for free. Don't forget you also have full member's access to our website www.aecb.net and by logging in with your username and password you can freely access AECB Carbonlite Documents (<http://www.aecb.net/publications/publication-categories/carbonlite-documents/>), download our logo (<http://www.aecb.net/publications/aecb-logo/>) for use on your promotional material, as well as full use of our forum.

These are just a few of the benefits available as an AECB member - to ensure you are making the most of your membership, please visit <http://www.aecb.net/membership-benefits>.

Need to log in but forgotten your username or password? Just email emma@aecb.net to receive a quick reminder. If you are not a member of the AECB, see how membership could benefit you or your business at <http://www.aecb.net/membership-benefits> or email emma@aecb.net for more information.

Member Services Directory

You can enhance your member profile listing on our popular Members Services Directory (<http://www.aecb.net/services-directory/>). Both members and non members are able to browse or search the AECB directory of products and services provided by our membership.

AECB Member Offers

Centre of Refurbishment Excellence (CoRE) – Masterclasses on domestic retrofit

CoRE is the not for profit, national centre of excellence for green building retrofit. Their mission is to transfer practical retrofit knowledge to support excellence in retrofit products and projects across the domestic and non-domestic sectors. CoRE's network of Fellows is the UK's largest bank of retrofit expertise, drawing together leading practitioners from construction, design and academia. They not only shape the CoRE agenda, but also share their knowledge with the growing number of active retrofitters through events, bespoke training and information sharing. Based in Stoke-on-Trent, CoRE is itself an example of refurbishment excellence, an international standard conference and training venue.

CoRE have pioneered 30 new Masterclasses on domestic retrofit, all designed and delivered by leading experts (our CoRE Fellows). For current courses see www.core-skills.com/events/

AECB Member Discount

CoRE Masterclasses usually cost £200+VAT but AECB members using a promotion code will only be charged £125+VAT – please contact Gill Rivers by email gill@aecb.net to obtain the promotion code.

West Midland SME's (small businesses) may be eligible for a free place at up to three events as part of CoRE's ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) Business Support Programme. To register your interest for a complimentary ticket, please select the 'West Midland's SME' ticket option.

Need phone and broadband at home? Make it greener

The **co-operative** phone & broadband

By choosing The Co-operative Phone and Broadband, you are supporting an organisation that is committed to minimising its impact on the environment while still offering the best possible service to its customers.

The Co-operative Phone and Broadband is provided by The Phone Co-op, an independent consumer co-operative which:

Invests in solar photovoltaic installations – over the last 18 months, it's put £622k into solar energy generation, saving 140 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year

- Supports community energy – in 2013, it put £45k into renewable energy projects
- Offsets its carbon footprint by paying a levy on the CO2 emissions resulting from its activity
- Promotes the use of more sustainable transport modes – 91% of business miles travelled in 2013 were by train, bus, bike or on foot
- Uses electricity from renewable sources
- Recycles 100% of its waste

The Co-operative Phone and Broadband offers everything you need to stay connected; including mobile services.

Members of AECB get a £10 credit on their first bill; 6% of their spend goes back to supporting AECB's work - just quote unique code AF0130 when switching. Find out more on <http://www.thephone.coop/aecb>.

To switch today (or to register your interest if you are stuck in a contract with a different provider), call 01608 434 040 or click here: <http://www.thephone.coop/home/schedule-reminder/>

Beattie Passive Training Academy

A practical Training Academy has been set up to provide a class and workshop based knowledge of information on all aspects of building a Beattie Passive Build. It explains the principles of building to Passivhaus standard and explores the reasons why this is a popular form of building. You gain a hands-on understanding of the simplicity for the builder and the major benefits of building with it.

