

Green Construction Roundup

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### **Construction News**

#### **MPs launch all party group to promote green homes**

The all party group on sustainable housing was set up by two former housing ministers, Labour's Nick Raynsford and Conservative David Curry, with the Liberal Democrat housing spokesperson Lembit Opik. The NHBC is providing the secretariat.

The group will take a party of MPs to BRE's Innovation Park near Watford to look at properties that meet the higher levels of the code, and to Hammarby Sjöstad, an eco-suburb of Stockholm. It will also conduct a survey asking people if they know what energy ratings their home would achieve.

*Building*. 30 January (Pg. 12)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=29&storycode=3132601>

#### **Ecotown plans press on as public legal challenge fails**

The government will press on with publishing its planning blueprint for eco-towns after protesters failed in their bid to get the government consultation on the new developments branded unlawful.

Members of the BARD group, which opposes Middle Quinton near Stratford-upon-Avon, succeeded in getting a judicial review of the programme, but Justice Walker ruled the government's consultation was lawful.

*Building*. 30 January (Pg. 21)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=555&storycode=3132544>

#### **New energy schemes take a step forward**

Construction of the Severn Tidal Barrage has moved a step closer thanks to the proposal being named on a government shortlist of tidal power schemes under consideration for the Severn estuary. The named schemes are; Cardiff Western Barrage, Bridgewater Bay Lagoon, Welsh Grounds Lagoon, Shoots Barrage, and Beachley Barrage.

*New Civil Engineer*. 29 January (Pg. 8/9)

#### **Green developers fear becoming green energy suppliers**

One-third of all developers say they will be expected to manage, design or build generators of renewable energy, according to a recent survey. The survey, by law firm Taylor Wessing, found that 75% of respondents thought they would be involved in sustainable energy sources. And 34% say they will be directly involved in managing renewable energy, either in the form of a joint venture (14%), providing finance or investment (14%), or self-procuring (16%).

The 800 industry professionals who responded to the survey included contractors, architects, funders, agents and developers.

*Building*. 16 January (Pg. 16)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=29&storycode=3131524>

## **Periodical Articles**

### **Post occupancy**

Article looking at the post occupancy carbon count of three architect designed offices; one rural, Architype west England office; one urban, Lend Lease European headquarters; and one on a business park, Roche UK headquarters.

*Architects Journal*. 29 January (Pg. 41-44)

### **Water efficient loos**

The low water target in the Code for Sustainable Homes is a powerful incentive to reduce water consumption of WCs, with toilet flushing accounting for between 30 and 40% of domestic water use, and up to 90% of commercial premises water use. This article looks at the specifications and performance of the market leaders WCs.

*Architects Journal*. 29 January (Pg. 46-47)

### **The carbon crunch**

Will green building go out of the window in 2009? No, absolutely not, says Paul King, of the UKGBC. The harsh reality for 2009 is that we must find solutions that put green building at the heart of a low-carbon economic recovery.

In the first of a sustainability series Paul King explains why greening construction is still the biggest issue of 2009.

*Building*. 16 January (Pg. 37)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=32&storycode=3131404>

### **Sheep vs grass**

With all great movements come fresh ways of thinking, some good and some not so good. This article looks at the favourite green ideas of five sustainability experts, and asks them to name the ideas that they would send straight to the recycling plant.

*Building*. 16 January (Pg. 42-43)

[http://www.building.co.uk/sustain\\_story.asp?sectioncode=32&storycode=3131388](http://www.building.co.uk/sustain_story.asp?sectioncode=32&storycode=3131388)

### **Big ambitions: DEFRA's Alnwick HQ**

For designers of green offices, it's becoming increasingly difficult to stand out from the crowd. This is a problem that BRE acknowledged when it decided to introduced an 'outstanding' ranking that will push designers to aim even higher. DEFRA's offices in Alnwick could become the first to achieve that plaudit. Known as the Zebra project, Zero Emissions Building Renewing Alnwick, the original target for the design team was to get a BREEAM 'excellent' rating. But then BRE introduced 'outstanding'...

*Building*. 16 January (Pg. 44-48)

[http://www.building.co.uk/sustain\\_story.asp?sectioncode=583&storycode=3131419](http://www.building.co.uk/sustain_story.asp?sectioncode=583&storycode=3131419)

### **From nuclear to zero carbon: it's a green year ahead**

Short piece looking at the diary of the key sustainability events for 2009. The article gives further details on: the Consultation on the definition of zero carbon, the Energy saving consultation, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive II, Nuclear power station plans, Development of the 2010 Parts F and L of the Building Regulations, First budgetary report on meeting the Climate Change Act's greenhouse gas emission targets, and Energy performance certificates and display energy certificates becoming legally enforceable.

*Building*. 16 January (Pg. 50-51)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=32&storycode=3131390>

### **Sustainability costs: refurbishment**

The focus for improved energy efficiency in commercial property has so far mainly been on new buildings. This will continue in light of targets for zero carbon commercial buildings. However, new buildings only account for 1-2% of the total stock each year, meaning that, if the government is to get close to its target of cutting carbon, significant emissions reductions will need to come from existing buildings, especially in the commercial sector.

Article looking at the technical aspects of improving energy efficiency in existing buildings, focussing on costs, though these are less publicised and typically based on case study evidence.

*Building*. 16 January (Pg. 52-56)

[http://www.building.co.uk/sustain\\_story.asp?sectioncode=661&storycode=3131548](http://www.building.co.uk/sustain_story.asp?sectioncode=661&storycode=3131548)

### **Eco terraces: Urban jungle**

Over the years, developers have been perfecting the art of wringing the maximum amount of useable space from a floor plan. And now it seems they are turning their attention to the roof. Once the exclusive preserve of plant rooms and window-cleaning cradles, today they're just as likely to accommodate lushly planted terraces.

Looks at the growth in popularity of eco-terraces, touted as the next big thing in rooftop developments.

*Building*. 16 January (Pg. 58-60)

[http://www.building.co.uk/sustain\\_story.asp?sectioncode=482&storycode=3131431](http://www.building.co.uk/sustain_story.asp?sectioncode=482&storycode=3131431)

### **Green tape sustainability regulation**

The scope of the sustainability agenda goes beyond energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprints. It extends to issues such as a structure's legacy, its impact on the community, the reduction of waste and use of responsibly sourced materials.

To ensure that all these factors are dealt with, there is a growing weight of government guidance and regulation. Article that suggests that keeping up with environmental regulations, must involve contractors building sustainability into their contracts.

*Building*. 16 January (Pg. 68)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=57&storycode=3131416>

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