



Thames Gateway

Institute for Sustainability

26 November 2008

WORLD CLASS INSTITUTE TO DELIVER COMMERCIAL SOLUTIONS TO SUSTAINABLE LIVING GETS GOVERNMENT GREEN LIGHT

Housing Minister Margaret Beckett announced the creation of a multi-million pound research centre based in the Thames Gateway set to support the development of practical and commercial innovations aimed at reducing negative impacts on the environment.

The Thames Gateway Institute for Sustainability represents collaboration by acknowledged global leaders in academia and business to form a public-private partnership driven by the needs of the commercial sector.

Over the next three years the Institute will deliver a new £40 million research centre in Dagenham and provide over £10 million of research and demonstration projects that will aid the delivery of the Thames Gateway.

The Institute's reputation for international research excellence will be combined with programmes aimed at demonstrating and sharing best practice in sustainable living; its unique approach to commercially driven research will bring new innovations to the market more quickly.

With the contribution of the environmental technology sector set to double over the next eight years – it is already worth over £24 billion to the UK economy – the Institute will act as a magnet for inward investment and stimulate new jobs growth.

A number of early research projects are focusing on construction, energy and waste.

Jeremy Watson, Director of Global Research at Arup and Board Member of the Institute, said: "We firmly believe that the Institute presents a huge opportunity, not only to reduce our environmental impact, but also to capitalise on this rapidly growing market. Arup is actively involved in China's eco-city project, together with partners



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such as HSBC and Sustainable Development Capital LLP. We are bringing our experience to the Thames Gateway Institute for Sustainability, with the aim of establishing a global network to share best practice in environmental technology.”

Ed Metcalfe, Chief Scientific Advisor at South East England Development Agency, said: “Located in Europe’s largest urban regeneration project, with facilities at Dagenham and Dartford, the Institute provides a real opportunity to test and implement new technologies on active development sites around the region. As such, it will provide credible, independent data on their performance in use, which will support the growth of British businesses investing in this area.”

Ian Short, Deputy Chief Executive London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, concluded: “The Institute is central to the government’s plan to establish Thames Gateway as the world’s first eco region. It will boost inward investment into the region and business incubation space at the Institute will help to stimulate local enterprise. This will drive economic growth and help to transform the perception of the Thames Gateway as it becomes a showcase for best practice in sustainable development and communities.”

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Notes to editors

Thames Gateway Institute for Sustainability is working in partnership with a number of organisations including:

Private sector: Arup, Biffa, BT, EDF, HSBC, ICI/Akzo Nobel, Jones Lang Lasalle, Land Securities, National Physical Laboratory, Pera, Pilkington, ProLogis, QinetiQ, Sustainable Development Capital LLP, Thames Water, TWI.

Academic institutions: Imperial College, King's College London, Oxford Brookes University, Queen Mary and Westfield College University of London, University College London, University of East London, University of Greenwich, University of Southampton, University of Surrey.

Public sector: Communities and Local Government, Dartford Borough Council, East of England Development Agency, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, London Development Agency, London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, South East England Development Agency.

Early research projects include:

Energy from landfill gases

This three year investigation will explore how to improve gas capture from landfill sites. This captures damaging greenhouse gas before it escapes into the atmosphere, and provides a source of fuel (methane). It will result in a demonstration of techniques for improving yields of gas from landfill sites to develop commercially viable systems.

The project will build on work currently funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) conducted by the University of Southampton in collaboration with Veolia at the Rainham landfill site.

Green roofs

This two year study will identify the most practical and environmentally friendly green roofs, suited to the London climate. They will be trialled and tested at Barking Riverside, with the aim that 40 per cent of the 10,800 new homes will feature a green roof.

The project aims to enhance the environment through the addition of significant green-space within the built environment. Results will be published to provide information and guidance to the industry.

Partners include Barking Riverside, Eco-Green Roofing, Living Roofs and University of East London.



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Retrofit envelope

This project will research, test and trial airtight 'house envelopes', insulation, renewable energy and water saving technologies on existing houses in the Thames Gateway. The aim is to deliver practical, affordable solutions that meet the higher level requirements of the Code for Sustainable Homes already in place for new build housing.

The trial will use a range of innovative British products and systems. It will provide credible, independent data on performance in use to build confidence in the market for these innovations and support their business growth in both UK and international markets.

Partners include Arup Associates, Dartford Borough Council, Eaga Group, National Physical Laboratory, Oxford Brookes University, Stroma Technology and Taylor Wimpey.

Behavioural dimensions of sustainability

This project is investigating the social and behavioural aspects of sustainability: how people interact with and respond to different urban infrastructures. The research aims to unravel the complex links between lifestyles, values and the environment. It will link closely to practical initiatives and seek to understand how communities negotiate sustainability.

The Economic and Social Research Council funded project is hosted by University of Surrey and involves four departments: the Centre for Environmental Strategy, the Department of Sociology, the Environmental Psychology Research Group and the Surrey Energy Economics Centre.