5 day course for experienced contractors to become an Accredited Beattie Passive Engineer

- To understand the fundamentals of Passivhaus construction
- To understand and be confident on the delivery of the Beattie Passive Build System and the benefits of building with it.
- To become the Accredited Beattie Passive Engineer to deliver the project and to be responsible for the completion of the on-site build logs
- Manufacture and assemble a two storey, 27m² detached house

Price: £1350 + VAT (Introductory price for a limited period only)

1 day Architect/Consultants course

- To understand the benefits of using the Beattie Passive Build System
- To understand the fundamentals of Passivhaus construction
- To manufacture a Beattie Passive component
- View and explore a two storey, 27m² semi-detached structural frame of a house

Price: £375 + VAT

10 day Self builder course

Please ask for further details

A 10% discount is offered to all AECB members

Local Group News

For full details of the events listed below and forthcoming events please visit www.aecb.net/events/ for up to date information on all of these events including dates, times and venues or email debbie@aecb.net to request that your name be added to a Local Group mailing list.

Forthcoming Local Group Events in November 2014:

- **Scottish PedalHaus: Glasgow – Saturday 8th November 2014**

Matt Bridgestock is pencilling in another Scottish PedalHaus from Glasgow to the **OSTRO Passivhaus** in Kippen, FK8 3HL. This will take place during the Passivhaus Trust Open Days.

For more information about this house (and other Passivhaus buildings that are participating in the Open Days) on PHT website (http://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/event_detail.php?eld=294#.VC-t9BauTXM)

Please let Matt know if you are interested in this AECB-SEDA Scottish PedalHaus via Debbie (debbie@aecb.net) or on Twitter "@55n"

- **Yorkshire PedalHaus Bike Tour (aka Le Tour Huddersfield) – Sunday 9th November 2014**

The Yorkshire PedalHaus – aka *Le Tour Huddersfield* – is planned to coincide with Passivhaus 2014 Open Days (http://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/event_detail.php?eld=294#.U_xmgGP4Jd8) that takes place from 7th-9th November.

The tour visits three projects – Denby Dale Passivhaus (<http://www.greenbuildingstore.co.uk/page--denby-dale-passivhaus.html>), Stirley Farm EnerPHit (<http://www.greenbuildingstore.co.uk/page--stirley-farm-enerphit.html>) and Golcar Passivhaus (<http://www.greenbuildingstore.co.uk/page--golcar-passivhaus.html>). The route of the cycle ride is approximately 15-miles and includes some hills.

Proposed Timetable:

Train to Denby Dale from Sheffield: leaves 09.39 and arrives 10.29

Train to Denby Dale from Huddersfield: leaves 10.11 and arrives 10.39

10.30am Meet at Denby Dale Train Station (<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/dbd/details.html>)

11.00am Denby Dale Passivhaus

12.00–1.00pm Cycle to Stirley Farm

1.00– 2.00pm Stirley Farm EnerPHit (break for soup)

2.00–3.00pm Cycle to Golcar Passivhaus

3.00–4.00pm Golcar Passivhaus

4.00pm + Golcar Lily pub (<http://www.golcarlily.co.uk/>)

Train from Slaithwaite to Huddersfield: hourly at 50 mins past hour

Train from Slaithwaite to Manchester Victoria: hourly at 22 mins past hour

Check train times and connections here: <http://www.wymetro.com/howtogetto/planajourney/>

Inspired, no doubt, by the the Yorkshire Tour de France Grand Départ, this event is being organised by Green Building Store's (<http://www.greenbuildingstore.co.uk/>) Chayley Collis and Simon Owen (CIBSE Yorkshire Committee Member and Building Engineering Recruiter focused on M&E, Sustainability, BIM & FM).

Bookings are via eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pedalhaus-le-tour-de-huddersfield-tickets-13308533181?ref=estw>

You will need to bring:

- a bike, in good working order
- spare inner tube and pump
- suitable clothing including a helmet
- some snacks & water
- money for refreshments

Please note: The rides are on public roads (some busy A roads) and participants must exercise sound, mature judgment, being responsible for their own and others' safety. Cyclists are reminded to carry out manoeuvres safely and to adhere to the rules of the road.

