

PUBLIC SECTOR SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION FORUM

MEETING NR 2/2004

held on

FRIDAY 11 JUNE 2004

at ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL, TOWN HOUSE, BROAD STREET, ABERDEEN

Present

As per attached List

Apologies

As per attached List

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>MINUTE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1.0	INTRODUCTION <p>Douglas Paterson, the Chief Executive of Aberdeen City Council, welcomed all members of the Group to the meeting and said it was a privilege to hold the meeting in Aberdeen City Council.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Council is currently going through a major self assessment which will include questions in relation to sustainability. These will be challenging questions which require to be addressed to move these initiatives forward. Every major development is checked in regards to sustainability criteria. This is carried out in a broad sense but with a Policy decision due next week they will then ask challenging questions against each Committee Report to deal with the sustainability issues at the outset.</p> <p>Staff have also been looking at sustainability in regards to reducing Carbon emissions from Council housing stock.</p> <p>There are major capital projects in the pipeline, partly related to the PPP. Aberdeen City Council are a low debt Authority and have been able to take advantage of Prudential borrowing. They are now talking about somewhere in the region of £400-£500M investment in the public structure and there is a real commitment to introducing and supporting sustainability into a number of major projects.</p> <p>John Porter was encouraged to learn that the Administration in Aberdeen is fully behind sustainability and thanked the Chief Executive for his welcome and for providing the venue and hosting the meeting. He also extended a warm welcome to all new members and existing members of the Group.</p>	

2.0 PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Sustainable Timber

Dr Mike Packer, Group Environmental Manager of the Timbmet Group gave an interesting presentation on Sustainable Timber. His company deliver timber products to the UK market, a major part of which goes to the Construction sector.

From the beginning of the year there has been a contractual requirement that any timber which has been delivered to a Government Department must be proved to have come from a sustainable source. It should also meet expectations of how the timber was grown, it is traceable back to the Forest and that it meets the legal expectations of the Country in which it was produced. If a Local Authority wants guarantees that this is taking place it has to have a chain of custody.

Mike intimated that there are many Certification Schemes but not all reach the legal requirements. After an independent assessment was carried out on the performance of these Schemes it was noted that FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) was the best in meeting the requirements. According to WWF, FSC is currently the benchmark. A central point of expertise on timber has been established i.e., CEPET.

Question

When will the Greenpeace Good Wood Guide be available ?

Answer

Mike Packer intimated that this has been held up at present but should hopefully be available by the end of July 2004.

Anyone wishing further information can contact Mike Packer on the following e-mail address:-

mike.packer@timbmet.com

2.2 Getting Sustainable Buildings Built

Bill Ireland, Regional Director of Fulcrum Consulting gave an interesting presentation on 'Getting Sustainable Buildings Built' and looking at what Sustainability is. This included:-

- Why the need for change
- What to change
- Drivers for change
- The renewable energy obligations
- Energy White Paper
- Taxation
- Planning Policy
- Energy Performance of Buildings Directive
- Delivering sustainable buildings

A 'carbon tax' is applied to all parts of the non-domestic sector and adds around 10% to business fuel bills. Tax exemptions are available but you have to show you are using renewable energy in an efficient way.

Fulcrum are compiling a number of reports on Renewable Energy systems.

Bill reported that Europe is committed to the Kyoto treaty. Buildings produce nearly 50% of CO² emissions and a further 20% is used in transport to and from buildings. From January 2006 there will be certain requirements which will need to be met in accordance with the European Directive on Energy.

It was noted that in the UK 90% of waste goes to landfill whilst, in the Netherlands, only 10% goes to landfill. Wood chips etc., are now being looked at in regards to running CHP systems.

Anyone wishing further information can contact Bill Ireland on the following e-mail address:-

bill.ireland@fulcrumfirst.com

2.3 **Solar Water Heating**

Ian Calderwood, Director of Secon Solar Ltd gave an interesting presentation on Solar Water heating. Ian stated that it is not true that all solar collectors should face South. They have carried out tests using 4 different technologies and it was noted that approximately 60-80% of hot water needs can be produced using the solar system. He pointed out that if installing a solar system you should ensure not to over-size the collector as this will make for an expensive and inefficient system.

