

Sustainable Homes

We are 8!

As Sustainable Homes approaches its 8th birthday, we review our achievements over the years and what they have meant to everyone interested in sustainability and housing.

1 You. With our extensive and growing network of innovators, experts, practitioners and people with a passion for making things better; we have been able to keep pushing sustainability up the agenda.

2 Free Advice: We estimate that we have answered over 20,000

enquiries! Through a combination of our knowledge of the sector, in-house skills and extensive contacts, we answer them fully.

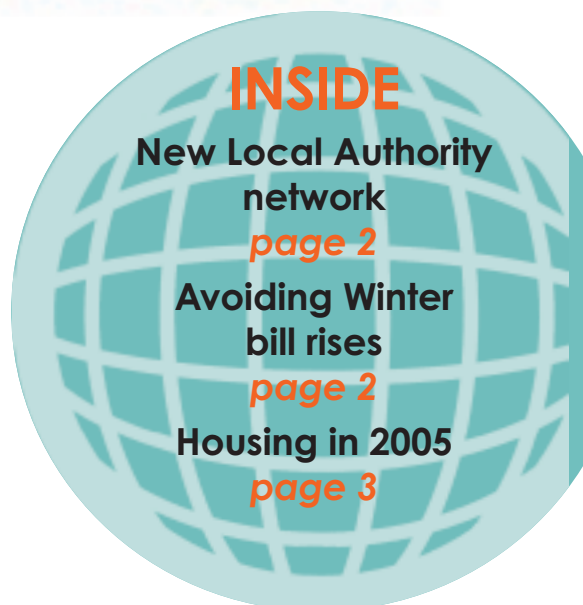
3 Publicising examples of your successes: Whether it's a flagship refurbishment, a hi-tech new build, or ground-breaking research, we always pass on good news to the rest of the sector.

4 Keeping you informed: We take pride in knowing what's going on in the world of sustainable housing. Through our website, e-bulletin and newsletters, you can get news from the sector, for the sector.

5 Behind the scenes: We work with other influential groups and projects to get the best for the housing sector, and then make sure it makes sense to you.

6 Practical Guides and research: Our free guides are in response to what the sector needs, be it research on what residents think of environmentally friendly housing or how to carry out a sustainable refurbishment.

The future: Over the next few months, you may be contacted by



our researchers who will ask you what you think of us and what you would like to see more of in the future.

Sustainability and housing are now centre stage – lets work together in the future to keep it there!



Sustainable Homes is supported by an Innovation and Good Practice Grant from the Housing Corporation



Sustainable Communities update

It's official: private developers are to receive funding from the Housing Corporation in order to reach the Government's ambitious housing targets. It also looks as if they'll have to meet EcoHomes targets too – a great opportunity to mainstream skills and technologies. Providers of shared ownership schemes will also be encouraged to meet higher EcoHomes standards, so more sectors can enjoy the environmental benefits of efficient housing.

The Housing Corporation has launched details of its pilot investment plan, New Partnerships in Affordable Housing, in response to the new move, and would like your feedback by January 11th.

Ahead of the Sustainable Communities Summit in January,

Sustainable Homes is waiting to find out:

- What proportion of the homes built under the plan will be at least to EcoHomes 'Very Good', the standard set by the coordinator and main landowner under the scheme, English Partnerships.
- What proportion of the homes are for which sector: to let, to buy or affordable/key

worker.

- The effectiveness of measures

being taken to counteract any wider environmental impacts, for example the danger of flooding and increased water usage, traffic and other effects.

- More details of the unified Code for Sustainable Building (CSB) New Partnerships in Affordable Housing is available at www.housingcorp.gov.uk, or from us info@sustainablehomes.co.uk. or, if you are attending the Summit, come and visit us at stand J13.



Integer Reviewed

INTEGER has just completed its review of the five INTEGER pilot projects around the UK. The review was funded by the Housing Corporation to assess the performance and impact of the INTEGER pilot projects in facilitating the transfer of proven innovation into mainstream social housing. A report of the review is now available. See www.integerproject.co.uk for more details.

Sustainability – Your Guide

The new Routes to Sustainability Guide is now available. The guide and the website www.routestosustainability.org.uk have been developed to help you find a way to deliver sustainable communities and to guide you through sustainable development.

It gives details on all of the Housing Corporation support and tools that are available to help your organisation. It also includes help and guidance on how to:

- Develop your own strategy.
- Deliver Sustainable Communities.
- Build a more sustainable business.

The guide presents all of the information so that it is relevant to the work you do, whether that is development, management, strategy or maintenance. It also makes links with the help, products and programmes that are already out there regardless of what stage you or your organisation is at. So whether your organisation has begun to deliver sustainable development, is thinking about it or hasn't even started, Routes to Sustainability can help.