In addition, for the more enthusiastic cyclists, a round trip from Leeds has been planned by Simon, a map of which can be seen on Strava <http://www.strava.com/routes/1018431>

- **Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire Local Group**

Visit to Co-op HQ, Manchester - Wednesday 3rd December 7.00 pm

AECB members visited the Co-op HQ, Manchester last year when the Local Groups were given informative a tour of this interesting building by Nigel Holden, Head of Energy & Environment – see the website details (<http://www.aecb.net/event/local-group-visit-to-coop-headquarters-in-manchester/>). Now that the office has been open for a year, this re-visit will explore post-occupation monitoring, what has been learned and how the building is working.

Date & Time: Wednesday 3rd December 2014 7.00 pm

Venue: Co-op HQ in the heart of Manchester

Information on the building can be seen on the Co-op website (<http://www.co-operative.jobs/head-office/our-future/our-new-head-office/>) and BAM website (<http://www.bam.co.uk/default/marketsectors/ProjectDetails.aspx?ID=92>).

This event is being organised by Carol of the Cheshire, Staffordshire & Shropshire Group. Booking essential. Please RSVP to Carol directly or via Debbie AECB Local Groups Coordinator (debbie@aecb.net) quoting AECB Coop HQ visit December 2014 in the subject.

If you have an idea for a meeting (a presentation or discussion) – or would like to host a get together to highlight the work of your company in the area (including Lancashire and Manchester) please let me know and I will pass this on to Carol. Debbie, Local Groups Coordinator(debbie@aecb.net)

- **Brighton Local Group**

Jim Miller and Tim Small of the Brighton Group hold regular meetings that provide an informal opportunity for individuals to discuss sustainable building practices and techniques – concentrating on the technical issues. It also provides a forum for commercial networking and socialising.

Time and Date: Every second Tuesday of the month, from 7.00 pm until about 10.30

Venue: The Battle of Trafalgar, 34 Guildford Road, Brighton BN1 3LW (just up the hill from Brighton Station)

The evening is likely to be useful for architects, building contractors, and associated trades, people looking to have sustainable building works carried out (new build or renovation). However, all are welcome, including skilled self-builders and DIYers.

RSVP and for more information contact the Local Groups Coordinator (debbie@aecb.net), or see Jim's blog (<http://www.jimmillerdesign.co.uk/blog/>) under *Brighton Sustainable Building Drinks*

News

2015 Ashden Awards

Do you know someone who is helping to build a low-carbon future?

We are looking for entrants for the 2015 Ashden Awards. For our International Awards we are particularly keen to hear from those working to create low-energy buildings in urban areas in developing countries. A prize fund of up to £40,000 is available, as well as tailored business support, media exposure and access to investors and new networks.

Applications are open until 11.59pm GMT on **4 November 2014**.

On 11 June 2015, eleven Awards will be presented across three categories: International, UK and Sustainable Travel. You can find out more about each award category <http://www.ashden.org/apply>

If you have any questions or think you might be able to help us find our 2015 Award winners, please get in touch with our Awards Coordinator call 020 7410 7023 or email ukapps@ashden.org

Energy efficiency opportunities missed

University experts claim the Government has missed an opportunity for improved energy efficiencies.

Experts from Birmingham City University (<http://www.bcu.ac.uk/>) have criticised the Government's proposals to build thousands of new homes on brownfield sites which would be exempt from the zero carbon homes standard and other taxes, claiming this is 'a short-sighted approach that misses a major opportunity to reduce significantly the carbon emissions of much-needed new homes'.

Professor Keith Osman, Director of Research at Birmingham City University, is urging the Government to look longer term and use a more integrated strategy in future planning — an approach currently being pioneered by a pan-European consortium led by the University.

"Ignoring climate change and easing regulations to reduce construction costs in the short term is a false economy for planners when planning to build new homes on this scale. The use of analytic tools demonstrates clearly that reductions in energy usage, which reduces both CO2 emissions and energy costs for the occupants, can always be achieved and should a compulsory requirement for all new build housing.

