

Green Construction Roundup

May, 2009 No. 183

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Construction News

£1bn green power station two years behind schedule

Government plans to build a fleet of eco-friendly coal-fired power plants are in doubt after it emerged that arrangements for a £1 billion pilot scheme are two years behind schedule.

Building. 29 May (Pg. 9)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3141405>

Eco ventilation health scare prompts regulation change

The government is to consult on new building regulations following concerns that ventilation systems required by the new wave of energy-efficient homes could damage the health of residents. This has prompted the inclusion of guidance in a consultation on changes to Part F of the Building Regulations, due in the next few weeks.

In addition, it has co-sponsored a report with the National House Building Council to investigate the scale of the problem. The draft report found that filters were not being replaced when worn out, which could lead to a build-up of humidity, carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

Building. 29 May (Pg. 13)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3141387>

UK attacks EU plan to force onsite energy generation

UK construction experts have reacted angrily to proposals from the European parliament that will oblige all buildings to meet their entire energy needs on site by 2019.

If implemented, the directive would cancel proposed Communities Department plans to allow developers to meet energy targets through off-site generation once they had exhausted other options.

Building. 22 May (Pg. 18)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3141030>

Energy regs crackdown on homeowners

Homeowners who build extensions could be forced to spend thousands of pounds improving the energy efficiency of the rest of their property, under proposals being considered by the government through the 'consequential improvements' rules on extensions.

A draft consultation for the 2010 version of Part L of the Building Regulations also proposed that conservatories should be covered for the first time. This means that walls, floors and glazing would have to meet minimum standards.

Building. 15 May (Pg. 9)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3140645>

Developers commit to worlds largest offshore windfarm

DONG Energy, E.ON and Masdar will join forces to build the first 630MW phase of the array. Once complete, it's believed the scheme will be the world's largest, and the first 1GW offshore wind farm.

The scheme will be built around 12 miles off the coast, on a 90 square mile site, in two phases. Depending on when construction gets underway the scheme's first phase could start producing its renewable power in 2012.

Building. 15 May (Pg. 12)

2012 team told to cut carbon

An Olympic sustainability watchdog has urged 2012 organisers to cut the carbon produced during building work. The call is contained in the annual report by the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 (CSL), and follows a report that found that more carbon will be emitted during the construction of the venues than the Games themselves.

Building. 08 May (Pg. 14)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3140024>

Boris Johnson set to clash with government over garden grab

In the recently published, revised London Plan Boris Johnson has set out a 'general presumption' against building on gardens. Gardens are classified as brownfield land, which is prioritised for redevelopment under the government's national planning policy.

However, it looks as though Boris' move against the so-called 'garden grab' sets him on course for clashes with central government.

Building. 08 May (Pg. 18)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3139890>

ODAs green credentials marred by use of plastic

The sustainability group monitoring the 2012 Olympic Games building process has given the Olympic Delivery Authority's green credentials the thumbs-up; however, it warned the ODA must sharpen up its act on using plastics.

Building Design. 08 May (Pg. 4)

<http://www.bdonline.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3140132>

UK builds first hemp-walled warehouse to store wine

The UK's first warehouse building to be constructed using preformed wall panels made out of hemp has now been completed. The £3.7 million warehouse for the Wine Society in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, has been designed by architect Vincent & Gorbing

The structure has exterior walls built of Tradical Hemcrete, which is a mixture of hemp stalk and modified lime. Together with the highly insulated roofing system, it provides an insulated internal space that exceeds Building Regulations requirements.

BD Online. 08 May

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3139965>

Business largely unready for carbon reduction laws

Over half of UK bosses have yet to address the impact of climate change regulations on the way they do business, a new survey has revealed. And more than 40% say they need help to understand the impact of new laws regulating carbon emissions reduction.

New Civil Engineer. 07 May (Pg. 6)

<http://www.nce.co.uk/business-largely-unready-for-carbon-reduction-laws/5201551.article>

Stent to make concrete from site spoil

Groundwork specialist Stent is pioneering a technique to make concrete from excavated soil and clay. The technique is designed to cut costs and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. The firm is planning to turn the material into a liquid that can be used for backfilling in foundation trenches.

