Air aid

EcoConsulting concludes its analysis of the remaining Pollution credits, which relate to landscape, water, and air pollution.

Providing a portion of a developments heating and electricity needs through renewable energy has multiple undeniable advantages.

Pol 3: Reduction of Surface Runoff

Credit Background: Currently, about two million houses in England and Wales are located in regions with potential flooding hazard. Implementing measures to diminish extreme rainwater run-off from roofs and hard landscaping areas reduces flooding risks to public sewers and natural water streams. Such measures include the specification of porous paving for hard surfaces, letting rainwater to drench through the paving into natural water tables rather than into municipal sewage systems. Run-off from roofs is minimised by designing-in holding facilities or soakaways to lessen peak run-off quantities.

Credit Benefits: Reduced flooding risks, alleviate waste water treatment plants during heavy downpours, avoid contamination of water courses with untreated waste water.

Credit Requirements: Two EcoHomes pollution credits are available: one for specifying water run-off attenuation systems for roofs, and the second for hard surfaces. In essence, detailed calculations and proofs need to be provided to demonstrate that the rainwater holding facilities and/or the sustainable drainage systems are designed to reduce rainwater run-off by 50% at peak times. Note that a green roof qualifies as an effective rainwater holding technique.

Pol 4: Zero Emission Energy Source

Credit Background: Providing a portion of a developments heating and electricity needs through renewable energy has multiple undeniable advantages. It contributes to reducing the emissions of greenhouse gazes and other pollutants, consequently reducing atmospheric pollution. In addition, it helps to limit the pressure on the planet's finite fossil fuel resources as well as lessening the UK's need to rely on increasingly expensive fuel imports from unstable countries. Since this credit rewards the supply of at least 10% of the projects energy needs through renewable energy, the more energy efficient the development is, the more cost-effective the renewable sources are and the more the occupants benefit from lower utility costs.

Credit Benefits: Lower impact on climate change and global pollution; reduction of internal and external air pollution in houses with related health benefits.

Credit Requirements: One credit is obtained by demonstrating that at least 10% of either the space and water heating demand or the non-heating electricity demand within the residential development is provided from local renewable energy. This includes PVs, solar water heating panels, local wind power, biomass heating, ground source heat pumps, micro-hydro power. Community schemes meeting the above requirements are acceptable; however sourcing electricity through 'green tariffs' remote sources does not comply.

Pol 3: Ease of compliance		
EASY	MODERATE	COMPLEX ✔

Pol 4: Ease of compliance		
EASY	MODERATE	COMPLEX ✔

READERLINK 436