The KIC-Transitions (KIC-T) project brings together data, modelling and visualisation tools to provide a comprehensive simulation framework that will assist strategic planning. This integrated platform enables "plug-in" to a wide range of information sets for analysis of key environmental impacts, including energy needs, noise pollution or carbon emissions.

This highlights just how important our project will be in helping planners to better assess the impact such ambitious proposals will have when built without due enforcement of regulations that minimise environmental impact.

Professor Osman said the enhanced modelling capability being developed through KIC-T will allow planners, designers, local authorities and house-dwellers to better understand the full implications of planning decisions.

KIC-T is defining standards and software to allow data, models and visualisation tools to be readily plugged together, allowing more comprehensive models to be created which can be applied to all building projects around the world," he added.

Dave Taylor, KIC-T Project Manager, said: "KIC-T has a real opportunity to make a significant contribution to modelling and visualising building and construction plans and demonstrates the commitment that Birmingham City University has to the wider sustainability and climate change agenda."

The Climate-KIC (<http://www.climate-kic.org/>) is Europe's largest public-private innovation partnership, working together to address the challenge of climate change. The Climate-KIC is funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) which has a wider mission to increase European sustainable growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of the EU.

The Energy Performance Gap Conundrum

The latest report from the Zero Carbon Hub on the energy Performance Gap project highlights some concerns in addition to specifying areas for further examination. Planning and Building Control Today provide a brief overview of the project so far.

In the April edition of Planning and Building Control Today, Rob Pannell, MD of the Zero Carbon Hub presented the initial findings of the industry wide project exploring the potential causes to the energy Performance Gap, and proposals to close it.

Fast forward to July and the Zero Carbon Hub released their interim report: 'Closing the gap between design and as-built performance' that expanded on those initial findings.

The latest report highlights that a gap in a building's performance would mean that new housing cannot be relied upon to play as expected, vital for the government's national carbon reduction plan. For owners it means that energy bills may be higher than expected, undermining their confidence in new (low carbon homes). For planners, designers, manufacturers and house builders the fall-out from underperforming new homes could impact on their reputation and business.

Both government and a wide spectrum of interest groups have been galvanised by these reasons, seeing it as a high priority. To conclude this latest report, over 140 professionals across 90 companies have come together to explore the causes of the performance gap, and to work towards developing cost-effective and realistic proposals that will help to close it. Those professionals have been involved as the project's Industry Executive Committee, Steering Group and Work Groups.

The guiding principle of the project is described thus: "Develop ideas collaboratively with all relevant parties to ensure support from industry and government throughout the initial funding period and beyond to 2020."

The project's scope looks at the complete house building process, from conception through to completion on site. After thorough examinations of the areas that make up this process, conclusions have been made on what the next steps should be.

Next steps

The project has highlighted the sheer number of various issues which are perceived to have the potential to impact the performance gap. The next stages of the project will enable these to be prioritised via the evidence gathering and analysis process. This may also reveal aspects that are not as relevant as initially perceived.

The group has faced difficulties in gathering evidence for some of the issues involved, so the plan is to extend the evidence gathering phase in order to avoid making premature assumptions on the impact and prioritisation of the issues identified. There was always an acknowledgement that the project couldn't possibly solve all the issues raised and the evidence gathering and development of solutions will need to carry on.

The full report available at <http://www.zerocarbonhub.org/current-projects/performance-gap>

2014 Buckminster Fuller Challenge Winner Announced

The Buckminster Fuller Institute (<http://bfi.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=455&qid=512402>) is pleased to announce that a comprehensive climate change adaptation and community development project, Living Breakwaters (<http://bfi.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=456&qid=512402>) has been selected as the winner of the 2014 Fuller Challenge, "socially responsible design's highest award". The project was submitted by Scape / Landscape Architecture Plc. based in New York.

