

SUSTAINABLE DESIGNS ON YOU

STAFF MEMBERS COURSE OUTLINE



DAY ONE

Session 1 - Introduction

Introduction by the coordinator:

- What is Sustainable Development?
- Where does design fit in?
- Housing design and sustainable communities

Session 2 – Location, travel and planning

The session began with two presentations:

- Grant Ager, Director of Fairfield Housing Co-operative on the association's history and approach
- Brian Fitch, Director of New Gorbals Housing Association on Crown Street Regeneration

The following issues are then considered:

- Brownfield versus greenfield site
- Reuse of existing buildings
- Transport links, walking, cycling and car free
- Mixed use developments
- High densities
- The planning system
- Planning communities – the challenges
- Biodiversity
- Layouts to create sustainable communities
- Climate
- Orientation
- Passive solar gain

Session 3 – Energy

This session considered the following:

- Look at energy in a different way – using the sun and the wind
- How to reduce energy demand
- Alternative energy systems

Following an introduction by the coordinator, case studies were presented from the following housing association development staff and architects:

- Susan Napier, Canmore Housing Association with Hackland & Dore Architects
- Trish Baxter, Perthshire Housing Association
- Neil Whitelaw, Partick Housing Association
- John Gilbert, John Gilbert Architects

Session 4 – Waste

This session will consider:

- The national waste plan and the housing association contribution to it
- Water conservation
- Waste management – both during construction and in the long term

There was also a presentation from Mark Wells and Julie McKinney of SEPA

DAY TWO

Session 5 – Materials

This session considered the following:

- Green/healthy materials
- Specifying materials
- Local sourcing

With Howard Liddell of Gaia Architects

Session 6 – Maintenance

This session considered the following:

- In-house specifications
- Choosing materials and contractors and suppliers

With Susan Napier of Canmore Housing Association

Session 7 – Using tools

This session looked at various tools including:

- EcoHomes rating, SD Wizard, Housing Quality Assurance Programme and SPeAR

With Duncan Oswald of Ecodyne

Session 8 – In conclusion

This session drew together the key themes explored during the training course.

Study Day

Site visits to local housing developments showing examples of sustainable design. Guided tours were provided by the housing associations and architects involved in the projects. The site visits are for both Committee Members and Staff.

Locations visited include:

- Shettleston Housing Association
 - Glenalmond Street new build development
- Spire View Housing Association
 - James Nisbet St refurbishment
- New Gorbals Housing Association
 - Crown Street, new build development
- Govanhill Housing Association
 - Royal Samaritan Hospital rehabilitation

FINAL SESSION

Week 5

Putting it all together

This panel session was held at The Lighthouse and pulled together the key themes raised during the training course.

The range of issues addressed included:

- How do we put all this into practice?
- What are the cost implications?
- Looking at costs in a different way – cost in use, lifetime costs
- Private finance and insurances
- Where can housing associations get help?
- Choosing an architect and design team
- What can organisations such as Communities Scotland do?
- Other resources, e.g. the Sust. Green Directory of materials
- The role of the committee member
- Monitoring
- Creating a network of support

This panel members were from various organisations that can provide support and funding to housing associations, including:

Scottish Executive – Paul Stollard, Building Standards
Communities Scotland – Ian Williamson, Acting Director of Investment and Performance
RIAS – Sebastian Tombs, Secretary
SFHA – Misia Jack, Policy Officer
NHBC – Malcolm MacLeod, Scottish Officer
Energy Savings Trust – Mike Thornton
Glasgow Housing Association – Michael Lennon, Chief Executive

Each gave a short introduction explaining what their role is and how they can help create sustainable design. This was followed by a question and answer session.

Sust.: The Lighthouse on Sustainability aims to raise awareness of sustainable design in architecture. It was devised by The Lighthouse: Scotland's Centre for Architecture, Design and the City on behalf of the Scottish Executive and in support of the aims of the Policy on Architecture. It is funded by the Sustainable Action Fund.

www.sust.org