For your copy of the guide or for more information go to www.routestosustainability.org.uk

Avoiding those Winter Chills and Bills

Despite global warming being perceived as making the Earth warmer, in reality it is leading to more erratic weather patterns. Following a summer of torrential rain and floods, some are predicting that we could be in for a freezing winter.

This is bad news for the 2.4 million UK households estimated by the Government to be living in fuel poverty. This is generally defined as when a household needs to spend 10% or more of its income on fuel costs. Fuel poverty can kill, with around a third of the 30,000 deaths, according to the NHS, caused by wintry weather each year due to respiratory diseases or strokes that are exacerbated by poorly heated homes.

An added problem is the recent rises in energy prices – the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group warned this year that a 10% price hike could push an extra 500,000 people into fuel poverty.

For a lower impact and more long-term solution there is always renewable energy.

Households can benefit from new funding to extend the Government's Clear Skies initiative for a further year, bringing total funding to £12.5 million. Clear Skies grants are available for a variety of renewable technologies where communities can get up to 50% of capital costs up to a maximum of £10,000. For further information see www.clear-skies.org or 08702 430 930. For details of the Government action plan on Fuel Poverty go to www.defra.gov.uk.



Warm and cosy: not just a winter's tale

Calling all Local Authorities – to share your experiences

Do you sometimes feel at sea trying to make sense of sustainability policies and house building targets? Wish you could do more?

Sustainable Homes wants to set up a network for planners in local authorities who want to know more about how to get homes built to EcoHomes 'Very Good' or above. Some councils already have such a policy, and may be willing to share their experiences with others interested in exploring the matter further.

We will make a list of members, and be the conduit for communication, via monthly

bulletins and updates. Sustainable Homes will set the ball rolling in the first instance with a round-up of the issues. Members will then be able to email us their responses, queries, comments and case studies, which we will pass on to the group. (Your details will not be passed on to anyone else unless both parties consent). Of course, it will be free.

What we need from you now: do you think this is a good idea? Is the focus too narrow? Would you like to join? This has been suggested in response to a number of enquiries. Let us know what you think. Contact jwilliamson@sustainablehomes.co.uk.

Here's to a Sustainable New Year!

2005 could see five regulatory/legislative changes with far reaching implications for the homes you build and manage:

1. EcoHomes 2005: among the changes are: the percentage improvement over current Building Regulations has gone up to gain the same number of credits, and there is an extra credit available if at least 10% of the power for the scheme comes from a local renewable source. www.bre.co.uk/services/EcoHomes.html.

2. Changes to Part L of the Building Regulations: Consultation has recently finished – details are available from www.odpm.gov.uk.

3. The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) must be implemented by January 2006. EPBD requires minimum energy performance standards for all new buildings and large refurbishments. BRE is in the process of reviewing the proposals for EPBD – details are available from www.odpm.gov.uk.

4. The Sustainable and Secure Buildings Bill: This Private Member's Bill has received Royal Assent and aims to make buildings greener and safer by strengthening the regulations on new, extended



and altered homes.

5. The Code for Sustainable Buildings (CSB) was proposed by the Sustainable Buildings Task Group.

A first draft is expected at the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit in January 2005. It is anticipated that CSB will build on

Western Challenge HA's Selldown Park development in Poole: awarded an EcoHomes 'Excellent'.

EcoHomes and BREEAM.

We will keep you updated on the progress of these and all other relevant legislation.

Energy-saving Homes

Four new, award-winning, eco-homes are the first to take advantage of London's untapped energy supply – meeting all heating and hot water needs naturally from ground heat. Residents moving in early next year will be involved in monitoring the homes and taking the project forward. Heating and hot water bills are expected to be as low as £60 per year. Contact: bobharris@earthdomes.plus.com.

Energy efficiency in existing stock has been addressed by the EST-sponsored 'Flagship Home'. The refurbishment of this hard-to-treat period townhouse, owned by Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council, cut energy use and fuel bills by 60%. Improvements include the reduction of heat loss through walls by 65% with dry lining and double/secondary glazing. It sets an example for other local authorities to follow and has opened its doors to the public. www.rbkc.gov.uk/flagship.

Details of these schemes and many more feature on Sustainable Homes' Ecodatabase, at www.sustainablehomes.co.uk.
Anyone want to live in an Eco-house?



Green Street Award

Our webtool, Green Street, has been short-listed in the Environment Agency's Water Efficiency Awards 2005. www.greenstreet.org.uk is packed with information on sustainability, housing and refurbishments. The water section tells users about water saving technologies, how they work, where to get them from, and much more. Congratulations also to Building For a Future magazine, who have scooped two of this year's Eurosolar UK Awards. The other went to one of the magazine's regular contributors, David Ellis. For more information visit www.newbuilder.co.uk

It's all change for Sustainability Works in the new year

A new version of the Sustainability Works software package will be launched in January 2005. The new version will include:

- A re-designed interface with easier navigation.
- The latest EcoHomes 2005 standards.
- A new secure project sharing facility.
- Improved document management for easier saving and retrieving of reports.

