

# Green Construction Roundup

## October, 2008 No. 176

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### **Construction News**

#### **Death of green projects may cause assessor shortage**

RICS has warned the industry that it may lose thousands of green home inspectors as developments for training are being scrapped

Councils and developers have delayed or downgraded projects that aimed to meet level six of the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH), with the result that up to 1,000 inspectors will be unable to make the required number of assessments to qualify for their jobs.

*Building*. 24 October (Pg. 16)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=29&storycode=3125875>

#### **Mayor backtracks on 50,000 affordable homes target**

The London mayor has admitted that he may not be able to build all the 50,000 affordable homes promised over the next three years. Speaking recently, Boris Johnson said: "I'm not going to give up on the target of delivering 50,000 homes, but this is delivery, note, not building."

*Building*. 24 October (Pg. 23)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=555&storycode=3125804>

#### **Government urged to abandon greenfield eco-towns**

The development of sustainable communities should be shifted away from the government's 10 proposed eco-towns on greenfield sites towards extensions of existing conurbations, according to a report published last week. *Beyond eco-towns*, draws lessons from six urban developments in Germany, Sweden, Ireland and the Netherlands.

*Building*. 24 October (Pg. 23)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=555&storycode=3125806>

#### **Make homeowners pay for greener homes, says report**

The government's main green advisory body, the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC), has proposed, in a report, that people be forced to make energy improvements to homes before selling or renting them out. It hopes to tackle the problem that existing properties are not as energy efficient as new homes.

The report, *Low carbon existing homes*, suggests homeowners could be required to take measures such as installing new boilers or thicker insulation before being granted the energy performance certificate that allows them to sell their homes.

*Building*. 17 October (Pg. 24)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storyCode=3125244>

#### **Fears that reshuffle could delay zero carbon homes**

Green campaigners have raised concerns that the replacement of Caroline Flint as housing minister with Margaret Beckett could further delay progress on the zero-carbon homes strategy.

The communities department is currently preparing to consult the industry on ways of defining zero carbon.

*Building*. 10 October (Pg. 24)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storyCode=3124461>

### **Government may ditch its own green standard for eco towns**

The government is considering abandoning the use of the Code for Sustainable Homes for its flagship eco-towns programme. Instead, it has been suggested, that eco-town homes should be measured against a European model of energy output per square metre.

*Building*. 03 October (Pg. 11)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3124051>

## **Periodical Articles**

### **Wind in the sails**

As far as renewables go, onshore wind is a dream, being an established and proven technology. The UK currently has 2.6GW of onshore wind generating capacity, with another 772MW under construction.

Another 3.4GW has received planning permission but not been built, 1.9GW of this capacity has been granted this year alone. This total of 6.8GW is likely to be the UK's onshore wind generating capacity within the next 5 years.

Short article looking at whether the UK planning system deliver the 14GW of onshore wind generating capacity needed, to meet the EU target of producing 15% of total energy from renewables, by 2020.

*New Civil Engineer*. 30 October (Pg. 14/15)

### **Going for green**

Short article spotlighting the use of geotechnics in construction. Focusses on a new wind farm, in County Durham, which, it is claimed, will be the UK's first onshore wind turbines supported on tubular steel-piled foundations. Each base will support a 2MW Repower MM82 turbine with a hub height of 59m and an 82m diameter three bladed rotor.

*New Civil Engineer*. 30 October (Pg. 38)

### **Extreme green: Building's Sustainability Awards 2008**

The good news for the judges at Building's fourth Sustainability Awards is that there are many impressive entries. The bad news is that, with sustainability becoming an integral part of doing business, it is becoming ever more difficult to single out those individuals and companies that are really taking the lead.

Article looking at the awards, and sustainability practices in general which have come a long way in the past few years. All of this, however, means companies need to do more than ever to impress the judges. The article also shows what separates the best from the rest.

*Building*. 24 October (Pg. 46-48)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=627&storycode=3125653>

### **Dow Jones architects has designs on London's waste line**

The great Victorian engineer Joseph Bazalgette was appointed by London's Metropolitan Board of Works in 1856 to oversee a radical transformation of the city. London's enclosed sewer system is now largely hidden and is taken for granted. Bazalgette's ornate pumping stations are the most visible reminder of his lasting achievement.