There are 2 typical types of collectors used in the UK. One is the Flat Plate collector and the other is the Evacuated Tube collector which both work on the same principle. Ian felt the Evacuated Tube collector was the more efficient of the two at high temperature.

Ian intimated that Aberdeen has one of the largest drain back systems in the UK at Kingswood Sheltered Housing. This was commissioned approximately 18 months ago. Drain back systems prevent freezing of the system in winter. If a request is made for a grant, only applications supporting the drain back system will be considered. *Amendment Last sentence should read 'If a request is made for a grant all equipment used must be on the EST/Clear Skies approved list'*

Ian intimated that in terms of actual projects and taking up of grant funding for solar water heating there is a slight difference in England and Wales from Scotland. Grant in England is £500 per system. Cost is being reduced to £400 at the end of this month to try and conserve funding. 3,800 solar water heaters were installed in England and Wales which were grant funded. Some funding in England has been £100,000 per scheme. Ian felt there is a good opportunity for Scotland to get into the pot of funding.

If and when looking at installing solar water heating systems it is important to deal entirely with people who are members of the Solar Trade Association and that collectors comply with the European Keymark Scheme

There are a lot of main stream heating Contractors coming into the industry and training their installers in solar water heating techniques. The industry is only going to grow if there is a network of highly trained installers. Installers have to be encouraged in the training of installing solar water heating systems.

Question

How long would a typical installation last.

Answer

A good collector should last 25 years. A number of these installations are Aluminium, Copper and Glass and are virtually recyclable at the end of their useful life.

Question

What is the average cost for an average house.

Answer

The cost of installation is approximately £3,000-£3,500 per house. The cost for 10-20 houses should decrease to approximately £2,400 per house. If it is new build the cost would be considerably lower.

2.3 Innovative Construction in Housing

Gokay Deveci, Chartered Architect, and also a Lecturer at Robert Gordon University, gave an interesting presentation on recent projects undertaken by himself.

Gokay feels we need to change the practice we use when building new houses. Sustainability also means quality. There is also a social and cultural side to sustainability e.g., improving installation, optimising ventilation, good solar passive design etc.

A house in Peterculter has been designed with no heating in it except for a back-up stove. This was designed using innovative materials.

Health is another important issue and there is a need to look at the products used.

Risk Assessments require to be considered to ensure that the installation is right and this has to be tested over a period of time. Backup and research is required.

People require to understand what types of houses they live in and therefore briefing users is very important. Perhaps we need to look at the design of the house to satisfy the users as design is also a sustainable issue.

In a recent project 300m insulation cavity filling was used.

It was noted that approximately 60-80 houses are to be built in Aberdeen which are to be highly energy efficient and zero heated.

Question

Recycled newspaper insulation – Is this any old newspaper ?

Answer

Yes – this includes the Yellow Pages, newspapers etc and is fire retardant treated.

Question

How much more expensive is it to design houses along the lines you were talking about.

Answer

About 10-15% more expensive. It is important to show this through Life Cycle costs. The costs come from the little use of these materials. Once these materials are more popular costs should reduce.

3.0 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2003

The Minute of the meeting held on 27 February 2004 was accepted as a true account subject to the following amendments:-

Item 2.1 Ivor Davies works for the Napier University and not The Forestry Commission as stated.

Item 6 This should read 'Timber is FSC accredited' not SCF as stated.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Membership

John Porter stated that membership now stands at over 130 from 63 Organisations and it is obvious that the Forum is still attracting interest. If any member knows of anyone wishing to become a member they should contact Yvonne (e-mail address: Yvonne.mchugh@dundeecity.gov.uk). There is no charge for joining or participating.

4.2 Website Update

It was noted there had not been very many updates. John asked that if any member has anything which they think is relevant to the Forum they should submit this for inclusion on the Website.

4.3 Annual Accounts

John Porter stated an extra £2,000 had been received last year from the Scottish Executive. Balance Sheets will be circulated with the Minutes.

4.4 Targets for 2004

- A requirement of the Scottish Executive Funding is to identify targets and to measure these. It was noted the targets from last year have been met. John asked if anyone had any further ideas for targets.

