

PUBLIC SECTOR SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION FORUM

MEETING NR 2/2003

held on

FRIDAY 30 MAY 2003

at Walker Hall Reception Room, Troon, South Ayrshire

Present

As per attached List

Apologies

As per attached List

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>MINUTE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1.0	INTRODUCTION John Porter welcomed all new and existing members to the meeting. He indicated that the Group's membership had now risen to approximately 80 and that over 45 different organisations were now represented. He also thanked Andy Marnie and South Ayrshire Council for making the arrangements for the meeting and providing the venue.	
2.0	SCOTTISH COMMUNITY RENEWABLE INITIATIVE Brian Elmar, Programme Manager of the Scottish Community Renewable Initiative (SCRI) gave an informative talk on the work of SCRI and how they assist with funding applications. A copy of Brian's presentation can be provided by contacting Yvonne, at: yvonne.mchugh@dundecity.gov.uk	
2.1	<u>Questions</u> Q. Will case studies be produced of successfully funded projects. A. No intention to produce this at present. Q. Would SCRI support more than one initiative on more than one project. A. Yes Q. Is pay-back period important e.g., Solar/Photovoltaics which has a long pay-back period. A. Pay-back period not critical. It should be noted that SCRI will only be operating for the next 2 years at present.	

3.0 SOURCING SUSTAINABLE TIMBER

Derek Nelson, Market Development Officer of Forestry Commission Scotland gave an interesting presentation on the use of Scottish timber and how this can be sourced. Derek indicated that he was keen to have a continuing association with the Forum and would be available to give advice on any matters relating to the Forestry Association's policy and the sourcing of local timber. A copy of this Presentation is available from Yvonne.

Derek's e-mail address is: derek.nelson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

4.0 SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION IN NORWEGIAN SCHOOLS

Bob Anderson, Architect, Dundee City Council, was on a recent visit to Norwegian Schools which had been organised by Gaia Research. His presentation was based on this visit and his findings.

Bob indicated that, in some cases, the Design Solutions used in Norway may not be possible in this Country, however he did indicate that Dynamic Insulation may be a possible initiative that could be considered in Scottish buildings.

It was also noted that Gaia Research intend to publish a design module based on the Norwegian visit. A copy of this Presentation is available from Yvonne.

5.0 SOUTH AYRSHIRE PV INSTALLATION

Andy Marnie, Energy Manager, South Ayrshire Council, gave a presentation on the Photovoltaic installation to houses in South Ayrshire. It was noted that the cost of the project was approximately £223K and that it received 77% funding. The panels were manufactured by BP and installed by Sundog Energy Limited.

4.1 Questions

Q. Were Engineers involved in this project.

A. Yes.

Q. What is the life of a PV Panel.

A. Approximately 20 years but could be longer.

Q. Is it necessary to clean the panels.

A. No.

6.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 28 February 2003 in Edinburgh were accepted as a true account.

7.0 MATTERS ARISING

7.1 Sandy Halliday – Gaia Research

JP wished it to be minuted that the Group were very appreciative of the work carried out by Sandy Halliday, Gaia Research, in ensuring all questions asked at the last meeting received an answer. This was much appreciated.

7.2 **Fluorescent Tubes**

JP confirmed that Dundee City Council now have a policy for recycling fluorescent tubes and that the appropriate equipment has now been purchased to assist with this initiative.

7.3 **Geothermal Heat Pumps**

A short description of the heat pump used at the Morgan Academy replacement was circulated at the meeting and a copy is attached for information.

7.4 **Bioregional Database**

John Porter had contacted Fionn Stevenson at Dundee University who indicated that this database was not yet available, however she is trying to develop this further with Catherine Docherty of the Lighthouse.

8.0 **CONSTITUTION/FUNDING**

John Porter indicated that the Scottish Executive had now agreed to fund the Group by an amount of £1200 per annum over the next 3 years. He indicated that, at the present time, the grant would be paid to Dundee City Council and any application from members hosting meetings for expenses and costs would then be reimbursed. Application for funding will be made after each meeting.

John Porter also indicated that he had to provide a Form of Constitution to the Scottish Executive as part of the funding application. A draft copy was circulated for consideration. Subject to a change proposed by Neil Ferguson this was agreed. A copy is attached for information.

9.0 **FSC/PAN EUROPEAN CERTIFIED TIMBER**

It was noted that Dundee City Council now specify that all timber should be certified FSC or Pan European, however it is necessary to obtain Chain of Custody certification to comply with their ISO:14001 Accreditation. This process is being considered at present with adjacent Authorities, Contractors and Suppliers. It will be introduced on a gradual basis and targets set for future implementation.

