



How to design and construct low energy buildings

Participant from the East of England joined Swedish passive house architect Anders Linde for a one day workshop devoted to passive houses.

West Suffolk, UK

150 people met at West Suffolk College on the 14th of April to discuss how to design and construct low energy buildings. They included representatives of all aspects of the construction industry from architects and planners to builders and installers. The participants had 13 interesting workshops to choose from, with topics ranging from insulation and ventilation to bio-mass and micro CHP.



The opening address was presented by David Daniels and focused on overcoming the barriers to low energy houses. Refurbishment and the enormous challenge we face in the existing buildings stock was a topic that was raised on several occasions during the day.

At the end of the day a plenary was organised with all 13 workshop presenters and Build with CaRe partner Dr Bruce Tofield of University of East Anglia. They were asked the question "If you could wish for one thing to increase the energy efficiency in buildings in the UK, what would it be?"

In summary, this was their response:

- Make funding and information easy to access; today there are too many financial schemes not working together.
- Increase the demand for new build low energy houses.
- There is a confusion of standards; we have to be more defined in where we're going.
- Change the mindset of payback time.
- Spread information and make sure people know that there are good options.
- Refurbish the whole buildings stock to a minimum standard.

On the following day a one day workshop was organised, led by Swedish passive house architect Anders Linde. Twenty participants from Build with CaRe partners West Suffolk College and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council had the opportunity to learn about the basic elements of passive house construction and explore different design features that have an impact on the energy use for heating in buildings.

Retrofitting of residential buildings

Oldenburg, Germany

Great interest was the answer on the conference “Energy efficient house”, which was offered particularly for the target group of construction experts on 22nd and 23rd of January 2010 in Oldenburg, Germany.



A typical Oldenburg houses from historical period.

City of Oldenburg, department of economic development organized the congress in the frame of the EU-project Build with CaRe.

120 architects, planners, energy consultants and craftsmen participated and evaluated the lectures as ‘very’ good. 15 experts reported in the fields of energy retrofitting e.g. house insulation, heat strategies for renovation of heating systems, installation of ventilation systems and consumption of renewable energies in residential houses as well as energy saving in electrical devices and “intelligent” systems of electric power supply. Further subjects were juridical preconditions, questions of liability, subsidies and marketing

strategies. To deepen the theory the participants visited the showroom “Intelligent Living” and were invited to an excursion to bauraum Bremen, an exhibition center for energy efficiency.

During the congress it became obvious, that the demands on energy retrofitting of buildings strengthen more and more. Especially in the city of Oldenburg with a great number of residential houses built in the period of 1950s and 1970s or a great number of protected historical buildings from the historicism period,

there are high requirements on energy retrofitting. In addition, Oldenburg has a high share of 80 % of one and two family houses of all residential buildings – with the result of high energy consumption for heating. Due to this background the main topic of the congress laid on energy retrofitting of houses. More than ever the energy refurbishing requires a particular challenge and ability for the specialists and a high degree of teamwork between the different fields of crafts.

“But it is also important to awake the desire of house-owners to allow themselves a good feeling in their

own house – instead of talking only about technical exigencies”, declared the moderator and co-initiator of the congress, Prof. Ingo Gabriel, engaged in ecology and saving energy construction and retrofitting of buildings for about 30 years.

The congress has shown the complexity of the energy retrofitting. Nevertheless: the materials and technologies are available. The standard is high and the costs are comparatively moderate, but the implementation has to be improved. This was an important outcome of the congress.

Due to the positive resonance on the congress, Oldenburg plans to organize a second congress next year, with possible subjects like introducing technical development, networking and communication, so that energy efficient construction and retrofitting will become standard. The aim is to reach the highest energy standard as possibly.

Build with CaRe congress Energy efficient house attracted 120 participants.



Commission to present new energy priorities

Europe

The European Commission will present the priorities of its 2010–2014 energy action plan during a meeting of energy ministers at the end of this month. The long-awaited plan will set out policy priorities in the field of energy for the next five years, Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger’s spokesperson has confirmed. Originally intended to take effect this year, it has already been delayed and the EU executive is now expected to adopt the plan at the beginning of 2011.

The plan represents the follow-up to the 2007–2009 blueprint approved by European leaders in 2007, which launched a common European

energy policy. It resulted in the adoption of the energy and climate package, which turned the EU’s ‘20-20-20’ goals into legislation, and the third energy market package, which sought to further liberalise the bloc’s energy market.