Pete Davidson suggested a target should be set on the membership of the Forum. This was agreed.

It was also suggested an Audit be taken of the Councils in Scotland to determine which ones have a Sustainable Construction Policy. JP added this should include any organisation included in the Forum as these are not all Local Authorities. This was agreed.

ALL

John asked if any of those present had a Sustainable Construction Policy. It was noted Bristol, Birmingham and Westminster all have Policies which they issue to all Developers in their City. Bristol City is quite happy for any other Council to adapt, or adopt, their Policy as long as they have recognition that it was their Policy.

Dundee City Council has put this to their Chief Executive etc., for consideration.

It was noted that Bristol and Birmingham's Policy is advisory and the Westminster Policy is Mandatory.

- Last year we agreed to try and raise awareness of ISO:14001 by the end of 2003. Initially 2 Contractors had accreditation and a target of 4 to 5 was set. This has now been achieved.
- Cleansing and Roads and Transportation, Glasgow City Council, have achieved ISO:14001.
- It was agreed EMAS and/or 14001 accreditation would be a suitable Target. This was agreed.
- It was suggested we should set a target to determine how many of the initiatives put forward have actually become mainstream. This was agreed.

John Porter suggested a pro-forma be sent to all the members. This was agreed.

JP

4.5 New Initiatives

4.5.1 Sustainable Housing

Iain Wolstenholme stated that Gokay Deveci is hoping to hold a Seminar/Conference in Aberdeen in September 2004 in regards to Sustainable Housing in Aberdeen. People from approximately 30 Countries around the world will be invited to attend. If the Seminar is to go ahead John Porter asked that Iain pass on any relevant information to him in regards to same.

IW

4.5.2 Forms

Stuart Brown stated that Dundee City Council have introduced two forms i.e.,

- Sustainable Timber used per contract
- Waste Management –To establish baseline figures for the volume of waste going offsite and to landfill.

John Porter intimated that Contractors are working well with these initiatives.

4.5.3 Wood Pellet Fired Boilers

John Porter stated that Dundee City Council are looking at wood pellet fired boilers and asked if anyone had any further information on same. The pellets have to be accredited for use in a smokeless free zone which Dundee is. Part of the initiative is to try and use surplus products from the sawmill in Dundee and set up a manufacturing base for these pellets. It was noted that none of those present were using

these.

Western Isles are looking at setting up their own tree nursery. It was noted Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee all have tree nurseries.

4.5.4 New Sustainable Group

It was noted a new sustainable group has been set up by Sustainable Scotland and that there may be an opportunity for them to feedback into this Forum.

It was agreed that Groups should not duplicate work or research and that a possible Network should be established.

4.5.5 Energy Mirror

Elaine Morrison of SCARF provided information in regards to an Energy Mirror which records energy use. This will be circulated with the Minutes.

5.0 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 PPP

Highland Council have very little legislation for standards in regards to PPP and had to adopt the English regulations in regards to sustainability on PPP. They suggested other Authorities should sign up to some sort of Scottish standard. It was felt that the Scottish Executive is not attempting to produce separate legislation for Scotland. John Porter suggested that this should be included on the Questionnaire asking which standards we are working to. This was agreed

Pete Davidson, Dundee City Council, intimated they had to produce their own standards for the Building Services work.

6.0 **FUTURE PRESENTATIONS/SPEAKERS**

Scottish Executive Seminar **Sustainability in School Design**

John Porter intimated that the Scottish Executive are holding a Seminar in regards to the above. This will take place at Glencoe on Monday 12 July 2004.

Speakers for the next Scottish Sustainable Construction Meeting

It was agreed the following Speakers be invited to give a presentation at the October meeting :-

Stephen Smith of Carl Bro re Intelligent Solutions
Neil Rodgers of Natural Building Technologies

John Porter asked if anyone present could identify any further speakers.

Stuart Brown suggested someone from Nuaire be asked to speak at the next meeting in regards to Whole Home Ventilation and Solar Heating. This was agreed.

Ken Bamborough, The Highland Council, offered to host the February 2005 meeting in Inverness. This was agreed

John Porter thanked everyone for attending and Iain Wolstenholme for providing the venue and for all the organisation in regards to same.

