

Eco House Study Visit: 31st January 2007 11:30 – 14:00

Attendance: 7 residents; S Ford (Resident Involvement Officer); N Garbutt (Acting Regeneration Manager); D Carter (Head of Sustainability); D Clayton (MCC Energy Efficiency Advisor)

	Action
Suzannah welcomed everybody to the EcoHouse thanked them for taking the time to attend.	
<p>Diana Clayton introduced herself as an Energy Efficiency Advisor for Manchester City Council. A DVD was shown to introduce the group to the Climate Change Agenda.</p> <p>Diana then gave the group a tour of the Eco House. The Eco House consists of 2 terraced houses knocked together. The house has been refurbished with a number of energy saving techniques (e.g. solar water heaters) to increase the energy efficiency rating (SAP rating) of the house from below 40 (poor) to over 100 (very good). Each room in the house houses exhibitions on various energy saving techniques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficient Light Bulbs • Recycling • Eco Gardens & Composting • Wall Insulation • Ways to make water heaters and radiators more efficient • Renewable sources of energy (e.g. Solar panels, wind power) • Water saving techniques <p>Residents were also shown how energy usage around the room can be measured using a gadget (<i>Electrisave</i>) which lets you know how much energy you use in pounds and pence.</p>	
<p>Following a buffet lunch, Dave talked to the group about the Sustainability Strategy and Fuel Poverty Strategies that were currently being produced.</p> <p>Dave explained that there has been a large amount of funding made available from the Utility companies to provide things like energy efficient bulbs and other energy saving devices. Adactus has recently secured money from Scottish Power to pay for Cavity Wall Insulation at 2000 of our properties.</p> <p>The overall SAP rating (rating of energy efficiency) of our homes is currently 72, which is pretty good, but we have a number of newer properties with a SAP rating of over 100 which drags the average up. We have a number of properties with SAP ratings around 40 (particularly old terraced houses) but we are working on these properties as part of the Decent Homes Standard programmes to increase loft insulation and replace inefficient boilers etc.</p> <p>Dave talked to the group about Renewable energy sources like Solar Panels. At the present time they are very expensive, although we have recently trailed their use at a shared ownership scheme in Morecambe. It is</p>	

<p>hoped that as with any technology, the costs of renewable energy sources will start to come down. We are also considering using timber framed double glazed windows rather than uPVC). Timber framed windows have a lower impact on the environment as they are easier to repair, create less CO2 in the manufacturing process and biodegrade easily at the end of their lifespan.</p>	
<p>Nicky introduced herself and spoke to the group about the Manchester Energy Advice Project (MEAP). This project is funded by the Scottish Power Energy People Trust. The aim of the project is to tackle Fuel Poverty in the pilot areas of Moss Side and Cheetham. Fuel Poverty is defined as being where more than 10% of a residents income is spent on heating the home. Adactus's energy efficiency Officer, Louise Whan, carries out home visits and attends community events to provide tailored advice to local residents.</p> <p>There has been a slow take-up for advice in the pilot areas. Residents could have an input into what literature is sent out to try to encourage residents to take up the offer of a free home visit. Residents suggested that there should be greater use made of translations. Nicky explained that some work had already been done to translate the leaflets and to link with key community members to help encourage more people to take up the service.</p> <p>Nicky explained that they were about to purchase a number of <i>Electrিসave</i> gadgets which would be loaned out to tenants. They would need to be fitted by an electrician. Further discussion would be needed to help decide the best way to run this system.</p>	NG
<p>Suzannah presented initial results of the sustainability questionnaire (attached to these minutes). Suzannah explained that the full results and feedback would be published in due course</p>	SF
<p>Dave summarised the day and asked residents what they had learned from the day. Residents advised us that they particularly enjoyed seeing products they had heard about (e.g. solar water heaters) in action and learned plenty about the different ways energy could be saved around the home.</p> <p>Dave advised that further work was needed to develop an Action Plan to implement the sustainability strategy and also a Fuel Poverty strategy was being written (following workshops with residents and staff). Residents agreed to meet again in approx one month to discuss some of the key points raised from the EcoHouse trip, Sustainability Strategy and Fuel Poverty Workshops. Residents agreed to meet during the day in a central Manchester venue. Suzannah agreed to advise tenants of this meeting in due course</p>	SF

Evaluation:

Based on 5 completed forms:

	Good	Fair	Poor
If you had any special requirements, please tell us if we were able to meet them	5	0	0
Please tell us what you thought of the Introductory Video	4	0	0
Please tell us what you thought of the tour of the EcoHouse	5	0	0
Please tell us what you thought of the group session	5	0	0
Were all of your questions answered?	5	0	0
Did you feel you were given enough opportunity to make a contribution to the sessions?	3	2	0
Overall, was attending the EcoHouse Study Visit a worthwhile experience for you?	4	1	0

Overall, please tell us how do you feel you benefited by attending the EcoHouse Study Visit

- It made me aware of the technology available
- Raised my awareness
- Lots of very useful information
- By knowing what an EcoHouse is all about
- Beneficial, educational

Do you have any other comments or questions?

- I thought I was EcoFriendly, but after the tour and talks – obviously not!

Would you like to become part of the Working Party looking at Sustainability issues?

Yes: 4 No: 1 (unless held in the evening)