Another significant change is that Sustainability Works will become a licensed product from this time.

All registered housing associations will continue to have free access until 1st April 2005, but will need to

purchase a licence after this time. All other organisations, e.g. consultants and developers, will need to purchase a licence before 10th January 2005.

Four annual licence packages are available, priced according to the number of users and level of access – ranging from access to the reference database only to the full package, including EcoHomes 2005 predications for projects.

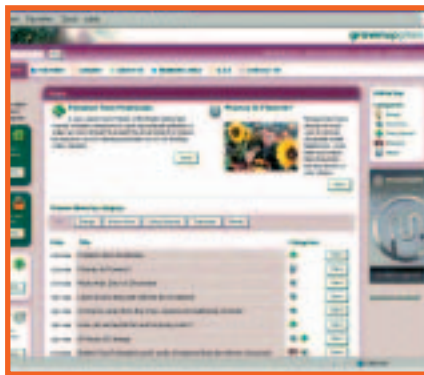
Sustainability Works are offering a variety of introductory offers including free training if a licence package is purchased before 10th January 2005.

For further information contact Lenka Warren on 020 7422 1777 or email contact@sustainabilityworks.org.uk.

Grown Up Green

Housing associations can do much to ensure the sustainability of their homes. But achieving the potential benefits and savings often depends ultimately on residents' environmental awareness and behaviour.

Grown Up Green is helping to complete the loop by encouraging and supporting UK households to think and act more sustainably. Registration is free and members receive monthly newsletters, information about energy, transport and waste, details of events and incentives to participate. It is for



residents who want to make more informed choices on issues such as management of household waste, purchasing of consumer goods and car use. www.grownupgreen.org.uk

Sustainable Timber Boost

The price of sustainable timber for the homes you build and manage could come down as the UK's biggest timber consumer, the government, agrees only to use timber from sustainable sources. The announcement follows an independent assessment for DEFRA of five different forest certification schemes.

Wood certified by the Forestry

Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) came out top.

For a database of products and suppliers go to www.fsc-uk.info.

If you would like to find out more about using sustainable timber products in your office, read the WWF's Sustainable Purchasing Guide, available from www.wwf.org.uk.

Sustainable Homes

For more information on the work of Sustainable Homes contact us:

E-mail: info@sustainablehomes.co.uk www.sustainablehomes.co.uk

Hastoe Housing Association Harlequin House

7 High Street Teddington TW11 8EE

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 8973 0429 Facsimile: +44 (0) 20 8943 2163

DIARY DATES

10 September 2004 to 31 March 2005

Sustainable Development and Eco Building Training

Your offices
Gives local authorities, planners and housing associations a complete and methodical understanding of sustainable development.
Contact: Maya Karkour, EST
T. 020 7939 0989.

4 January, 12 April (Tuesdays 6.30 – 9.30pm – 10 weeks £75)

Eco Building (Innovation Health & Energy)
Richmond Upon Thames College
T. 020 8607 8163

12 – 13 January

22 – 23 February

22 – 23 March

EcoHomes Assessor Training

two days covering the technical content of EcoHomes and the details of the assessment process
BRE Watford
T. 01923 664800
events@bre.co.uk

28 January

A Greener Garden

Weald and Downland Open Air Museum
This day school offers an introduction to eco-design in the garden, looking at making your garden more productive, wildlife-friendly and enjoyable.
Contact: Rebecca Osborne at the Weald and Downland Museum
T. 01243 811363

31 January – 2 February

Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit

GMEX/MICC and Bridgewater Hall, Manchester
Large event organised by ODPM
www.odpm.gov.uk

3 February 2005

15 March 2005

Introduction to sustainable building

Introductory seminar intended for building professionals, social landlords, or interested members of the public who wish to gain a basic understanding of the case for sustainable building.
T. 020 7450 2211
training@ecoconstruct.com

8 February 2005

Social housing: Sustainable refurbishment

Introductory seminar intended for social landlords and those responsible for the specification of housing refurbishment. Provides an overview of the opportunities for using sustainable materials and systems in the refurbishment of social housing.
T. 020 7450 2211
training@ecoconstruct.com

9 February

9 March

Smart homes need smart controls

BRE, Watford
T. 01923 664800
events@bre.co.uk

18 – 19 February

Homes for Good Exhibition

Mafford Centre, Exeter
Contact Corina Reay at the Somerset Trust for Sustainable Development
T. 01458 259 400
corina@sustainablehousing.org.uk

1 March 2005

Solar heating – introductory

This introductory seminar is intended for building professionals, social landlords, or interested members of the public who wish to gain a basic understanding of the principles of solar heating.
T. 020 7450 2211
training@ecoconstruct.com