

SOCIAL HOUSING BRIEFING NOTE

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Information Sources

This briefing note suggests sources of further information regarding energy efficiency, affordable warmth and renewable energy with relevance for social housing.

Severn Wye Energy Agency

www.swea.co.uk 01594 545360

The Severn Wye Energy Agency is one of a network of agencies across Europe, set up to stimulate the development of sustainable energy through local and regional action for energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources. It is an independent (not-for-profit) company and registered charity. Severn Wye Energy Agency is based in Gloucestershire.

For more information on these briefing notes or for more information generally on energy efficiency, affordable warmth and renewable energy, please contact Dinyar Baria on 01594 544186.

The Energy Saving Trust

www.est.org.uk/practicalhelp 0870 2412089

The EST provides a range of support to help local authorities and housing associations improve the energy efficiency of their housing stock, including:

Energy efficiency: the guide - a single, comprehensive source of information for housing management organisations across the UK. If you're a housing professional, this free online guide could help you save energy, time and money.

Practical help enquiry service - any question a local authority or housing association has relating to sustainable energy will be answered within three days. Up to two hours of free research is available per enquiry with no limit to the number of enquiries that can be made.

Sustainable Homes

www.sustainablehomes.co.uk

Sustainable Homes promotes awareness of sustainable development issues for housing associations. It encourages the adoption of sustainable and environmental policies and practices. Funded by an Innovation and Good Practice Grant from the Housing Corporation Sustainable Homes is based at Hastoe Housing Association.

Green Streets (www.greenstreets.org.uk)

Sustainable Homes has developed a free web-based tool for sustainable refurbishment called Green Streets. It is based around a virtual street containing houses, flats and bungalows from pre-1900's to 1970's. For each house type solutions for sustainable refurbishment are available, covering issues such as insulation, boiler replacement, water efficient appliances, material use etc. Information on technical solutions, carbon savings, suppliers and sources of funding

are linked to each house type. The tool will link to EcoHomes for refurbishment. Good practice case studies illustrate what is already being achieved.

WWF – One Million Sustainable Homes

<http://www.wwf.org.uk/sustainablehomes/>

WWF have a campaign entitled 'One Million Sustainable Homes (OMSH)' which aims to tackle the harmful effect that our homes and lifestyles have on the environment. The goal is to provide more people with the choice of living in a home that is healthier, safer and cheaper for them as well as benefiting the environment. WWF is also one of the founding organisations behind the 'One Planet Products' Buying club.

Generation Homes

<http://www.generationhomes.org.uk/>

Generation Homes is a project whose members include Energy for Sustainability Ltd and 11 public and private sector partners. Its overriding aim is to initiate and trigger a nation-wide process of major energy-driven refurbishment of existing housing in the UK. This will be underpinned by the following objectives to:

- 1) **Develop integrated low-carbon systems (including energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies).** For maximum penetration and impact, they are targeting the most typical house types (semi-detached and terraced). Integrated systems will vary due to house and site conditions (e.g. house fabric, size, orientation, access, etc.)
- 2) **Develop an initial Generation Homes standard demonstration scheme (10 houses).** This will entail detailed design and implementation of a GH package, tailored to the conditions of the identified site(s). This early learning exercise (including monitoring) will inform larger follow-up schemes.
- 3) **Disseminate the Generation Homes concept and outputs to a range of relevant audiences.** Organise seminars and workshops for managed housing organisations, such as Housing Associations and Local Authorities. They will produce and distribute newsletters capturing the latest developments with the GH initiative and opportunities to get involved. Articles in specialised press are published regularly.
- 4) **Consolidate the sustainable energy and sustainable building supply chain, which will ensure a joined-up, high-impact and most cost-effective approach to delivering Generation Homes projects.** Their aim is to involve organisations from all areas of the building-related sustainable energy sector including: private sector technology suppliers and installers; property developers and building contractors, property owners and managers, particularly in the social housing sector
- 5) **Develop a large Generation Homes demonstration scheme (100-200 houses) that will have sufficient critical mass to embed a trend in the housing sector.** This will most likely comprise several sites of 20-30 houses each across the UK. Diversity of house types and local conditions will increase the learning benefit and replication potential of the GH method.

Generation Homes can offer a wealth of technical expertise from architecture and design to property surveys, installation assistance and monitoring of achieved performance. Most importantly though, Generation Homes can provide access to financial sources in the form of grants, subsidies and product discounts. The partners will attempt to get best value for money through a smooth supply chain, volume discounts and improved labour efficiency (by tying energy upgrades to scheduled refurbishment).

Fusion 21 (An example of a successful Buying club in the North West)

www.fusion21.co.uk

Fusion 21 is a partnership of seven Housing Associations and Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council formed in 2002. It acts as a buying club for the provision and maintenance of kitchens & bathrooms, windows & doors and heating systems.

This contributes to stability and 'work smoothing' for Fusion21 contractors attempting to get efficiency gains and savings for partner Housing Associations.

Fusion21 has recently added Gas Maintenance, Servicing and Repairs to its existing workstreams using a Framework Agreement amongst a select list of Service Providers.

The initiative has already been identified by the Audit Commission as positive practice

Dutch Financing Model

In the Netherlands, a "Green Financing" system has been developed by the Dutch Government that provides favourable loan finance when certain sustainable standards are reached.

Such arrangements are not available in the UK since they rely on fiscal measures by which the Dutch Government provides taxation benefits to those who achieve the required environmental and sustainable standards.

Leading European Consultants DHV AIB (NL) have been appointed by Gallions HA to evaluate the scheme against the Green Financing criteria.

CECODAS

www.cecodas.org

CECODAS is the European liaison committee for social housing. It was founded in 1998 for the promotion of the right to decent housing for all. It aims to represent and negotiate for strategic common interests on issues such as

- Structural funds
- Services of General Interest and State Aid
- Public Procurement
- Social inclusion
- Energy Efficiency
- Urban sustainable development

MANAGENERGY

www.managenergy.net

ManagEnergy is an initiative of the European Commission Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, which aims to support the work of actors working on energy efficiency and renewable energies at the local and regional level.

Intelligent Energy – Europe (IEE)

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html

Intelligent Energy – Europe (IEE) converts EU policy for smart energy use and more renewables into action on the ground, addressing today's energy challenges and promoting business opportunities and new technologies. The programme currently supports more than 200 European projects (including SHARE), the setting up of 35 local/regional energy agencies and 40 one-off European events.

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