

THE ECO-BUILDING

UNIT 1 SPRINGVALE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

CWMBRAN

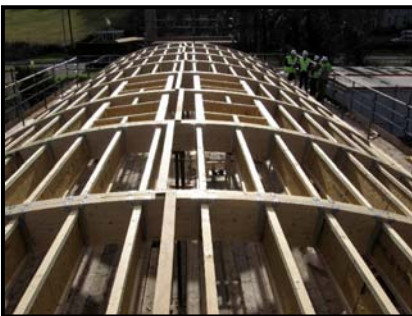
NP44 5AZ



Torfaen County Borough Council has piloted a very unusual building on one of its industrial estates. Completed in April 2006 the Eco-building is part of a trans-national project aimed at improving environmental management. Constructed from timber and insulated



using local straw bales, the building is designed to have minimal environmental impact and to demonstrate the use of sustainable materials and building techniques.



The industrial sector is an area of the built environment that is not automatically associated with environmentally friendly and sustainable construction techniques. The Eco-Building demonstrates a range of environmental technologies and best practice that could appeal to a range of businesses.

The Eco-building is a prefabricated timber panel construction that incorporates straw bales as the main insulation component.

Key themes for this low energy building include:

- Passive ventilation
- Maximisation of natural light
- Straw bale insulation
- Efficient heating system
- Energy efficient lighting
- Rainwater harvesting
- A renewable energy demonstration feature





The Eco-building is the first Fair Trade Workplace in Wales and Fair Trade refreshments are available. The building is also accredited to level 2 of the Green Dragon Environmental Standard.



The Eco-building is used as a venue to host environmental seminars, workshops and demonstrations for local businesses. Displays provide interpretation of the building itself and viewing panels have been incorporated into the building where possible, for example to show the straw-bale insulation. The building is open to visitors and available for events. Get in touch - we are keen to spread the message about environmentally friendly building design!



A new landscaping scheme has recently been completed at the Eco-building adding a welcome splash of colour and providing the finishing touches to this building with a difference.



The scheme complements the building and helps to enhance the local biodiversity through the inclusion of native trees and shrub species. These species include hazel & hawthorn, which can provide an important food source for urban wildlife as well as cover for nesting birds.



Other features of the scheme include a natural stone wall, which contains niches amongst the stones for biodiversity, and a cycle-rack for those visitors cycling to the Eco-building.

If you would like any information on the Eco-building or if you would like to book the building for conferences, seminars or would just like to come and have a tour please contact:

Ecobuilding@torfaen.gov.uk

Or

01633 648084

