



NORCROFT CENTRE

These briefing papers describe sustainability actions at the University of Bradford as part of the development of our Ecovercity programme.

These papers are developed through The Sustainable Education Directorate together with the University staff and students featured inside, and are part of our commitment to improving communication around Ecovercity.

Comments and feedback are welcome and should be sent to: ecoversity@bradford.ac.uk

Where is the Norcroft Centre?

For those unfamiliar with the Campus the Norcroft Centre is the building with the funny looking roof (this is often referred to as the green roof - see picture on front page) on Tumbling Hill Street, next to the IPI Buildings and adjacent to the Richmond Building. The Centre replaced a number of very old and dilapidated wooden buildings that housed a number of different academic groups over the years.

When was it built and what is it for?

The building was opened in 2005 and designed as a conference and meeting centre. At the time the University had few large flexible spaces to house large numbers of people for a variety of different purposes. It includes a 200 person semi-circular auditorium (with gallery surround), which provides the ability to reverse the direction of the user by a full 180°, and two seminar rooms.

Why is it referred to as an Environmental Centre?

The building was designed with a number of environmental features to reflect the University's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint and demonstrate a different approach to new buildings and refurbishments.

Green Roof

The most striking feature of the building is the roof which is a Bauder Green Roof System. The roof is a living Sedum blanket which is laid onto a special moisture retentive fleece. Sedum plants have excellent water storing capacity and change colour through the seasons. There are over 400 varieties of Sedum. Green roof systems are becoming increasingly popular in new developments for a variety of reasons. They reduce the amount of water run-off, hence help to slow down rates of water discharge which can cause problems of flooding. They have low maintenance costs, promote and enhance bio-diversity - the flowers attract insects and butterflies, and they can be more attractive than standard materials.

Energy and Carbon

The Centre was designed to be a low carbon building. The South facing elevation (entrance) has been designed with an over-hang to reduce solar gain which otherwise results in the building overheating on warm days. In addition, the front of the building has large windows to maximise the use of daylight thereby reducing the need for lighting and hence electricity.

Internally the first floor of the building is controlled by 'natural' ventilation installation, using four roof wind-cowls and automatic window louvers. Sensors in the building detect when the internal temperatures have risen and at a set point the ventilation systems open. These are controlled

via a computerised Building Management System which is based in the Estates and Facilities department.

The building has sub-metering to monitor specific energy uses within different areas of the building and energy and emissions performance data displayed to building users to encourage good energy housekeeping behaviours.

Pollution

In designing the Norcroft Centre, the mitigation of pollutants arising from the construction and operation of the building has been critical, with measures including;

- Implementation of leak detection on refrigerant systems
- Insulants with low 'Global Warming Potential' that avoid the use of ozone depleting substances were selected

Health and Wellbeing of Occupants

The building was designed to provide a flexible space for a wide variety of users allowing for different types of meetings, events, groups and activities. The building design provides excellent ambient conditions for occupants and has been highlighted as a very relaxing and comfortable building to be in. The Centre has a relaxing and peaceful atmosphere, which includes an art exhibition.

Sustainable Events

The management of the Centre by Events Bradford seeks to ensure that any event promotes and supports the wider principles of Ecoversity and sustainable development. The Centre's commitment to sustainable events includes working closely with our catering suppliers to ensure the use of crockery, cutlery and glasses to minimise waste from disposables. Where possible Events Bradford will use regional and seasonal produce in meals and make sure that all sandwiches and salads are made on site. The team also encourage people attending events to car share or use public transport.

Further Information

For further information or communication on Ecoversity or this briefing paper email ecoversity@bradford.ac.uk

For more detail on Ecoversity:
www.bradford.ac.uk/ecoversity