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Carbon Trust, CIBSE, ICE, RIBA
RICS, IStructE
www.edgedebate.com

EDGE Report - August 2011

The Edge is a multidisciplinary built environment think tank with members drawn from across the built environment professions and beyond

Edge activities - summary

In the last year the Edge has maintained its usual series of high level policy debates, has been involved in a number government related consultation processes and has launched its Research edge initiative.

The Edge has maintained its links with its sponsor institutions (the RIBA, ICE, CIBSE, IStructE & RICS) and is exploring formal links with the RTPi.

The Edge committee

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

- 1 Lynne Sullivan received an OBE in the 2011 New Year's honours for services to architecture
- 2 Andy Ford became the President of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineer in June 2011
- 3 Professor Paul Jowitt received a CBE in the 2011 Queens Birthday honours for services to Technology
- 4 Dorte Rich Jørgensen has been admitted to Balliol Hall of Fame
- 5 Chris Twinn has become an Arup Fellow

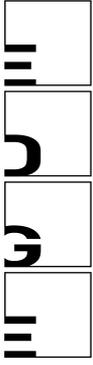
Other members of the committee continue their active involvement with the sponsoring construction and built environment institutions as well as other groups including; the Academy of Urbanism, the Aldersgate Group, the All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group (APPCCG), the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), Building Futures, the British Property Federation, the Building Research Establishment, Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC), the Civic Trust, the Construction Industry Council, Design Council CABE, the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP), the Global Commons Institute (GCI), Green Deal forums, Good Homes Alliance, SPONGE, the Royal Society for the Arts, the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) and the Zero Carbon Hub,

Members maintain regular contact with government departments, including; DECC, CLG, DEFRA, DCMS, DfE 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 Simon Smith, Ramboll
- 2 Elanor Warwick, Former Head of Research CABE
- 3 Dr Alison Cooke, Cooke Associates
- 4 Albert Taylor, AKT II
- 5 David Adams, Zero Carbon Hub & Willmott Dixon
- 6 Caroline Cole, Colander

The Edge has also welcomed Peter Bishop back onto the committee after his time at Design for London and the London Development Authority



Edge workstreams 2011-12

1 Debates 10-11

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 year 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.

Debate 41 – September 22nd 2010, Southampton (with CIBSE)

For and against combined heat & power community heating

Chair: Dr Mike Murray, Speakers: Councillor Matthew Dean, Bill Watts, Phil Jones

Debate 42 - January 11th 2011, Building Centre

Can we afford educational barriers to a low carbon industry?

Chair: Frank Duffy,

Speakers: Duane Passman, Lorraine Landels, Matthew Bacon, Robert Mull, Fionn Stevenson, Richard Parnaby

Debate 43 - April 20th 2011, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Low Carbon Buildings – truth or dare?

Chair: Liz Peace, Speakers: Will Ray, David Adams, Kevin Couling

Debate 44, July 7th 2011, ICE

UK construction resources – is there a plan?

Chair: Dr Scott Steedman,

Speakers: Jane Thornback, Gillian Hobbs, Hugh Mulcahey, John White

Future Edge debates are scheduled for the autumn of 2011, including a further debate in the series of regional debates run in conjunction with CIBSE.

Debate 45, September 8th CIBSE Presidential Debate – South West

Debate 46, September 15th What does it mean to be a building professional in the 21st century?

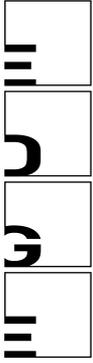
Debate 47, October 27th Design leadership (with Reading University)

Debate 48, November 2nd Export potential of low carbon expertise

Debate 49, November __ Women are key to changing the construction industry

Further debates are planned into 2012: on happiness, lifecycle carbon accounting, planning & growth, evidence-based decision making, energy charging, transport and new models of ownership.

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 workstreams cont...

