



Edge activities - summary

In the two years since the last Edge report the group has been busy on a wide range of fronts with the publication and launch of the five Edge Futures books, the research project on housing the elderly in collaboration with the Department for Communities and Local Government, preparations for the COP 15 in Copenhagen in December 2009 and working with the government's Chief Construction Adviser on the Low Carbon Construction report, in addition to debates and other events. The Edge also maintains its links with its sponsor institutions (the RIBA, ICE, CIBSE, IStructE & RICS).

The Edge committee

The Edge 'Committee' continues to meet on a monthly basis with several members achieving additional prominence:

- 1 Paul Jowitt became the President of the Institute of Civil Engineers in November 2008
- 2 Bill Bordass has been a visiting fellow at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California
- 3 Robin Nicholson has chaired the Zero-carbon Task Force for DCSF
- 4 Andy Ford has been appointed a Vice-President of CIBSE
- 5 Sunand Prasad, the immediate past President of the RIBA, has joined

Other members of the committee continue their active involvement with the sponsoring construction and built environment institutions as well as other groups including; Constructing Excellence, the Strategic Forum, the British Property Federation, the Building Research Establishment, CIBE, the Civic Trust, the Construction Industry Council, the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP), the Global Commons Institute (GCI), the All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group (APPCCG), Good Homes Alliance, SPONGE, the Royal Society for the Arts and the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC).

Members maintain regular contact with government departments, including; DECC, CLG, DEFRA, DCMS, OGC, DCSF and The Cabinet Office, as well as ministers and members of both houses of parliament. Members of the Edge teach and lecture widely, both in the UK and abroad as well as being active professionally in the design and delivery of significant projects across the world.

New recruits to the Edge committee include:

- 1 Mike Hitchens, Pell Frischmann
- 2 Sarah Ikioka, The Architecture Foundation
- 3 Richard Lorch, Building Research and Information
- 4 Michael Pawlyn, Exploration Architecture
- 5 Sunand Prasad, Penoyre & Prasad
- 6 Lars Ostefeld Reimann, Ramboll
- 7 Jane Wernick, Jane Wernick Associates
- 8 Francis Li, Buro Happold
- 9 Andrew Comer, Buro Happold
- 10 Dorte Jorgensen, Atkins
- 11 Stephen Hill, C20 Futureplanners

Guy Battle
Battle McCarthy
Dr Bill Bordass
Usable Buildings Trust
Chris Beauman
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Andrew Comer
Buro Happold
Paddy Conaghan
Hoare Lea
Dr Frank Duffy PPRIBA
Co-Founder DEGW
Rachel Fisher
CABE
Prof Max Fordham PPCIBSE
Max Fordham LLP
Andy Ford
Mott MacDonald Fulcrum
Simon Foxell
The Architects Practice
Bill Gething
Sustainability + Architecture
Jim Green
Baylight Properties
Prof Peter Guthrie
University of Cambridge
David Hampton
The Carbon Coach
Dr Jan Hellings
Olympic Development Agency
Mike Hitchens
Pell Frischmann
Sarah Ikioka
Architecture Foundation
Prof Paul Jowitt, Pres.ICE
Heriot-Watt University
Janet Kidner
Lend Lease
Francis Li
Buro Happold
Chani Leahong
Mott MacDonald Fulcrum
Monica Lewis
Arup
Richard Lorch
Building Research and Information
Mike Murray
1 to 1 Solutions Ltd
Robin Nicholson
Edward Cullinan Architects
Michael Pawlyn
Exploration Architecture
Adam Poole
Buro Happold
Sunand Prasad PPRIBA
Penoyre and Prasad LLP
Lars Ostefeld Reimann
Ramboll
Yasmin Shariff
Dennis Sharp Architects
Lynne Sullivan
sustainableBYdesign
Chris Twinn
Arup
Bill Watts
Max Fordham LLP
Prof Mark Whitby PPICE
Co-Founder Whitby Bird
Jane Wernick
Jane Wernick Associates
Jane Powell
Debate Secretary

SUPPORTED BY
Carbon Trust, CIBSE, ICE, RIBA
RICS, IStructE

Edge Projects

The Edge is actively involved with a number of projects, including:

Preparing for the COPs

The Edge has been active in preparing for the UN Climate Change Conferences in Poznan (COP14, 2008) and Copenhagen (COP15, 2009): co-ordinating professional input from and helping to develop the thinking of the UK construction industry and attending the conference as part of the Global Commons Institute and Sahara Forests delegations.

Edge members Michael Pawlyn and Sunand Prasad both delivered papers at the Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009

The Edge will continue its involvement with the UN climate change programme and provide a point of information and engagement for the British construction industry on climate change issues.