Government Rejects Parliamentary Committee's Call To Ban Food Waste From Landfill

The Government has rejected calls, made by the Environmental Audit Committee, to require new products to be recyclable and to ban food waste going to landfill to help stimulate the circular economy.

In its report entitled 'Ending the Throwaway Society: Growing a Circular Economy', published in July, the cross-party Environmental Audit Committee called for lower VAT on recycled products, a phased-in requirement for new products to be recyclable and greater standardisation of waste collection services, including a ban on food waste being sent to landfill.

In its response the Government said it agreed that it had "a role to play in developing [a circular economy]" but rejected recommendations made by the Committee to introduce greater standardisation in collection systems, to compel councils to adopt household food waste collections and to require new products to be recyclable. The Government argues that because VAT is governed by European law, any reliefs from VAT are strictly limited and there are no specific provisions that allow for actions to encourage the use of recyclable materials.

However, Member States are allowed to implement a reduced rate of VAT for certain goods and services and the UK has previously reduced VAT rates on new build construction materials, energy and the professional installation of energy-saving products.

Full story at <http://www.edie.net/news/5/Government-rejects-parliamentary-committees-call-to-ban-food-waste-from-landfill/>

Government Must Establish 'More Ambitious' Energy Efficiency Scheme

A more ambitious energy efficiency investment programme would pay for itself within 10 years and add £13.9bn annually to the UK economy by 2030.

That's according to a report commissioned by Energy Bill Revolution and co-funded by the UK Green Building Council which suggests that a national energy efficiency programme would create up to 108,000 jobs and cut natural gas imports by 26%, making the UK less vulnerable to unstable energy markets and creating a more resilient economy. The programme would also cut carbon emissions from homes by 23.6 million tonnes per year by 2030.

Full story at <http://www.edie.net/news/6/Government-must-establish--more-ambitious--energy-efficiency-scheme/>

Ed Davey gives Green Deal £100m cash injection

Household energy efficiency has been given a £100m boost with a funding add-on for the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund. The new funding is part of a 'step change on energy efficiency' pledged by Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Davey at the Liberal Democrats Party Conference in Glasgow today (7 October).

The original fund, which opened in June, offered a rebate up to £7,600 for people who made energy-saving domestic improvements. However, Ministers came under fire when the money for the scheme ran out in less than two months. In September, a report from the Energy & Climate Change Committee dually called for the Green Deal to be revitalised.

The UK Green Building Council welcomed the Government plans, but warned that it is only a "temporary solution" to encouraging home energy efficiency.

Homeowners will be able to apply for the new funds in November.

Full story at <http://www.edie.net/news/6/Ed-Davey-gives-Green-Deal-100m-cash-injection/27012/>

Events

Steel Farm Passivhaus Is Being Opened To The Public – 7th to 9th November 2014

Homes such as this mark a step change in quality for the UK construction industry. In order to deliver high performance homes successfully key challenges need to be overcome. At this open day you will learn about the obstacles that need to be addressed when designing and building a high quality home. In September 2014 Steel Farm won the FMB Northern Counties award for Most Energy Efficient Home.

Access to the open day is FREE, however because last year was so hectic, for 2014 we have had to put a cap on the total number of visitors.

So who will be interested in the open day?

In short if you are looking to build a new home, or refurbish an existing one, within the next 12 to 24 months that this is an event that you shouldn't miss. Why should you be interested? Whilst it may sound a little over dramatic it is actually fair to say that the UK home building industry is in crisis.

Over the last 20 years studies by Leeds Beckett University have shown that staggering 95% of new homes are not performing correctly. They use more energy than they should, are less comfortable and pose a risk to your health and well being. This means that when hiring an architect or a builder you and your family may not be getting what you pay for.

Leeds Beckett University have also found that with the correct design and construction that these performance issues can be addressed. The research also suggests that many of the lessons for addressing the home building crisis can be found in homes built to the Passivhaus Standard.