7.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the **22nd OCTOBER 2004** at the Scottish Lime Centre Trust, Charlestown Workshops, Fife.

The following meeting will be held on 25 February 2005 at The Highland Council, Inverness.

Please Note : If anyone wishes copies of the presentations which were made at the meeting please contact Yvonne on 01382 433016 or e-mail yvonne.mchugh@dundee.gov.uk.

Distribution

All Forum Members
Councillor Julie Sturrock
Director of Support Services
Chief Executive
A Anderson, ECPD
Councillor Jill Shimi
Ken Laing
Mike Galloway
Anne Wilson

**N.B. PLEASE FORWARD ANY AGENDA
ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

JP/YM
21.06.04

PUBLIC SECTOR SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Meeting on Friday 11 June 2004

at

Aberdeen City Council, Town House, Broad Street, Aberdeen

LIST OF ATTENDEES

	NAME	<u>LOCAL AUTHORITY/ ORGANISATION</u>
1	John Porter	Dundee City Council
2	Stuart Brown	Dundee City Council
3	Pete Davidson	Dundee City Council
4	Yvonne McHugh	Dundee City Council (Minute Secretary)
5.	Ron McKenzie	Dundee City Council
6.	Steve Smith	Carl Bro Group
7	Mike Scott	Aberdeen City Council
8.	Mile Duncan	Aberdeen City Council
9	Gokay Deveci	Robert Gordon University (Speaker)
10.	Ian Calderwood	Secon Solar (Speaker)
11.	D Aird	SCARF
12.	R A Shackleton	Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar
13.	Ken Bamborough	Highland Council
14.	Alistair Smillie	The Moray Council
15.	Sera Fromow	Aberdeenshire Council
16.	Brian Norval	Aberdeenshire Council
17.	Sabastian Tombs	RIAS
18.	Ray Skene	Aberdeen City Council
19.	Kevin McDonald	Aberdeen City Council
20.	Marie Porteous	Aberdeen City Council
21.	Graeme Farquharson	Aberdeen City Council
22.	Louis Perera	Aberdeen City Council
23.	John Gell	Forestry Commission Scotland
24.	David Cowan	Scottish Executive
25.	Jenny Fausset	City of Edinburgh Council
26.	Caroline Wilson	City of Edinburgh Council
27.	Angus Plumb	Aberdeen City Council
28.	Amanda Waugh	Glasgow City Council
29.	Doug Duncan	Mansell
30.	Sylvia Gray	East Dunbartonshire Council
31.	Ian Mathers	Torith Ltd
32.	Alison Wisely	SCARF
33.	Dr Mike Packer	Timbmet Group (Speaker)
34.	Bill Ireland	Fulcrum Consulting (Speaker)
35.	Bill Simpson	Dundee City Council
36.	John Flynn	Dundee City Council

PUBLIC SECTOR SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION GROUP

MEETING – FRIDAY 11 JUNE 2004

Apologies

Julie Sturrock	Dundee City Council (Councillor)
Ken Laing	Dundee City Council (Engineers Department)
Mike Lunny	Angus Council
David Duncan	Dundee City Council (Economic Development)
Sandy Dawson	Clackmannanshire Council
Steven Brown	Dundee City Council (Engineers Dept)
Ken Smith	Scottish Executive
Frank Guz	Dundee City Council
Dorothy Wilson	Dundee City Council
Ian Cameron	Perth and Kinross Council
Hamish Campbell	East Renfrewshire Council
Ian Gilzean	Scottish Executive
Linda Sheridan	Scottish Executive
Robert Conlan	Tayside Police
Victoria Wiltshire	Energy Saving Trust
Prof George Fleming	Strathclyde University
Ian Walker	Communities Scotland
Mike Winter	TRL Limited
Sheila Currie	Scottish Natural Heritage
Liz McLean	East Lothian Council
Derek Nelson	Forestry Commission Scotland
David Banks	TUHT Scotland
Raymond O'Donnell	South Ayrshire Council
Andy Marnie	South Ayrshire Council
Neil Reid	Aberdeenshire Council
Mike Porter	Aberdeenshire Council
Bob Anderson	Dundee City Council
Brenda Roddy	Falkirk Council
Brian Menzies	Enviro Centre

JP/YM
11.06.04

A NEW 'GREEN' WOODCHIP HEATING SYSTEM FOR OUR AVIEMORE OFFICE

As an environmental organisation, it is essential for SNH to 'put our money where our mouth is' and reduce our own environmental impacts. We have a set of 'Greening' targets, one of which is to reduce our own CO2 production - our answer to the international need to combat climate change.