2 Consultation

The Edge offers its services to government, built environment bodies and professional organisations as a source of positive criticism and considered ideas. In the last year it has worked with

- The government's Chief Construction Adviser, Paul Morrell, on the Low Carbon Construction report
- The Bishop Review of built environment design support for Design Council CABE
- The Carbon Trust on Building the future today and Building Accelerators
- The RICS on its Strategic foresight 2030 report

And in the future ...

- Department of Communities and Local Government on growth

3 Brokerage

Fundamental to the Edge's work is the idea of linkage and making connections between different disciplines and between the worlds of research, practice and policy-making. In the last year this has, as ever, involved working with the Edge's sponsoring professional institutes, their presidents and senior executives; with government and their advisers and agencies; with think tanks, arms-length delivery bodies and pressure groups. The busiest of these brokerage activities in the last year has been the work of the Edge's research group pulling together research councils, practitioners and government representatives in a series of meetings – see research Edge below.

The Edge is also pursuing its plan for a large scale housing retrofit trial project to upgrade the energy and carbon efficiency of a whole town.

4 Thinking

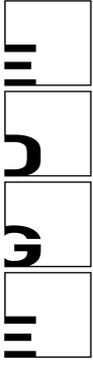
The Edge is a thinking organisation, providing a forum for a wide range of industry expertise to come together to address current issues, policy development and emerging ideas, to reconsider previous experience and bring extensive practical knowledge to bear on present problems.

The Edge's focus is the built environment and the professional bodies that work with it; but it has the freedom to think widely and to propose initiatives and policy ideas that address the big picture. It will continue to use its institutional freedom to challenge, to provoke and to influence. Importantly, the Edge's thinking capacity is available to other built environment bodies to help them develop thinking, share ideas, test propositions: a necessary sounding board for the industry only used to dialogue within its own segment.

5 Edge Futures

It's proposed to follow up the Edge Futures books (2008) with a new volume of essays. These will look back from the future and will cover a set of new topics not or only partly dealt with in the earlier books. The essays will focus on a set of specific topic areas in order to examine issues that will affect the built environment in the decades to come.

The essays will look back from 2025 – 30 with each topic covered by a pair of authors: a senior industry thinker, drawn from Edge members and debate chairpersons, matched with a younger member from the Edge family of firms.



Edge workstreams cont...

6 Research Edge

The research Edge is subsidiary group of the Edge working to connect research, practice and policy-making communities in the built environment sector and to promote open access to publicly funded research. There is a particular concern to ensure that information on effective measures to counter and adapt to climate change flows rapidly and effectively between the communities.

In 2011 the research Edge has run sessions between the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the Technology Strategy Board and a range of experts and practitioners to help develop research programmes, methodologies and dissemination.

The research Edge will provide services, drawing on the knowledge and experience of the Edge family including:

- Brainstorming
- Consultation with both member & other organisations
- Events – presentations, debates & seminars
- Matchmaking and brokerage
- Road testing and providing guinea pig projects
- Reviewing proposals
- Practice input - experience & feedback
- Peer review
- Publishing and information campaigns
- Imprimatur & branding
- Feedback

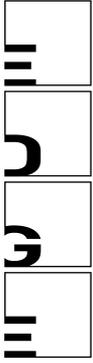
7 International Edge

The Edge continues to develop international links, with several members working overseas, corresponding members in many different countries and proposals for new 'sister' Edge groups in various cities around the world.

The Edge's links with various London Embassies and High Commissions continue, and events are planned with the Danish, Italian and Dutch embassies including the Cities conference to be held in October 2011 in London.

8 The Edge connections

The Edge website www.edgedebate.com includes reports of the majority of the Edges debates along with think pieces and links to other Edge activities. The Edge also has an on-line debate forum on Linked-in. This is currently restricted to Edge members but it is planned to open it to a wider audience in the coming year.



Edge Funding

The Edge currently runs without external funding and is dependent 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 current and former presidents and vice presidents from the institutes who are active on the Edge committee.

The Edge is currently and actively seeking funding for the year 2011-12 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 Edge August 2011