If you think that this event could help you get the home you desire then please click [HERE](#) to learn more and to register your interest at attending the event. To register click [HERE](#) to visit the registration page.

Green Design and Preconstruction – 12 Nov 2014 17:30-19:30

Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP, 2 Park Lane, Leeds

The New Business Case for Sustainable Buildings

Join us for a twilight seminar which will focus on discussion and knowledge sharing on the topic of workplace productivity and healthy buildings.

Derek J Croome (Reading University)

Derek has authored the EU report 'Sustainable Buildings for Better Health, Comfort and Well-being' and will explain how the report examines how the built environment affects our well-being and this in turn influences our work effectiveness in the workplace.

Chris Pottage (Skanska)

The financial benefits of improved health and well-being - as a result improved productivity

In this presentation Chris will talk a little about his background working for Skanska in London bidding for and delivering Energy Performance Contracts in the public and private sectors as a precursor to his interest and subsequent research into enhancing the business case for investment in green buildings.

Colin Harrop (JLL)

Business case for greener buildings

Colin will investigate research outlining the business cases for green buildings and refurbishments. We will investigate issues facing occupiers and investor clients and review the benefits and costs of action as well as the risks of inaction.

[Click here](#) to book your place

Sustainability Leaders Forum – 19th November

Taking place on November 19th in London, the Sustainability Leaders Forum brings together ambitious professionals looking to move beyond environmental objectives, deliver transformational change in society and create more value within their organisation.

The speaker panel features an impressive line-up of c-level executives and sustainability leaders from a diverse range of leading organisations.

Book now to join like-minded sustainability professionals. If you have any questions, email nicola.smith@fav-house.com or call 01342 332045.

For more information go to http://news.fav-house.com/_act/link.php?mId=B86924545579279611412706403510&tId=183363015

Publications

New from IHS BRE Press

- The age and construction of English homes: A guide to ageing the English housing stock (FB 71)

Simon Nicol, Chris Beer and Chris Scott

ISBN 978-1-84806-361-7

There are some 22.4 million homes in England, housing 52 million people. They range from the smallest studio flat to the largest palace, and vary in age from medieval castles built of local stone to new homes designed to the most exacting sustainability standards. Numerous books have been written on English housing – particularly those buildings of architectural interest.

This guide is unique in that it provides detailed information on typical designs and features of houses built at different periods, using statistics from the 2010 English Housing Survey. Experienced surveyors and housing professionals will have developed an intuitive feel for when a house was constructed and the date of any modifications which have been undertaken – particularly in their own local area, where they are familiar with local materials and designs. As such, this book is intended for less experienced professionals, students of housing, or individuals with a personal interest, to be taken onto the streets and used as a reference book.

Go to <http://www.brebookshop.com/details.jsp?id=327440>

- Energy efficient refurbishment of community centres: Findings from the 'U Choose 2 Retrofit' scheme in Cornwall (IP 13/14)

Caroline Weeks and Andrew Sutton

ISBN 978-1-84806-395-2

One of the biggest challenges currently facing the UK is improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings, which includes the community centres covered in this Information Paper. For many of the community groups who run their own community centres, keeping the operating costs affordable (including fuel bills) is likely to be one of the most significant and ongoing concerns they encounter. Driven by such concerns, with an awareness of rising energy prices and aided by financial incentives for refurbishment measures and renewable energy sources, some community groups are considering what potential energy-saving adjustments they can make to their community buildings.

This Information Paper presents guidance and lessons learned from the refurbishment of several community centres in Cornwall. It will be of interest to community groups looking to embark on refurbishment of their community centres as well as to designers and consultants that may be called upon to assist with the management and delivery of such projects.

Go to <http://www.brebookshop.com/details.jsp?id=327447>

- Natural fibre reinforced polymers (NFRPs) in the construction industry (IP 14/14)

Julie Bregulla

ISBN 978-1-84806-397-6

Fibre reinforced polymer construction products are being used increasingly in the construction industry. The construction industry is one of the largest users of fibre reinforced polymers (FRPs), second only to the automotive industry.

