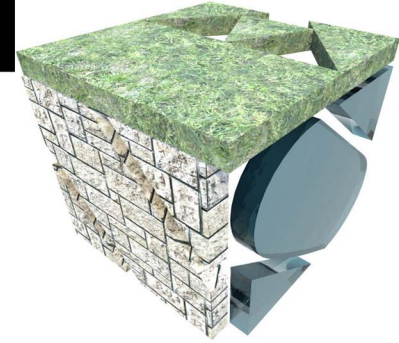


Natural-Energy Efficient-Sustainable

# NEES

NEESonline.org



NATURAL - ENERGY EFFICIENT - SUSTAINABLE

## Building energy efficiency with natural materials



Over a three year period, the NEES Project will identify and promote products and services which aim to improve energy efficiency in existing domestic buildings, which make use primarily of renewable or recycled materials and services based on natural processes, which originate and are normally accessible in the Northern Periphery Programme region

Examples of the types of products available are:

- timber from renewable forests,
- hemp and lime
- straw bales
- recycled paper



# CORK LAUNCH PROGRAMME

# 2.00 P.M. ON 27.08.2012



The NEES (Natural Energy Efficiency and Sustainability) Project is a Partnership of 8 agencies in 5 different European regions (Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Sweden and Greenland). The partnership is co-ordinated by Cork Centre for Architectural Education (UCC/CIT) and includes universities, building research centres, a social economy retrofit enterprise, social housing organisations and regional development partnerships.

The Project is funded by the Northern Periphery Programme of the European Commission and by local funding.

The Launch will present the State-of-the-Art in the use of natural and recycled materials for retrofit, in particular for low-income and social housing. The aims and objectives of the Project will also be explained, together with plans for Europe-wide dissemination and marketing of best practice in natural and recycled products and services that promote energy efficiency.

#### Natural products and services

There has been considerable commercial development of high-tech solutions for energy efficiency, including chemical and industrially manufactured products and processes, nanotechnology, the use of IT in smart buildings and smart grids, etc. In contrast, there has been a notable lack of research and development of products and services based on natural products and processes.

Little use has been made of local products, especially agricultural products and by-products that could achieve a similar effect. The production or installation of these materials rarely promotes new skills locally, or the development of the local economy, other than in a limited sales or installation role. The building and refurbishment sector has become dependent on imports when there are potentially viable products available locally that could be developed and delivered locally.

#### Practical Examples

Examples of the types of products available could be timber from renewable forests, hemp and lime, straw bales and recycled paper. Examples of services that could help reduce energy use are timber frame design, bioclimatic design, energy and sustainability assessments and local behaviour change training. These products and services are less capital intensive, more locally based, consume less rare and finite materials in production, are more reusable, less polluting in terms of waste and require less transport.

The skills required in their production are usually found locally, and their installation is often based on traditional skills and local resources. If properly identified and developed these products and services could provide much needed jobs and training opportunities and new green enterprises.

These products are by their nature linked to diversification of agricultural production, so could have a positive effect on agricultural diversification and on biodiversity on the one hand, and on new and on diversification of rural economies on the other.

## NEES Launch

Monday 27th August 2012 - 2.00pm to 6.00pm  
at the  
Cork Centre for Architectural Education (CAAE),  
9/10 Copley Street, Cork

#### Programme for the Launch

- 2.00 Registration**
- 2.10 Kevin McCartney, Director CCAE (Chair) – Welcome, Introduction to NEES & CCAE**
- 2.30 Gerry Finn, Director of the Border, Midlands and Western Regional Assembly**
- 2.50 Niclas Forsling, Head of the Northern Periphery Programme, European Commission**
- 3.10 Sorcha Edwards, Deputy Secretary General, Federation of Public, Co-operative and Social Housing (CECODHAS)**
  
- 3.30 Break**
  
- 4.00 Jose Ospina, Project Manager NEES (Chair) – Objectives, Activities of NEES**
- 4.20 Alma Gallagher, Manager, Clar ICH Sustainability and Social Housing**
- 4.40 Tom Woolley, Rachel Bevan Architects, Sustainable construction, products and materials**
- 5.00 Colm Cryan, Theil 1, Identifying and evaluating best practices & NEES Expert Panel**
- 5.20 Discussion and Questions**
  
- 5.30 Wine and Cheese reception**

#### European Priorities

Energy efficiency and sustainable development are two of the European Union's main priorities, as reflected in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), the Energy Services Directive (ESD), the Eco Design of Energy Using Products Directive (Up), and the requirement for all Member States to develop National Energy Efficiency Action Plans.

The availability of naturally based products and services is also an important consideration in the development of a sustainable economy and green procurement policy. Procurement by public bodies constitutes 16% of all purchases, even more in some countries (e.g. 30% in UK).

For further information, see our web site on  
<http://www.neesonline.org> . email: [jose.ospina@neesonline.org](mailto:jose.ospina@neesonline.org) mobile: 086 822 4429