

Green Construction Roundup

March, 2009 No. 181

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Construction News

100 home pilot mooted to salvage eco towns initiative

The government is considering building a 100-home pilot scheme at one of the proposed eco-town sites, in an attempt to rescue the troubled programme. This is one of a number of ideas being discussed in the communities department.

However, critics are saying the plan has little to do with the original concept of building self-contained settlements of at least 5,000 homes with their own employment, energy and transport infrastructure.

Building. 27 March (Pg. 20)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=555&storycode=3137106>

Council tenants may set social building priorities

The new social housing regulator wants to give tenants the power to direct spending on building works such as maintenance, refurbishment and landscaping. The proposals, by the Tenant Services Authority (TSA), could mean investment is directed away from Decent Homes work if tenants decide other work is more urgent.

Building. 27 March (Pg. 22)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=555&storycode=3136631>

Greener school buildings could save £165m a year, says study

Building zero-carbon schools could save the UK £165 million in annual energy bills, according to recent research.

Steelmaker Corus and trade body the British Constructional Steelwork Association (BCSA) commissioned the research and associated guidance on using steel to make zero-carbon buildings. The project will involve publishing guidance for five building types, including schools, warehouses, offices, supermarkets and mixed-use buildings.

The first of the guides, focusing on schools, is scheduled to appear this summer. Others will appear at three-monthly intervals after that.

Building. 06 March (Pg. 15)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3135490>

UK-GBC urges code for sustainable buildings

The UK Green Building Council (UK-GBC) has unveiled proposals for a new, all-encompassing Code for Sustainable Buildings (CSB), and has called on the government to introduce a single code for all new and existing non-domestic buildings.

The proposals include ambitious plans for a 'building MOT' programme to monitor and improve the environmental performance throughout a building's life.

Architects' Journal. 05 March (Pg. 8)

<http://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/uk-gbc-urges-code-for-sustainable-buildings/1994692.article>

Engineers attack limited Severn barrage shortlist

Engineers including ICE president Jean Venables have hit out at the government's study of tidal power in the Severn Estuary. They claimed the shortlisted options lacked ambition, ignored spin off transport benefits and underestimated power.

The shortlisted projects are: the Cardiff-Weston barrage, the Shoots barrage, the Beachley barrage, the Bridgewater Bay tidal lagoon, and the Fleming lagoon.

New Civil Engineer. 05 March (Pg. 5)

Periodical Articles

Green towns still stuck on red

The government's eco-towns initiative may be ailing, but the programme's ambitious scale has germinated some innovative ideas among architects and engineers. Some of the technologies being mooted include: interseasonal heat storage; combined heat and power systems fuelled by biomass; a related combined heat and power process called pyrolysis; electric cars; and energy generated by wind farms to power houses and charge car batteries.

This article explores the technology targeted for use on two proposed developments in the south of England.

Building Design. 27 March (Pg. 16-17)

<http://www.bdonline.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3137245>

Turning down the heat in south ken

Two innovators, Richard Shennan, director at environmental engineer Fulcrum Consulting, and Simon Tilleard, former head of engineering at the Natural History Museum, have prepared a visionary carbon emissions reduction programme for London's 35ha South Kensington museum and cultural site.

The most radical proposal, though, is Shennan's recommendation of aquifer thermal energy storage (ATES) - a thermal mass connection using boreholes drilled into underground aquifers. This article looks at ATES, and how the South Kensington masterplan represents the largest study in Britain of the potential for this technology to work at the city scale.

Building Design. 27 March (Pg. 18-19)

Severn tidal power vital in battle against climate change

Britain must harness its huge tidal power resources, particularly those in the Severn Estuary, to hit its climate change targets, says ICE president Jean Venables. This article looks at the shortlist of projects and assesses the need to generate sustainable power from the chosen one.

New Civil Engineer. 05 March (Pg. 33)

http://www.nce.co.uk/severn-tidal-power-vital-in-battle-against-climate-change/1994761_article

Recent Publications

AECB Water Standard

The AECB has launched a Water Standard applicable to new homes, the refurbishment of existing dwellings and also to non-domestic buildings. The Standard sits alongside the AECB's CarbonLite energy standards. The Water Standard is aimed at architects, designers, house builders and specifiers and has two levels – 'Good' and 'Best' Practice, with a third 'Experimental' category.

As an 'appliance based standard', the AECB Water Standard avoids many of the pitfalls of the CSH whole house calculation method and encourages the uptake of properly functional user-friendly appliances and fittings that are robust and energy and water efficient. The AECB Water standard has also resolved vital issues relating to plumbing system design and hot water use.

