

Zero Carbon Buildings: Opportunities for Rural Living?

Tuesday 31 March 2009

University for the Creative Arts, Fort Pitt, Rochester, Kent



The Rural Research and Strategy Partnership (RRSP) and the University for the Creative Arts would like to invite you to a free, one-day workshop at the UCA Rochester Campus, Fort Pitt, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1DZ on 31st March 2009; 10:00- 17:00

What is the RRSP?

The RRSP is a collaborative partnership between the Universities of Reading, Surrey, Sussex, Brighton, Forest Research and the University for the Creative Arts. This collaboration of top-rated research establishments aims to tackle key rural problems by generating multi-disciplinary research and promoting the dialogue between academics, key rural organisations, rural businesses and policy-makers in the South East Region. The Partnership is initially supported by the South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA). More information about the Partnership can be found online at www.rrsp.org.uk.

Workshop Background

The Government has committed itself to more sustainable building practices by proposing that all new homes should be zero carbon by 2016 and by launching the Code for Sustainable Homes. Since May 2008, all new homes are required to have a code rating against the Code.

The Taylor review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing: Living Working Countryside (2008) emphasises the need for urgent and innovative action to deliver more affordable homes to meet local rural needs and stimulate economic regeneration. On the other hand, these new homes will have to meet the required sustainability targets and the associated aspects provide opportunities for the rural economy.

Workshop Aim

The workshop aims to bring together stakeholders and researchers from different disciplines to explore and share their expertise and knowledge in the areas relating to sustainable development and further delve into some of the questions posed by the Government and designs addressing the Code for Sustainable Homes looking to explore opportunities for rural innovation that will lead to more sustainable housing.

The workshop will explore two aspects of sustainable development, in order to develop research thinking and methods:

1. The challenges of interdisciplinary research. We need to nurture a better understanding of the research approaches and type of questions articulated by our colleagues from the different disciplines.
2. At the same time we also need to understand the various agendas and policies that drive our stakeholders and critically reflect upon these drivers and their implications.

Workshop Objectives

1. To explore methodology issues relating to interdisciplinary research in sustainable development with a particular emphasis on the rural environment.
2. To consider a holistic approach to the analysis and solutions of sustainable design (challenges of sustainability projects: environment, economy, social) arising out of specific discussions around concepts of sustainable buildings and more specifically zero carbon buildings, including innovation in refurbishment, renovation and behaviour change.
3. To articulate specific research questions with a view to identify research opportunities and develop cross/multi/inter-disciplinary funding bids.
4. To provide an opportunity for researchers and stakeholders to network and generate ideas for solutions.

Who should attend this workshop and what will you gain?

This workshop will be of interest to all stakeholders and researchers with an interest in rural innovation and sustainable buildings, enabling them to share ideas and begin to formulate proposals for solutions and associated research.

We very much hope that you will be able to attend. The workshop is free of charge, but you do need to register by contacting the RRSP co-ordinator, Anja Ueberjahn-Tritta by 24th March 2009 via email anja.ueberjahn-tritta@forestry.gsi.gov.uk, or at the Rural Research and Strategy Partnership Secretariat, Forest Research, Alice Holt Research Station, Farnham, GU10 4LH.

There is limited parking available at UCA Rochester Campus, Fort Pitt, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1DZ in the UCA staff car park. There is on-road pay and display parking nearby. In the interest of the environment we would encourage delegates to use public transport. The UCA Rochester campus map and travel directions can be found on www.ucreative.ac.uk/index.cfm?articleid=18368