Briefing the Chief Construction Adviser

Following an invitation from the government's newly appointed Chief Construction Adviser, Paul Morrell, to input into his Low Carbon Construction review commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Edge developed a series of open 'Questions' for consideration and acted as a sounding board for Morrell in development of the initial Emerging Findings report of the Taskforce. The Edge's formal response to the Emerging Findings report is available on request.

The Edge continues its dialogue and debate with Paul Morrell in his advisory role.

'Fixing' the housing stock

In 2008 the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) invited the Edge to develop thinking around housing and energy efficiency for the elderly. The Edge responded through a series of workshops and briefing meetings with CLG officials culminating in a series of options presented to the CLG team in October 2010 that underlined the importance of halving the energy demand from over 20 million homes across the UK by 2050.

The work for CLG fed into Edge's recent response to the Low Carbon Construction 'Emerging Findings' Report (above) advocating, inter alia, a demonstration project/programme – capable of being scalable to national level and including the engagement of a full range of stakeholders - to lay the groundwork for a full scale roll out. Soundings are currently being taken on hosting such a demonstration in Stroud – a 30,000 home transition town.

Edge Cities

The Edge is in the initial stages of a project on the future of cities, drawing on the considerable experience and knowledge of Edge members and associates on this topic. Discussions are underway with the Conservative policy thinktank ResPublica, amongst others to develop this as a joint activity in the context of the coalition government's proposals around a 'big society'.

Edge Projects cont...

RIBA's Combating Climate Change campaign

In 2006 The Edge challenged the construction industry professional institutes to adopt climate change policies and to consider the Contraction and Convergence (C&C) model as a basis to underpin this. The RIBA responded with a Climate Change Policy endorsing C&C and as a result four members of the Edge have helped the RIBA develop the Institute's Combating Climate Change campaign and specifically to publish a series of guides aimed at members of the RIBA, but available to all, on Climate Change.

The campaign has now published 8 free toolkits in both printed and downloadable formats to assist understanding of and design for climate change. See www.architecture.com/FindOutAbout/Sustainabilityandclimatechange/ClimateChange/Toolkits.aspx

Carbon Counting – The Edge pledge

The Edge continues to promote the Edge Pledge Carbon counting tool. It now forms the basis of CIBSE's Carbon Counting tool

International links

The Edge has always maintained international links through its members own work placements and contacts but in the last two years this has developed in new ways.

- The Edge has attracted many more corresponding members who engage in email discussions and will attend meetings only if and when they are in London
- Groups in cities across the world are interested in replicating the Edge's multidisciplinary model to bring construction industry professionals together on a regular basis to address issues of mutual and professional concern.
- The Edge has established links with London Embassies and High Commissions who are keen to engage with the issues that the group of professionalism, energy and climate change that are core to the group. Debates have been held in Canada House and the Danish Embassy and discussions are underway with a further group of London embassies, led by the Embassy of Italy, over other joint projects

Edge Debates

At the core of the Edge's activities is the holding of debates. These involve an invited audience, including senior members of the sponsoring institutions, civil servants, academics and practitioners as well as politicians and influential public figures, to discuss and make sense of pressing issues facing the construction industry and its professions. Over the past two years the Edge has run a series of debates aiming, as ever, at challenging the thinking of the professional institutes and others in the construction and property industry.

Edge Debate 39 was the first of the Edge debates to be filmed for the website and, funding permitting, all future debates will be recorded and made available in this way.

September 22nd 2008 - ICE - Debate 34

Influencing Copenhagen

Chair: Keith Clarke, Speakers: Chris Beauman, Professor Peter Guthrie

October 28th 2008 - Canada House – Debate 35

Are you dwelling comfortably?

Chair: David Strong, Speakers: Bill Bordass, Richard Lorch, Michael Kelly, Philip Parnell

November 12th 2008 – Canada House – Debate 36

The 80/20 Debate

Chair: Paul King, Speakers: Paddy Conaghan, Chris Twinn

July 7th 2009 – Fulcrum – Debate 37

You and Whose Army? Construct a low carbon economy? We haven't got the skills

Chair: Andy Ford,

Speakers: Fionnuala Costello, Rob Manning, Liz Reason, Jane Wernick

September 19th 2009 – Danish Embassy – Debate 38

Engineering the Road to Copenhagen

Introduction: The Danish Ambassador, Chair: Isabel Hilton

Speakers: Colin Challen MP, Anders Hasselager, Jeremy Leggett, Alison Cooke

10th June 2010 - ICE - Debate 39

"The focus on carbon is hindering the effort to reduce carbon emissions"

Chair: Paul Morrell, Chief Construction Adviser

Speakers: Guy Battle, Bill Bordass, Stephen Hill, Sunand Prasad, Bridget Rosewell,

Future Edge debates are in development - see below. A series of regional debates are also planned in conjunction with CIBSE.