The AECB standard is available as a free download from:

Volume 1 – the standards

http://www.aecb.net/PDFs/waterstandards/1503_AECB_Water_Vol_1_V3.pdf

Volume 2 - technical report supporting the standards

http://www.aecb.net/PDFs/waterstandards/The_AECB_Water_Vol_2_V3.pdf

Events

28-29 May 2009 (Thursday-Friday)

CarbonLite training: using PHPP in a building certification process (2 days)

The event provides expert guidance in designing buildings with genuinely low environmental impact - from the basics of understanding energy to delivering domestic and non-domestic buildings with minimal energy use and CO2 emissions. The training courses in designing to the three AECB energy standards and using the PassivHaus Planning Package are essential for all architects, architectural technicians, builders, developers and anyone who is involved with the design and construction of low energy, low carbon buildings.

Venue - York

Contact: Email sally@aecb.net

Download a summary and further details of the CarbonLite training programme, at <http://www.carbonlite.org.uk/carbonlite/training/CarbonLiteCourseOverview2008.pdf>

04 June 2009 (Thursday)

Build tight, ventilate right

Most of the techniques for achieving a low energy building are well documented but in practice the standards aimed for are often not achieved through lack of understanding about what makes a highly insulated, airtight, energy efficient building. This one-day course will explain the straightforward building techniques that can achieve this and what can be done on site to improve build quality. The afternoon will include an on-site demonstration of an airtightness test, examination of best practice detailing (with full size models) and an opportunity for the delegates to discuss detailing the external envelope to achieve the 'build tight, ventilate right' aim.

Venue - Roots & Shoots, London

Cost: £140 for members, £175 for non-members to include lunch

Contact: Sarah Derryman - T 0117 377 3490 or mail@greenregister.org.uk

10 June 2009 (Wednesday)

Low carbon technologies - the advanced course

This one-day course will explain the operation, application and limitations of all low carbon technologies (LCT) including important non-renewable technologies such as energy efficiency and CHP. Delegates will look at technologies that are likely to be at the forefront of sustainable energy provision as it moves into the mainstream. A wholly practical approach will be used through a combination of the spreadsheet models, case studies and role play. The attendees will be shown a number of insights into how low carbon buildings will be delivered to the mainstream and the tools and understanding they will need to develop in order to be at the forefront of this exciting and challenging field.

Venue - Priory Street Centre, York

Cost: £140 for members, £175 for non-members to include lunch

Contact: Sarah Derryman - T 0117 377 3490 or mail@greenregister.org.uk

11-12 June 2009 (Thursday-Friday)

AECB Annual Conference

Preliminary details are now available for the 2009 AECB Conference *Building for a sustainable future: policy, research and design* which will take place at Oxford Brookes University. The expected workshop sessions include

- Code for Sustainable Homes
- Water efficiency: An ecominimalist approach
- Lessons for Eco-Towns
- Delivering Passivhaus refurbished homes in the UK
- Building performance feedback for public buildings
- Building performance feedback for UK homes
- Using new materials in refurbishments - homes and offices
- Myth-busting on eco-materials
- Refurbishment of a tower block in South London
- Specifying heat pumps - correctly
- Delivering a Passivhaus office in the UK
- Testing for airtightness

Venue - Oxford Brookes University

To download programme overview and application details, go to
<http://www.aecb.net/PDFs/conference09/AECB%20programme.pdf>

11-12 June 2009 (Thursday-Friday)

Sustainable building and services - the introductory course

This two-day course provides an ideal opportunity for delegates to learn about the essential issues surrounding sustainable building practices and to network with like-minded individuals across a range of disciplines. Completion of this course is a requirement for those wishing to become members of The Green Register..

Venue – Cardiff

Cost: £295 per person

Contact: Sarah Derryman - T 0117 377 3490 or mail@greenregister.org.uk

For full details please see the GreenRegister website, at

<http://www.greenregister.org.uk>

24 June 2009 (Wednesday)

Business case for sustainable development - conference

Speakers at the conference include Patrick Brown of The British Property Federation and Celia Beeson of Bristol City Council giving both the national and regional perspectives. Both domestic and commercial aspects of new legislation relating to retrofit as well as newbuild construction will be covered.

Three important local case studies will be illustrated by developers who have been able to successfully address some of the key issues such as integration of renewable energy technologies on site, lower water consumption and Site Waste Management Plans.

Venue - Armada House, Bristol

Cost: £150 for members, £180 for non-members to include lunch

Contact: Sarah Derryman - T 0117 377 3490 or mail@greenregister.org.uk

02-03 July 2009 (Thursday-Friday)

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Venue - Roots & Shoots, London

Cost: £295 per person

Contact: Sarah Derryman - T 0117 377 3490 or mail@greenregister.org.uk

For full details please see the GreenRegister website, at

<http://www.greenregister.org.uk>

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