The Aviemore storage heating system has been expensive and hard to manage for many years, and needed to be replaced. Fitting a gas or oil-fired boiler would have kicked a massive hole in our CO2 reduction targets and our credibility as an environmental organisation, so we needed to find an environmentally sustainable option.

A survey of the best renewable energy systems for each of SNH's offices [*carried out in 2002 by 'Dulas' Ltd – copy available*] identified Biomass fuel as appropriate for Achantoul. Biomass means burning plant materials and is the oldest human source of heat. The use of wood chip boilers (to heat water for radiators) is a tried and tested system, popular and well used to the extremes of climate in countries like Finland, Sweden and Austria. Scotland is catching up fast, with over 30 woodchip heating systems, mostly in the north and west highlands, for village halls, hotels, a swimming pool and for district heating.

Burning wood **does** put CO2 into the atmosphere, but only the CO2 that the tree has stored during its lifetime. Thus we are merely recycling modern CO2 back into the atmosphere. Burning coal, oil or gas puts CO2 from hundreds of millions of years ago into the atmosphere, so adding to the greenhouse effect and making climate change worse.

Fitting a woodchip system at Aviemore allows SNH to:

- Reduce our CO2 production.
- Stimulate the market for woodchips in the eastern highlands.
- Demonstrate good practice to others.
- Encourage sustainable management of woods and forests by adding financial value to otherwise wasted resources.

Highland Wood Energy installed and will manage the system for us, using sawmill waste woodchips from Kingussie. [*first firing – June 2004, so no consumption or output cost figures available yet*]

This new, green, heating system will deliver controllable, cost-effective and reliable warmth for our staff. We are proud that SNH have been proactive and innovative and hope that it will become a beacon of good practice for others in the area.

Staff at the Aviemore office will be able to tell visitors what that big green thing is out the back and give basic information.

For more detailed information on this heating system or SNH's other 'Greening' measures, please contact Sheila Currie, SNH's 'Greening the Workplace' Officer at our office at 27 Ardconnel Terrace, Inverness, 01463 667911 or Sheila.currie@snh.gov.uk

[*this note will be inserted into the SNH Area newsletter and will be available at the Aviemore office for visitors*]

SCOTTISH SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION FORUM

SUMMARY OF INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2003/04

EXPENDITURE TO 31 MARCH 2004

1. May Meeting (South Ayrshire Council – 30.05.03)		
Hall Rent		£ 82.50
Catering		£ 255.60
2. Administration to 19.09.03		
Typing, etc		£ 311.80
Consumables		£ 29.00
3. October Meeting (Kirkintilloch – 24.10.03)		
<i>Speakers</i>		
B Berardelli		£ 108.00
T Morton		£ 48.00
J Gilbert		£ 200.00
4. February Meeting (Perth - 27.02.04)		
<i>Speakers</i>		
Roz Artis Young		£ 100.00
Catering		£ 304.00
5. Development of Website (Dundee City Council)		£ 680.00
6. Administration to 31.03.04		
Typing, etc		£ 752.42
Consumables		£ <u>214.70</u>
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£<u>3,086.02</u>

INCOME TO 31 MARCH 2004 (SUSTAINABLE ACTION GRANT)

1.	Payment from Scottish Executive - 16.10.03	£ 678.90
2.	Payment from Scottish Executive - 19.03.04	<u>£2,407.12</u>
	TOTAL INCOME	<u>£3,086.02</u>

STATEMENT

Expenditure to 31 March 2004	£3,086.02
Income to 31 March 2004	<u>£3,086.02</u>
Balance	£ <u>00.00</u>

I certify that I have audited the accounts for the Scottish Sustainable Construction Forum and have found these to be in order.

Signed:

David K Dorward
Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Dundee City Council

Date: _____

JP/YM
31.03.04