The Edge committee plans the debates and reviews and follows up on the resulting outcomes Francis Li acts as Minutes secretary, while Jane Powell continues to manage events and finances.

Edge Futures

The Edge Futures series of five books were published in May 2008 in collaboration with Black Dog Publishing

Living and community: by Geoff Mulgan (Director of the Young Foundation)

Education and creativity: by Simon Foxell (The Architects Practice) and William J Mitchell (Director of the MIT Design Laboratory).

Transport and neighbourhood: by Hank Dittmar (The Princes Foundation)

Work and the city: by Frank Duffy (DEGW)

Globalism and regionalism: by Jonathon Porritt (Foundation for the Future)

The books have been developed by an editorial team drawn from the Edge committee. Funding has been obtained from a number of sponsors including The Carbon Trust. The sponsors will be acknowledged in each of the books.

A series of launch events for Edge Futures were held in May and June 2008:

Living and community

Geoff Mulgan with Adam Poole, London

Education and creativity

Simon Foxell with Robin Nicholson, Birmingham

Work and the city

Frank Duffy with David Gann, London

Transport and neighbourhood

Hank Dittmar with Bill Gething, London

Regionalism and globalism

Jonathon Porritt with Chris Twinn, CABE, London

Edge workstreams 2010-11

1 Debates

The Edge will continue to arrange debates on a range of themes, including professional, wellbeing and sustainability issues. Future debates are planned on: flooding, sustainable urbanism, health and safety, quality of construction, water resources, drivers for innovation and intelligent infrastructure.

2 Brokerage

Brokerage will continue to be an important activity of the Edge and the group will carry on developing useful linkages and relationships between external parties. The main focus will still be on the main professional institutes and their presidents and senior executives, but links will be maintained and developed with other groups and government bodies, especially including those in Parliament and leading public sector bodies such as the Greater London Authority and Government departments and agencies.

Edge workstreams cont...

3 Thinking

Thinking and discussion is core to the Edge's operation; the development of new perspectives and strategies to better understand the bigger picture and to propose policies and means that challenge professional and institutional inertia.

The Edge will continue to focus on the built environment and in particular the potential policy agendas of its sponsor institutes. The Edge has the freedom to think widely and incisively, consulting experts and provocative theorists and practitioners as it does so. The Edge uses that freedom to develop and influence the approach and policy development for the mainstream institutional bodies as well as to inform decision making processes amongst designers, built environment professionals, contractors, clients, regulators and many others.

The Edge's capacity for expert and wide-ranging thinking, involving experienced senior members of all the construction professions, is available to outside groups and professional and governmental bodies interested in engaging with the Edge, sharing thinking and being prepared to act as sounding boards for each others' ideas. Recent engagements include sessions with CLG, ResPublica, BIS as well as with the group's sponsor institutions.

4 Edge Cities

The Edge will develop its thinking on cities, focusing on the core Edge concerns of professional multidisciplinary and energy and drawing upon the range of expertise available to the group.

5 Edge Futures

Following the success of the first set of Edge Futures books the Edge is proposing a second series to tackle a different set of themes but still with futures thinking within the context of the built environment at their core. Subjects may include: Cities, Housing, Health, Energy strategies and Happiness

To support Edge Futures The Edge is proposing to hold an annual sponsored essay competition focusing on future developments at the edge of interdisciplinary thinking between the built environment professions. The competition will be open to members of the sponsoring institutes (including sister institutes overseas) below the age of 40.

6 The Edge website

The Edge website www.edgedebate.com was completely renewed in 2009 and now includes reports of the majority of the Edges debates. But the site still needs input and development if it is to fulfill the Edge's ambitions and aspirations for it.

Edge Funding

The Edge currently runs without external funding and is dependant on the goodwill and contributions of its members, their employers and its sponsor institutes (the RIBA, ICE, Cibse, RICS and IStructE). In the recent past the Edge has been generously funded by the Arup Foundation and in particular the Carbon Trust.

The sponsor institutes provide support in kind through the hosting of debates at their premises along with the provision of refreshments and access to senior members and staff. The individual companies of Edge committee members generously host Edge committee meetings on a regular basis.

The Edge also benefits greatly from the time provided by a range of senior members of the construction professions including architects, engineers, surveyors, planners, social scientists and others, including several former presidents and vice presidents from the institutes who are active on the Edge committee. The contribution, in kind, from these individuals is conservatively calculated to be at least £150,000 p.a

The Edge is currently and actively seeking funding for the year 2010-11 and beyond in order to continue and develop its activities, particularly for running the Edge debates strand, its Edge futures work and developing the website. The group will pursue such funding from a range of potential sponsors and funders, as it has in previous years for the Edge book project, both in capital and in kind, in order to develop into new areas and consolidate its position at the cutting edge of debate.