

COST ACTION C23

Strategies for a Low Carbon Urban Built Environment

December 2006

Plenary Session

Combined WG1 and WG2 Meeting

It was agreed in the MC that WG1 and WG2 would meet together in a plenary session in order to share information and concentrate future direction of C23.

CT reviewed progress on WG1. The work on the EPBD was progressing. The template for reporting responses to the EPBD was circulated following the meeting in Trondheim but the UK exemplar had been delayed. It was suggested that this was not an issue since not all participant countries had fully implemented the Directive. It was agreed that this work should remain ongoing. CT reported on the case studies and that at least four had been worked up in more detail. However consistent information on costs, performance and decision making was not always available.

PP reviewed progress on WG2. Membership is increasing (12 members now) and this has resulted in useful contribution to the WG activities. Work has focussed on case studies and 6 have been received to date, some of which still need to be fed into the template. Work on planning guidance has not yet yielded many outcomes, as in most countries this work is embryonic.

Case studies were presented to the WG1/2 plenary sessions:

- Trento Renovation: a sustainable intervention - Antonio Frattari
- Sustainable performance of Housing in Finland - Pekka Lahti
- Transport in Hangzhou - Petter Naess
- Solar Air Conditioning Research - Astrid Hublitz
- New Technology District for Sustainable Building, Renewables and Regional Planning, Mr Salvatori, Minister for Planning, Research and Innovation of the Autonomous and Regional Province of Trentino.

It was recognised that although there were significant improvements in energy efficiency and carbon reductions on an individual building level, at the macro-level of cities, carbon emissions were continuing to increase. Also, that although there was a lot of talk at government level of the need to reduce carbon emission, there was not much realisation of this at a city scale.

The discussion developed around the linkages between the two WGs. It was recognised that the Action had a very useful diversity of skills from its members and the Action should focus on integration of these skills to develop the future programme of the WGs. The diversity of the group should be exploited and explore the integration of scales from building to city.

It was agreed that future direction should focus on both city scale and building scale case studies, collecting information on the efficiency of cities in relation to their main 'carbon' related aspects, including, dominant building types, transport systems, sustainability policy, etc.. Also, low carbon buildings in relation to their context within the urban situation should be looked at. For example, a low carbon building in a location that results in higher travel to work distances, may raise overall carbon emissions.

It was agreed that for the next meeting in Athens in February, presentations would be given on 4 or 5 cities, to include the main characteristic of the city in relation to carbon emissions and a case study illustrating a typical low carbon building development. PP will provide a template for the presentations by early January. The following cities were chosen:

- Munich,
- Oporto,
- Cardiff,
- Copenhagen,
- Trento (to be confirmed).

The first analysis will be exploratory to test the template and provide insight to how the final aims of the action can be developed. It is then proposed to expand the number of cities to include representation from as many of the 19 partner countries as possible.