



tea or coffee?



Enjoy a break with news from Channel projects!



What can be done to develop the ecoconstruction sector and increase energy efficiency in cross-border territories adjacent to the Channel? This is the challenge that Franco-British projects funded by the France (Channel) - England programme have taken up. Training and awareness programmes for professionals and users, online tools and maps: these are all examples of projects' outputs. Bringing together 7 projects on this theme, the ECOBEE capitalisation cluster has made its own contribution by gathering, sharing, and disseminating results produced to date.

WORKING TOGETHER ON... ECOCONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The **IFORE** project experimented the large-scale thermal renovation of close to 8,000 homes using a new approach that involves tenants in, and raises their awareness of energy saving. 150 training sessions for professionals were also developed as part of the project.

250 businesses were involved in initiatives to raise awareness of ecoconstruction through the **ECOFAB** project. 1,600 visitors in France and 8,000 visitors in England also participated in the "Ecoconstruction in practice" forum to promote ecoconstruction among businesses.

"Living labs" were created as part of the **CREST** project, a project that aims to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. These labs make it possible to study user behaviour in different types of buildings used for education and research purposes (schools, universities, administrative buildings). Collected information is then used to establish targeted technological and behavioural interventions.



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The objective of the **LBNAM** project was to put in place methods to raise awareness of ecoconstruction among businesses. This project provides for the creation of 3 resource centres. To date, one resource centre has been established, in the town of Saint Juvat in Brittany, to promote the use of soil material in construction and facilitate exchanges between professionals and the general public.

For more information, go to:

-  www.ifore.eu
- www.ecofab.eu
- www.crest-project.eu
- www.libnam.eu

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED IN...

LE DEZERT (BASSE-NORMANDIE) 10 OCTOBER 2014 AT THE ECOBEE CLUSTER CONFERENCE

The "New behaviour, new responsibility / Build to high performance and sustainability standards" conference was held at the Pavillon des Energies in the town of Le Dézert as part of the ECOBEE cluster. The objective of this conference was to compare standards and regulations in force in France and England (Passive Haus, Climate Change, Green Deal, Code for Sustainable Homes...) in the area of energy efficiency in buildings.

The conference also allowed participants to share knowledge, tools, and good practices developed by the Interreg IVA projects in the area of ecoconstruction and sustainable housing on the following themes: reductions in CO₂ emissions, use of environmentally-friendly and natural materials, insulation, rainwater collection, natural lighting...)

Building professionals gave presentations on the potential of the energy efficiency sector on both sides of the Channel and on future issues related to the use of new materials in ecoconstruction.

Interactive workshops and on-site visits also served to increase awareness of ecoconstruction among young people, in particular by introducing them to straw construction.



For more information, go to:
www.ecobee.eu



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A QUICK WORD WITH... NICOLE SOLOMONS

As project manager for Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust, Nicole Solomons is in charge of implementing the ECOBEE project, a cluster of organisations concerned with ecoconstruction.

In your opinion, what are the main difficulties in promoting ecoconstruction?

First and foremost, there is a lack of understanding of the ecoconstruction sector. I have also found that there is a lack of training for workers within the construction industry in particular training in the use of natural materials. Because these materials are often produced on a smaller scale it means they are more expensive, which is also a barrier to their use.

Have you observed differences between France and England?

Building Regulations and standards on energy efficiency vary between France and England, but the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive which introduced things such as Energy Performance Certificates has created a more standardised way of comparing energy usage in buildings. Other differences that affect how we use our energy is the cost of that energy. In France, for instance, electricity is cheaper than in England, so it is possible this may mean less emphasis on demand reduction than in the UK.

Could you explain the benefit of having the French and British work together in the area of ecoconstruction?

It is interesting to compare the differences in methods used, and for our countries to learn from one another. One example, within the Ecobee cluster: 5 buildings on each side of the Channel will be subject to a double energy audit to compare energy audits and methods used in France and England. This diagnosis will determine whether or not we achieve the same energy performance and arrive at the same recommendations on both sides of the Channel, and will allow us to deduce the strengths of each method to improve our practices in the future.



For more information, go to:
www.ecobee.eu

STAY CONNECTED...
WITH ECOBEE!

Promote the development of ecoconstruction and the energy efficiency of buildings within the Channel area: this is the challenge that the ECOBEE cluster has met. A map of organisations and ecoconstruction and energy efficiency projects undertaken within the cross-border Channel area is available online on the website.



To obtain useful information on the energy comfort
and ecoconstruction of homes, go to: www.ecobee-project.eu.

CONTACT:



Joint Technical Secretariat Interreg IV A
France (Channel) – England
Région Haute-Normandie
5 rue Robert Schuman - CS 21129
76 174 ROUEN Cedex (France)
Tel.: +33 / (0)2 35 52 21 15
Fax: +33 / (0)2 35 52 57 65
interregiv@hautenormandie.fr
www.interreg4a-channel.eu

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Editorial Manager: Barbara Léplivier
Editor: Juliette De Vecchi
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HEADING FOR RESULTS! THE HOME ENERGY KIT

Partners in the SEACS project have developed cross-border tools and methods to promote changes in energy consumption in the Channel area. Employees, citizens, and students can now use an online methodological toolbox created by partners of the project to help them reduce their energy consumption.

A home energy kit has also been designed to help school and college teachers increase awareness among their students and enable them to understand the importance of energy management and the impact of climate change. The kit replicates a model of a house, demonstrating good practices in terms of energy consumption and energy efficiency. Almost 70 schools have received training in this area. Models of houses to build and fact sheets on energy efficiency are available on the project website.



For more information, go to:
www.seacs.eu



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