Some upcoming proposals have already been announced, including a revision of the EU’s Energy Efficiency Action Plan. The EU executive is also considering presenting a new infrastructure package in November, which would seek to address the integration of renewable energies into the grid and the development of smart grids.



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Supporting the implementation of energy efficiency practices in buildings

Aberdeen, UK

On the second of June Build with CaRe and Aberdeen City Council are hosting a conference in conjunction with Robert Gordon University to discuss the planning and policy issues related to supporting the implementation of energy efficiency practices in buildings. The conference will focus on European policy and how this translates into both UK and local legislation, whilst also looking at the policy issues in other EU countries such as Germany, Sweden and France. Not only the conference is an opportunity for dialogue between policy makers, planners and the construction industry at an EU-level, but also it provides an insight into how some of the policy issues may be addressed.

The conference is organized and chaired by Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Wahab and Dr. David Moore,

Scott Sutherland, School of Architecture and Built Environment, RGU. The conference will include an overview of the Build with CaRe project and will be divided into two broad themes, named: 'planning and policy issues' and 'policy in practice'. The former theme will be presented from an EU perspective cascading down to transnational, national and local level. The latter theme will include case studies across various EU countries.



With the support of Build with CaRe, Marischal College in Aberdeen is refurbished to meet high environmental and energy standards. When ready it will be the new office for Aberdeen City Council administration.

Build with CaRe visited Sweden

Hindås, Sweden

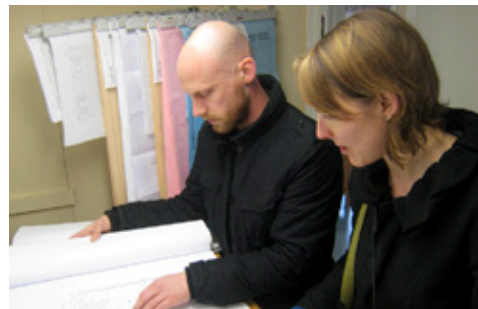
The Build with CaRe partnership met earlier this month in Hindås outside of Gothenburg. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress of the project. Some guest speakers were invited to inspire the partnership, among them where Karin Adalberth who just recently built the first plus energy home in Sweden, Villa Åkarp.

The meeting also included a study tour to passive houses in Västra Götaland. The first visit was to Alingsås where the group met up with Anders Linde from Passivhuscentrum. Both the refurbishment project at Brogården where the energy use has been cut with 80% and the low energy pre-school in Stadsskogen impressed the partnership. Then the group went on to Viskafors for a meeting with the municipal housing company and a guided tour of the new built passive houses that are a part of the Build with CaRe demonstration park.

The low energy pre-school in Alingsås is not only energy efficient but also a healthy and comfortable place for the children and staff.



Belgian architect Tine van Besien exchanged experiences with Swedish builders and architects at passive houses in Västra Götaland.



More EU funds to energy projects in regions

Europe

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso pledged on the forth of May to divert unused EU stimulus cash into a fund to help regions and cities become more energy efficient.

The Covenant of Mayors has received consistent praise from EU leaders since

being set up in 2008, but has thus far being operating on a relatively modest budget of some €15 million per year. The European Commission has now pledged to significantly increase the amount of funding available for such projects, using unused money from the

EU recovery package.

EU Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger has indicated that at least €115 million in unused funds will be available, and that he would push for a significant percentage to support local and urban energy projects.



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EVENTS

10 – 13 May	CIB World Congress 2010	Salford Quays, GB
28 – 29 May	14th International Passive House Conference 2010	Dresden, DE
2 – 6 June	Build with CaRe Conference	Aberdeen, GB
1 – 31 Aug	Scotland's Housing Expo	Stuttgart, DE
13 – 23 Sep	TUHH Learning Workshop	Hamburg, DE
1 – 2 Oct	AECB 2010 Anniversary Conference	Machynlleth, GB
7 – 9 Oct	2nd Nordic Passive House Conference	Aalborg, DK
7 – 10 Oct	RENEXPO	Augsburg, DE
7 – 9 Oct	2nd Nordic Passive House Conference	Aalborg, DK
20 – 22 Oct	Build with CaRe Annual Conference	Norwich, GB
12 – 14 Nov	Passive House Days	Europe
13 – 15 Dec	8th International Conference on System Simulation in Buildings	Liege, B



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