

Green Construction Roundup

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### **Construction News**

#### **Housebuilders could be spared zero carbon costs**

Housebuilders could be spared from adding the extra cost of building zero-carbon homes on to sale prices, under a scheme being considered by the government. The UK Green Building Council (UK-GBC) has won the support of banks to set up a fund to cover the extra costs of efficiency improvements. Homebuyers would then repay this amount over 25 years.

*Building*. 07 August (Pg. 13)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3146397>

### **Periodical Articles**

#### **Cutting out the carbon**

The Climate Change Act insists upon swift change. The ambitious legislation demands an 80% reduction in the UK's emissions, and is even more ambitious for demanding it in a recession. However, the Act's success will depend on the commitment of civil engineers.

With the Climate Change Act and CRC already in motion, civil engineers need to take steps now to comply with the legislation. This series of articles looks the Act, which became law in November last year: Also includes; We must turn strategy into reality fast; FIDIC conference will show the way; and Carbon reduction gathers pace in the US.

*New Civil Engineer*. 28 August (Pg. 20-23)

<http://www.nce.co.uk/news/low-carbon/cutting-out-the-carbon/5207011.article>

#### **Second time lucky**

When the Sigma eco-home at the BRE Innovation Park failed to hit the upper bands of the Code for Sustainable Homes, the building fabric was blamed. Sigma was the first house in the UK to meet level five of the Code for Sustainable Homes and was intended to serve as a prototype to identify the challenges and solutions to building near-zero-carbon, affordable homes.

Despite the building's fabric being better than a standard home, its as-built heat loss parameter was about 40% worse than predicted. Article looking at the new Sigma scheme, seen as a way of meeting the upper bands of the code, but not relying heavily on expensive on-site renewables.

*Building*. 14 August (Pg. 48-50)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=331&storycode=3146801>

#### **Feeling at home with the code**

Since May 2008 it has been mandatory for all new homes to be rated against the Code for Sustainable Homes, changing sustainability from an ambition, to a commercial and environmental target.

Article looking at the work of four developers who have striven to build homes that meet some of the tough targets laid down by the code: the Old Apple Store, Somerset; CO2 Zero, Bristol; Mid Street, Surrey; and

Norbury Court, Staffordshire. All were small projects of between two and six properties, including private and social housing.

*CIBSE Journal*. August 2009 (Pg. 26-31)

## **Publications**

### **Sustainable Energy (Local Plans) Bill 2008-09**

The purpose of the proposed Act is to facilitate involvement in action taken by local government bodies and citizens resident in their areas to promote sustainable energy policies in order to achieve the following objectives

- the achievement of national carbon reduction targets
- the security of energy supplies
- the achievement of national fuel poverty targets

The Bill covers; Sustainable energy plans; Duty to provide resources; and Public involvement.

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/sustainableenergylocalplans.html>

## **Events**

### **The Carbon Show**

29 - 30 September (Tuesday/Wednesday)

The Carbon Show aims to address the future of the carbon markets and aims to help global organisations manage their carbon emissions more effectively.

Featuring a comprehensive range of exhibitors and an interactive seminar programme, the show will offer a wealth of expertise and insight, and provide networking opportunities for the carbon management and trading communities.

Venue – ExCeL, London

For further information and to pre-register for free entry to the exhibition, visit

<http://www.thecarbonshow.com>

### **Eco Innovate 09**

21 October (Wednesday)

Business-to-business event promoting the use of innovative, environmental solutions. Eco Innovate will provide the opportunity for businesses in the private and public sector to learn more about how innovative solutions from the Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services sector can help them meet these challenges.

Alongside the main exhibition there will also be an array of activities, including a conference of high profile speakers, seminars, an innovation lab, a 'dragon's den' style eco innovator panel and an opportunity to maximise networking opportunities by pre-arranged one-to-one networking sessions.

Venue - Towerlands Park, Braintree, Essex

For more information and to book delegate and exhibition places, visit

<http://www.ecoinnovate.co.uk>

### **How green is green - environmental profiling explained**

26 October (Monday) 4-6pm

BRE Global - free event, discussing how to validate claims about the environmental performance of building products. BRE experts will explain the assessment process of the Environmental Profiles Certification Scheme, established to provide ongoing independent, third party assessment and certification of construction materials and products for their environmental performance.

Venue - BRE, Watford

For more information please contact: Helen Ball, Tel +44 (0)1923 664303, E-mail, [ballh@bre.co.uk](mailto:ballh@bre.co.uk); or to book online visit

<http://www.bre.co.uk/events>

## **End Note**

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