

PRESS RELEASE

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Constructing for Sustainability as well as for profit

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) recognises that the protection of the environment and the pursuit of sustainable development while protecting their business interests are amongst the greatest challenges facing construction clients. Clients do not need to know everything there is to know about sustainable development and construction. However, knowing enough to ask professional advisors and project teams the right questions is becoming increasingly important and will give their business an edge.

CIC has published two new client guides in their Sustainable Development series which put the business case for adopting the principles of sustainable development “**Constructing for Sustainability: a guide for clients and their professional advisors**” and “**Brownfields – building on previously developed land**”. They were launched at a joint CIC/CIEF seminar ‘**Constructing for Sustainability as well as for profit**’ on 23 June at the Institution of Civil Engineers to an audience consisting of representatives from DTI, ODPM, clients and built environment professionals.

“**Constructing for Sustainability: a guide for clients and their professional advisors**” – how to reduce risk and protect profits while constructing sustainably. This Guide briefly explains some of the thinking behind the principles of sustainable development and looks at how to adopt these principles throughout the life of your projects from inception to demolition. It additionally provides signposts to detailed web based information and other useful publications’

Speaking at the launch Dave Hampton, Director of ABS consulting and Chair of the CIC Sustainable Development Committee jokingly quoted from the Douglas Adams *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* books to get across some serious points. (E.g. is this ‘The longest and most destructive party ever held in the history of the Universe’?...‘The problem of when the drink is going to run out is going to have to be faced one day ...the planet...is in bad shape’.)

Dave said:

“Many examples in this book demonstrate that taking those first steps towards sustainability can be both simple and delightful, gainful not painful. Put simply we can “Do well, by doing

good". All each of us need do is put our own 'house' in order, and the planet will take care of itself!"

"Brownfields – building on previously developed land" – avoiding the pitfalls, navigating the planning process and appointing the right team to develop your site. This guide provides a framework for a sound business approach to help clients building on previously developed sites. It also explains the steps that clients should take so that they can interact successfully with their advisors.

Please go to <http://www.cic.org.uk/information/Publications/sustain.htm> for further information as to how to obtain a copy of the guides or contact Rhiannon Pugh on rpugh@cic.org.uk.

Notes to the Editor

CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist trade association in the construction industry. It provides a single voice for professional in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 500,000 individual professionals and 25,000 firms of construction consultants.

The Construction Industry Environmental Forum, launched in summer 1991 aims to improve the environmental and sustainability performance of all parties involved in construction. It provides an opportunity to network with members and other experts in a cross-industry forum, through events, newsletters and research. Membership currently includes over 220 leading construction organisations and the success of the CIEF has encouraged regular participation by almost 1000 individuals. The CIEF is managed by CIRIA in association with BRE, BSRIA, and the CBP with support from the DTI.

If you would further information please contact Rhiannon Pugh at rpugh@cic.org.uk or 020 7399 7407.