

Centre for Sustainability of the Built Environment

Background

The Centre for the Sustainability of the Built Environment has been developed as a focus for research and dissemination of good practice within a network of designers, contractors, manufacturers and building operators in the field. The development is supported from EU, Interreg funding, in collaboration with the University of Rouen, the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) and their French equivalent, the AICVF.

The deliverables of the funded project include 24 case studies of best practice and two conferences, one in Brighton and one in Rouen. A website will be developed as a virtual centre incorporating databases of appropriate professionals, manufacturers and skills available locally as well as case studies and other models of best practice.

The potential for the Centre for Sustainability of the Built Environment extends far beyond the two year funding from Interreg. It provides us with the opportunity to work with built environment community and to develop the network of key players contributing to sustainability. We will become a focus for information and for contacts and disseminate best practice through our publications and on-line documentation. The collaborative nature of our work with the University of Rouen and the region of Haute Normandie will leave us in an unrivalled position.

Interreg Case Studies

The University of Brighton will produce 12 case studies of best practice for sustainability of the built environment, including a variety of different building types and stages in their life-cycle. We have had preliminary discussions with members of the built environment teams in several councils: Brighton and Hove, West Sussex, Hastings and Bexhill.....and are developing further links as the centre establishes itself. We are therefore confident of producing a series of excellent case studies.

Academic Opportunities

The Built Environment Division within the School of the Environment has identified Sustainability as a key feature of its courses. It is this focus that sets Brighton courses in Construction and Project Management, Building Surveying and Architectural Technology apart from those offered at other institutions around the country. The Centre for Sustainability of the Built Environment will enable us to develop from the current focus to the provision of specialist Masters and undergraduate degrees and, through collaboration with local colleges, Foundation Degrees.

Our expertise will be appropriate for the development of specialist short courses and Continuing Professional Development, which can be run from the centre when appropriate.

Research Opportunities

The Environmental Life-cycle of Buildings Research Unit in the School of the Environment is currently very active with a range of research programmes related to energy use throughout the entire life-cycle of buildings and the quality of the indoor environment. The Centre for Sustainability of the Built Environment will develop further research activities through undergraduate, masters and doctorate level projects together with additional funded programmes. Our research will respond to the needs of the community and maintain the Centre as a regional focus and resource for Sustainability of the Built Environment.