

E-Newsletter

September 2011

BuildingFutures

A Hertfordshire guide to promoting sustainability in development

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Enter the Hertfordshire Building Futures Awards 2011 today

There's not long left for Hertfordshire's developers, architects, local authorities and homeowners to put themselves forward for the Hertfordshire Building Futures Awards.

Hertfordshire's local authorities are calling for entries for the Building Futures Awards, which recognise creativity and groundbreaking design in building projects.

Entries for the awards can be submitted by anyone who wants to acknowledge and reward sustainable development in Hertfordshire. So, if you're an architect with a passion for passive design, or a builder who makes the most of sustainable materials, you can enter for this year's awards.

Eligible schemes include new build, conversion and retrofitting in the residential, commercial, retail, education, health and leisure sectors. There are only two conditions that need to be met:

- The project must be located in Hertfordshire
- The project must have been completed between 16 September 2009 and 16 September 2011

Once entries are received, they will be assessed by an expert panel of judges who are all leaders in the fields of sustainability, urban design and architecture.

Dr David Strong, sustainability expert and Hertfordshire Building Futures Awards judge, said:

"I am really pleased to be supporting and judging this year's Hertfordshire Building Futures Awards. Having judged the Awards back in 2009, I was really impressed with the standard of entries which included sustainable building projects from a number of different sectors and locations in the Hertfordshire region. I'm positive that this year's entries will once again be of the highest



caliber.

“Sustainability is an issue that will impact on all of our lives in the coming years, and it’s great to see that Hertfordshire is already making such a large contribution. The Hertfordshire Building Futures Awards are a great way to reward organisations and individuals who have already undertaken successful sustainability projects. The Awards also help to strengthen the message of sustainable building practices and design in our local community.”

Cate Hall, Executive Services Director at Watford Borough Council, said:

“Winning a Building Futures Award in 2009 is something that we are extremely proud of and has certainly put our organisation on the map for our commitment to a sustainable future. There are lots of great projects in the area which deserve commending too, and I’d strongly suggest entering the awards if you have been involved in an eco-friendly project in the last two years.”

Entries must be received by 5pm on 14 October. To find out how you can enter the Awards, visit: **the Building Futures website**

SustainaBuild – Low Carbon Innovation Project

A full business case for SustainaBuild – a Low Carbon Housing Innovation Project – has been submitted to the ERDF.

The project bid, if successful, will be led by Climate Energy (NfP) and will provide support to SMEs throughout the East of England to increase their ability to provide high quality services in the low carbon construction sector. The project partners include Climate Energy, Climate Consulting, Hertfordshire County Council, Broxbourne Housing Association, National Energy Action (NEA), Anglia Ruskin University, British Gas and the University of Hertfordshire.

Over the three year project period support will be given to construction sector SMEs wishing to expand and diversify in the low carbon sector. An exemplar low carbon retrofit of a sheltered housing complex will be used to showcase best practice and improved building performance post retrofit, throughout the East of England.

Broxbourne Housing Association has offered The Whitehouse in Broxbourne as the demonstration project. The demonstration part of the project will highlight suitable project management, renewable technologies and controls for assessing hard to treat dwellings with vulnerable tenants and the necessary approaches to adapting and implementing low carbon solutions.

The Building Futures initiative will support the practical application and dissemination of best practice arising from the project. The project will also be showcased at various events as well as being launched at the 2011 Building Futures Awards Ceremony in November this year.

Climate change training for Hertfordshire planning officers

A free climate change training programme for planning officers in Hertfordshire will be taking place between October 2011 and January 2012.

The training programme is being led by Sustainability East and the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) with the support of the Building Futures Partnership and Stevenage Borough Council who are hosting the events. The aim of the training is to increase awareness and understanding of planning and climate change issues amongst Hertfordshire's planning officers.

There will be five training sessions, each held at Stevenage Borough Council Offices, covering various topics in relation to planning for climate change:

- Thursday 3rd November Overview, evidence base and policy
- Thursday 24th November Mitigation for individual buildings and whole developments
- Thursday 15th December Climate change risks and adaptation
- Thursday 12th January Stand alone renewable technologies
- Wednesday 12th October Optional study visit to Rackheath Eco- community development, Norwich

Each authority has been allocated three places for each session to ideally allow one Planning Policy Officer, one Development Management Officer, and one additional officer (e.g. Sustainability Officer/Building Control Officer) to attend from each authority.

The same officers will be expected to attend each training session as a complete package. A 'Train the Trainer' volunteer from each authority will then be given further training in early 2012 to enable them to disseminate their learning to colleagues. To facilitate this, Sustainability East have set up a website providing access to all the resources used during the training, in addition to the online guidance on climate change available to planners via the Building Futures guide and web resource.

Further information about the Climate Change Training for Planners programme in Hertfordshire can be found on the Sustainability East website **here**.

If you wish to sign up for the training programme please contact Michael Chang at **michael.chang@tcpa.org.uk** or on 020 7930 8903

Upcoming Events

Integrating green and blue infrastructure	CIRIA, London 25 October
Insite 11 – rethinking refurbishment	BRE, Watford 4-5 October

New guidance on planning for daylight and sunlight launch	BRE, Watford 12 October
UK Passivhaus Conference 2011	Passivhaus Trust, London 24-25 October
UP-RES - Heat (and renewable heat) networks in planning	BRE, Watford 7-9 November
Conservation and repair of historic timber-framed buildings	RIBA East, Cambridge 17 November
Grand Designs Live	NEC, Birmingham 7-9 October
Urban design communication	UDG, London 8 November
RIBA lecture 2011- Thomas Heatherwick	RIBA, London 8 November

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