10.0 **WEBSITE**

George Burgess, Scottish Executive, has indicated that the Scottish Executive Website is currently being reformatted and once this is complete reference to the Forum will be included.

It was suggested that the Construction Best Practice Programme Website would also be a good location for information on the Forum. It was agreed that John Porter will contact them with a view to including information from the Forum on this site.

JP

11.0 **SUSTAINABLE LINK WITH PPP**

The question was asked as to how prescriptive Authorities could be in relation to sustainable design when producing output specifications. It was noted that Liz McLean of East Lothian had included sustainable initiatives but it wasn't clear whether these still remained in the final outcome specification.

It was noted that in Dundee's PPP projects Suds will be required due to drainage restrictions, however this in itself can create problems with water pollution and hazards for children. It was agreed, however, that these problems can be designed out and this should be made clear in any output specification.

12.0 CONSTRUCTION WASTE

The measurement of waste produced on site, and the amount recycled, should be measured but it was recognised that the definition of recycling must be agreed or statistics from different sites and different contractors can not be compared. At the present time Dundee City Council is reviewing waste contractors to determine their recycling policy and whether this meets the requirements of the Council. Preferred Contractors may be included in contract conditions in future.

13.0 NEW INITIATIVES

13.1 **Bristol City Council – Good Practice Planning Guide**

Stuart Brown tabled a Good Practice Planning Guide produced by Bristol City Council. A copy of same is available from Yvonne

It was noted that these conditions could not be made mandatory, however it was recognised that Councils could include these as a preferred development guide and expect developers to recognise the Council's policy. It may be that the Planning Committees would have the final approval of applications and may take into account any sustainable issues.

13.2 **Community Planning**

Andy Gillies of Perth Council indicated that he was now involved in the Community Planning process and, as a result, was able to introduce sustainable initiatives to this debate.

13.3 **Database – New Initiatives**

Linda Sheridan, Scottish Executive, asked if there was a database of new initiatives and practices which the forum had discussed or implemented. It was noted that, at the present time, there is not however it was agreed that John Porter will look at the possibility of setting up a database which could be accessed by all members and help to disseminate information.

JP

13.4 **Sustainable Construction/Quality Indicator**

Neil Ferguson suggested that the Sustainable Construction Checklist produced by Dundee City Council could perhaps be linked to the Design Quality Indicator produced by his Council. . A copy of this Presentation is available from Yvonne. It was agreed that John Porter would contact Neil Ferguson to arrange a further meeting on this matter.

13.5 **Converting Softwoods into hardwoods**

A leaflet was distributed outlining the possibility of treating softwoods with Indurite which then gives them many of the qualities associated with hardwoods. This product was produced by the New Zealand Forestry Research Institute.

13.6 **Energy Savings**

A paper indicating possible savings that can be made by good management of PC's was distributed. This article noted that almost £90M is wasted every year by failing to switch off computers at night and over 2.8M tonnes of CO² is dumped into the atmosphere because of PC inefficiency. The article suggested that an office of 100 PCs can save up to £10,000K by introducing a simple power management policy, rising to a saving of £100K for a company with 1000 computers.

14.0 FUTURE PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKERS

It was noted that the next meeting will be held on the **24th October 2003** and Vicky Lambert and East Dunbartonshire Council were thanked for agreeing to host this meeting. It was agreed that the following speakers will be contacted regarding giving a presentation at this meeting.

Tom Martin	- Architect – Low Cost Quality Materials (John Porter to contact)
Catherine Docherty	- Lighthouse Sustainable Development Officer (John Porter to contact).
Torren Energy	- Biomass Heating (Vicky Lambert to supply contact name and address).
John Gilbert	- Architect, John Gilbert Architects (Vicky Lambert to contact regarding availability).

Reserve/Future Speakers

James Simpson, Architect, Simpson Brown
Cecil Woodrow, Construction Industry Officer – FSC UK Working Group
Douglas Taylor, Assist Architects, Glasgow
Ken Bamborough, Highland Council
Mike Parker, Timber Centre of Excellence

15.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business and John Porter thanked the speakers once again and also South Ayrshire Council for providing the venue and hospitality.

16.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the **24th October 2003 at Troon in East Dunbartonshire Council Offices.**

The following meeting will be held on the **27 February 2004** in Perth Council Offices.

Distribution

As List
Councillor Julie Sturrock
Director of Support Services
Chief Executive
A Anderson, ECPD
Councillor Neil Glen
Ken Laing
Mike Galloway
Anne Wilson