The technique, which is called AggReFlo, pre-treats excavated material with lime to reduce its plasticity before it is mixed with cement to give it strength.

Building. 01 May (Pg. 14)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3139617>

Ken Yeang to design Shanghai eco city in the sea

Architect Ken Yeang has been commissioned to design a 4,000-acre eco-city in the sea off the Shanghai coast. TR Hamzah and Yeang, the Malaysian sister company of Llewelyn Davies Yeang, is leading the design of the Shanghai Beach masterplan for an unnamed Malaysian client.

The news is the latest in a series of indications that the Chinese government has not ditched its green ambitions, despite the stalling of the Dongtan eco-city.

Building. 01 May (Pg. 15)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3139627>

Periodical Articles

Sustainability in practice – Biomass

If every village in areas where timber is plentiful had its own biomass-powered district heating system. Local farmers would deliver lorry loads of wood chip to a central plant, which would supply the community's heating and sell electricity to the grid. Is this kind of plant possible in the UK? Article which looks at current biomass solutions in Austria and considers the UK's potential for locally sourced heating systems.

Architects Journal. 21 May (Pg. 33-39)

<http://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/sustainability/sustainable-development/sustainability-in-practice-biomass-heating/5202382.article>

Specifiers choice: Material gains -William Smith Building

Leicester-based Pick Everard won the roles of architect and lead consultant for the new offices of the British Geological Survey at Keyworth, Nottinghamshire, following its feasibility study. The new William Smith Building, takes the form of two three-storey rectilinear wings arranged in an 'L' formation with a quarter hemisphere atrium at the knuckle, clad in curving ETFE pillows. The atrium encloses curving stairs leading from open balconies at each floor level down to ground level. The two wings have stairs and cleaning facilities in a narrow block across each end, with lavatories and kitchens at the inside corner of the north block.

Article looking at Pick Everard's design for building, which easily reaches BREEAM 'Excellent' standard using natural materials. Furthermore, it is the UK's first timber-supported TermoDeck system.

AJ Specifier. May 2009 (Pg. 18-28)

<http://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/aj-specification/specifiers-choice/william-smith-building-keyworth-nottinghamshire-by-pick-everard/5203140.article>

Recent Publications

Energy efficiency in buildings - WBC

Based on extensive research conducted over the past four years, the Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EEB) project has developed recommendations and an actionable roadmap to transform the building sector. The project began with a comprehensive inventory of current and future building stock and modelled the impacts of consumer preferences and behaviours, designs and technologies, and policies on energy consumption.

The project is focused on six markets, Brazil, China, Europe, India, Japan and the US; these represent nearly two-thirds of the world's energy use.

Transforming the market: energy efficiency in buildings. World Business Council, 2009.

<http://62.50.73.69/transformingthemarket.pdf>

Reaching for recovery - report

The report summarises the findings of four cross-industry working groups to investigate several key areas of housing industry reform including: Working through housing market changes, Land for homes, Designing in quality in housing-led mixed use, and Regeneration and sustainable housing solutions in major regeneration and refurbishment schemes.

Each group produced a set of proposals which will be further developed in collaboration with The Housing Forum members and taken to Government.

Reaching for recovery. The Housing Forum, May 2009.

<http://www.thehousingforum.org.uk/downloads/reaching-for-recovery-010409.pdf>

Sustainable buildings need integrated teams

This report intends to contribute to strengthening the work of the Government, the Strategic Forum and the Specialist Engineering Alliance in bringing about a more integrated and a more sustainable industry.

Its aim is to examine the potential for improving the sustainability of the built environment through an integrated approach to procurement and delivery, in which the role of the specialist engineering sector is recognised for its vital ability to improve building performance.

Sustainable buildings need integrated teams. Specialist Engineering Alliance, 2009.

http://www.constructingexcellence.org.uk/sectorforums/constructionclientsgroup/downloads/SEA_Brochure.pdf

Events

Business case for sustainable development - conference

24 June 2009 (Wednesday)

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

Sustainable building and services - the introductory course

02-03 July 2009 (Thursday-Friday)

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 - 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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