This Information Paper reviews the potential for natural products in construction materials, specifically fibre reinforced composites including various natural fibres, such as hemp and flax. It discusses their specific benefits and the factors that are influential to their wider utilisation.

Go to <http://www.brebookshop.com/details.jsp?id=327445>

Vacancies

Business Manager – Bristol Green Doors

We have an exciting new role for someone for 2015. This is a one year fixed term contract working 22.5 hours a week starting on 5th January 2015. The salary will be £24,000 - £28,000, depending on experience, pro rata.

The Business Manager will play a crucial, energised and entrepreneurial role at the heart of Bristol Green Doors. They will deliver a number of core company functions and drive the new opportunities presented to us acting as an intermediary between the retrofitting industry and its customers, to better achieve our Core Purpose and to generate revenues.

Go to <http://www.bristolgreendoors.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=3245&qid=209822> to see full Job Description.

Fully funded PhD Studentship - Understanding the Sociomateriality of the Sustainable Home

Loughborough University - Research Centre for Professional Work and Society, School of Business & Economics and School of Civil & Building Engineering

Qualification type:	PhD
Location:	Loughborough
Funding for:	Students, EU Students
Funding amount:	£13,863 plus tuition fees
Hours:	Full Time
Closes:	14th November 2014

Applications are invited for the above studentship commencing 1st January 2015. The studentship will provide a stipend of £13,863 plus tuition fees at the UK/EU rate for up to three years (full-time only). Due to funding restrictions, this studentship is open to UK and EU applicants only.

This studentship is being funded in conjunction with an ESRC project grant awarded to Dr Sage and Prof. Dainty supervisors and Prof. Martin Sexton and Dr Libby Schweber at the School of Construction Management and Engineering, University of Reading.

About the project:

The project will explore the significant challenge which the carbon reduction agenda poses for UK house builders. From 2016 the UK government has introduced a new zero-carbon standard for UK housebuilders. This policy initiative has encouraged the experimental development of various new technological products from structurally insulated panels to micro-generation energy systems. In collaboration with major UK house building firms, the project will explore how these experimental technologies and mandated standards come together in specific organizational, geographical and sociological contexts to produce the 'sustainable home' as a dynamic sociomaterial artefact. The project will engage with notions of sociomateriality developed by Bruno Latour, John Law, Michel Callon, Annemarie Mol and Wanda Orlikowski (amongst others).

Indicative research questions include

1. How does this artefact mutate as it travels across the supply chains of large, complex firms, and houses are built in specific geographical and sociological contexts?
2. How does the transformation of this artefact feed into ongoing changes in carbon standards and sustainability policies in house building?
3. How might different actors, including housing residents, shape this sociomaterial artefact?

We welcome research proposals on these and other related questions and themes. This successful applicant may mobilize a broad range of theoretical approaches across diverse disciplines, including Science and Technology Studies, Human Geography, Architectural Studies, Sociology, Housing Studies, Management and Organizational Studies, Construction Management and Anthropology.

Supervisors

Dr Daniel Sage (Research Centre for Professional Work and Society, School of Business and Economics) and Prof. Andrew Dainty (School of Civil and Building Engineering).

Eligibility

Applicants will have a good first degree in a relevant social science discipline. An MSc/MA postgraduate degree in a related field is also highly desirable. Applicants should have excellent oral and written presentation skills, and experience with qualitative research methods.

Application

Applications are made online at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/study/apply/research/>.

Please upload all the supporting documents listed below:

- a 1000-1500 word outline of their proposed research; this outline should include an indication of research questions, theoretical context and methodology.
- Copies of your transcripts/certificates
- Two academic references.

Closing date for applications is **14th November 2014**. Please quote reference **SBE-DS** in the financial section of the application form. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed shortly after the closing date.

Informal enquiries about the project should be made to Dr. Daniel Sage (d.i.sage@lboro.ac.uk).

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