

CEN Housing Update, February 2006

Welcome to the first CEN newsletter updating housing providers on our recent activities

Meeting the 10% Renewable Requirement

Aware of changing planning policy in many UK authorities, a large housing provider is working with CEN to ensure that their newly planned developments comply. CEN has worked on a number of their sites to assess the planning policy requirements. Where a prescriptive energy requirement exists in the Local Plan or Unitary Development Plan (e.g. the development is expected to offset at least 10% of the site's CO₂ emissions through the use of on-site renewable energy), CEN assesses which renewable energy technologies are feasible and the supply and installation costs associated. A number of energy solutions are usually available, therefore, CEN works with the housing provider to identify the 'best value' option, taking into account initial capital outlay and cost savings for tenants and homeowners.

This approach has enabled the housing provider to calculate development build costs more accurately and to 'design in' the appropriate technologies at the site feasibility stage, thereby maximising cost savings.

Open Day and Energy Advice for Moat Housing Residents

After the installation of photovoltaic panels on some of the housing association properties, CEN worked with Moat Housing to run open days for visiting school children. CEN provided materials for displays and coordinated workshop activities, such as a Solar Car Challenge and the construction of model wind turbines. Working with the client, CEN prepared and issued press releases for the project. CEN was also commissioned to develop information packs on sustainable energy in the home for distribution to housing association tenants.

Stock Wide Energy Assessment

CEN delivers an innovative method for assessing energy saving and generation options for entire housing stocks. This Stock Wide Assessment Procedure (SWAP), enables development strategies to be informed for years to come.

CEN recently conducted a SWAP of over 6,000 dwellings for Maidstone Housing Trust, enabling them to identify the most cost effective and innovative options and include them in planned maintenance programmes. This strategic approach allowed Maidstone Housing Trust to proactively meet their targets and the regulations in relation to energy.





The findings of the assessment include the following:

- There are 164 southfacing roofs off the gas network which would gain maximum benefit from solar thermal panels
- There is great potential to improve energy efficiency by changing the generation strategy from individual to communal - 1540 properties could potentially be included in heat networks.

CEN also participated in an activity day in partnership with Maidstone Housing Trust's tenants.

CEN educated the tenants on energy efficiency and gave out low energy lightbulbs.

CHP at Abbeyfields

CEN worked with Swale Housing Association to install one of the first mini CHP systems in the UK. The system not only provides residents at Abbeyfields Court with reduced price heat and electricity, but is also estimated to save over 13 tonnes of CO₂ per year. To help facilitate the installation process CEN has a package of assistance, including free and impartial advice, site and feasibility assessments and access to financial assistance.

Thanet's Solar Communities

Thanet District Council is a sustainable energy champion and an excellent demonstration for other social housing providers. The council is planning 14 installations of solar thermal, adding to the 6 systems CEN helped install on their social housing in 2004. CEN was once again asked to use its knowledge and expertise to identify installers to tender for the work and to technically, financially and environmentally review all the quotes.

CEN found the lowest cost installer that also demonstrated a proven track record in the installation of multiple solar thermal systems. The installations are now planned for the spring of 2006, subject to final approval. The total solar project will save an estimated 76,000 kWhrs of energy, an estimated saving for tenants of over £2000 per year and nearly 4 tonnes of carbon per year.

Telephone: 020 8683 6653

Email: energy@cen.org.uk

Working with



energy saving trust™



Creative Environmental Networks, Ambassador House,
Brigstock Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR7 7JG
Tel: 020 8683 6653 Fax: 020 8683 6601 Email: energy@cen.org.uk