Dow Jones Architects, working with Arup's alternative waste technology specialists, has produced a report, *Rubbish in, resources out*, for the Greater London Authority and Design for London. It proposes an equivalent transformation for London and its attitude towards rubbish. Replacing the current unsustainable approach to rubbish, by retaining waste within the M25 and dividing it up between London boroughs.

*Building Design*. 17 October (Pg. 10/11)

<http://www.bdonline.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3125120>

### **Sustainability: office refurbishment**

The arrival of energy performance certificates (EPCs) earlier this year has resulted in a fairly steep learning curve for the UK's property industry. Owners and occupiers have to establish how they are affected and what the future implications will be, and property professionals need to build a technical understanding of the issues involved.

This article covers managing performance improvements to an existing commercial property. It also reviews the latest thinking on low-carbon design features to improve the energy performance of office buildings.

*Building*. 10 October (Pg. 86-89)

[http://www.bdonline.co.uk/sustain\\_story.asp?sectioncode=661&storycode=3124494](http://www.bdonline.co.uk/sustain_story.asp?sectioncode=661&storycode=3124494)

### **Everything in this picture is green**

Over the past couple of years the environment-friendly house, which used to be a fairly marginal concern of the housebuilding industry, has moved to centre stage. This presents housebuilders with two problems; how to design and build a mainstream product for the right price; and how to convince buyers that renewable technologies will not affect their everyday lives.

What customer-friendly solutions are there for the area of the home that is always on show: the interior? This article checks the latest interior products aiming to persuade the public that green is good.

*Building*. 10 October (Pg. 92-93)

[http://www.building.co.uk/sustain\\_story.asp?sectioncode=331&storycode=3124504](http://www.building.co.uk/sustain_story.asp?sectioncode=331&storycode=3124504)

### **What it costs: green roofs**

Green roofs are promoted as a means of achieving more sustainable buildings as they improve the durability of waterproofing materials, provide flora, fauna and space and reduce rainwater runoff.

Whichever approach is used, the capital and maintenance costs are likely to be higher than for a conventional roof, and if there is a leak, remedial costs may be high. This short article looks at what green roofs cost to install and maintain?

*Building*. 03 October (Pg. 87)

[http://www.bdonline.co.uk/sustain\\_story.asp?sectioncode=482&storycode=3124093](http://www.bdonline.co.uk/sustain_story.asp?sectioncode=482&storycode=3124093)

## **Web Resources**

### **Free Energy Modeling in Google SketchUp**

Integrated Environmental Solutions (IES) has launched a plug-in for Google SketchUp that delivers energy and carbon footprint simulations to inform early-stage design decisions. The free plug-in provides results without any additional software. The plug-in provides functionality from SketchUp that IES previously offered only from Autodesk's Revit Architecture and Revit MEP, including documentation for the LEED daylighting credit.

For further information, and download details for the plug-in, go to

<http://www.buildinggreen.com/auth/article.cfm/ID/4034/>

## **Recent Publications**

### **Low carbon existing homes**

This report is a compilation of key messages and feedback from a wide range of expert stakeholders. It is designed to inform the development of Government's Low Carbon Homes strategy.

Low carbon existing homes. UKGBC, 2008.

[http://www.ukgbc.org/site/document/download/?document\\_id=371](http://www.ukgbc.org/site/document/download/?document_id=371)

### **Beyond eco-towns: Applying the lessons from Europe**

This report summarises the aims of the Eco-Towns initiative, sets out the conclusions drawn from similar developments in Europe, addressing concerns about deliverability, economic viability, building new communities and creating a sense of place.

From this the report draws conclusions for the way ahead, building upon the interim report produced in July 2008.

[http://www.urbed.com/cgi-bin/get\\_binary\\_doc\\_object.cgi?doc\\_id=281&fname=extra\\_pdf\\_1.pdf](http://www.urbed.com/cgi-bin/get_binary_doc_object.cgi?doc_id=281&fname=extra_pdf_1.pdf)

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