

SusCon inspires students



SusCon opened its doors to students at the beginning of June with courses offering the latest information on all aspects of sustainability in the built environment.

One of the first courses to run was *Sustainable Construction Materials: Life Cycle Analysis and Whole Life Cost*. The one day CPD course - which will be repeated on 2 September 2011 - focused on reducing embodied carbon emissions. As Stephen Choi from SusCon explained:

"The drive towards zero carbon buildings has generally concentrated on operational energy use and does not account for the carbon embodied in the fabric of the building itself. With this course we are aiming to help redress the balance."

Looking at the principles of life cycle analysis and whole life costing, the course examines tools - such as the Green Guide - that have been developed to inform specification choices as well as conventional and 'alternative' building materials.

Judging by student response, the initial training course was a great success. As one participant said:

"This is a very well structured course that gives a clear framework for thinking about the subject. The teaching was professional and informative - I found the whole day inspirational."

SusCon wins sustainability award

SusCon has won the Best Sustainable Building Award in the LABC Excellence Awards for the South East and it now goes forward to the national final, which takes place in November.

In the judges' view, SusCon is: *"one of the most environmentally-friendly education buildings in the UK and it will set new standards for sustainable construction training."*



SusCon opens its doors



Everyone who is interested in the SusCon building and the courses we can offer, is invited to our Open Doors day on 15 July. With exhibitions, taster courses, short talks and tours of the building, the day has plenty to offer everyone and we look forward to welcoming you to SusCon.

The Open Doors day on 15 July is the first of a series of SusCon open days. If you would like to find out about future dates please get in touch with Chloe White on 01322 629 592.

School takes trip to planet positive



Local school, Dartford Bridge Community Primary School, held a sustainability education day on 4 July with a visit from environmental specialists, Planet Positive.

The green education day was thanks to SusCon, which has been awarded Planet Positive certification due to its low carbon and sustainable design and construction. The school visit helped the children to understand how they can all play a part in reducing our carbon footprint.

Over 90 children in key stages 1 and 2 started the day with an assembly that brought to life the challenges of climate

change and the positive actions we can take to improve the situation. The children then spent the afternoon on interactive activities, such as Energy Maths.

Deputy Head Teacher, Danielle Wellock commented: ***"We cover the environment in the curriculum but to have an outside expert talk to the children really helps them to understand the important issues and to remember crucial messages."***

"The school prides itself on its efforts to be green and we hope that we can improve further with the new ideas and activities provided by SusCon and Planet Positive."

Cristina to speak at International Architecture Conference



Cristina Blanco-Lion, a training intern at SusCon has been invited to present a paper at the Passive and Low Energy Architecture (PLEA) Conference, which will be held in Belgium in July.

The paper, which is based on Cristina's MA thesis, looks at the reconstruction of low income housing in a post-disaster zone from a sustainability perspective. Building a holistic definition of sustainability, the paper focuses on five key aspects: social, cultural, environmental, economic and aesthetic and includes data gathered in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Pisco, Peru.

Sally Clarke, General Manager of SusCon said: ***"This is an important opportunity for Cristina and I am delighted that we have such a talented member of the SusCon team."***

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The Rainforest and the Solar Tree

The Solar Tree that has been installed close to the entrance to the SusCon building is the first work in a sculpture trail that artist William Jordan is creating at The Bridge. Constructed from mainly recycled materials, with small solar panels to represent the leaves, the Solar Tree reflects the SusCon ethos of sustainability, but at the same time, it echoes SusCon's connection to the Amazon rainforest.

During the design and construction of SusCon the developer, Prologis, measured and reduced both the embodied and operational carbon emissions of the building and it then mitigated 110% of the unavoidable emissions by investing in a verified avoided deforestation programme, saving 70 acres of endangered rainforest.