

# The Oxford Times

## **Workshop builds on a green theme**

Builders, developers and local authorities have no choice when it comes to being responsible for the environment.

That is the message Dr Richard Williams, of the Environment Centre in Southampton, will be giving delegates at a free workshop designed to tackle issues affecting climate change. The event is being run by the South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE)

Dr Williams will provide answers to questions such as the likely impact of the Stern report on Government policy; how to design and build a zero-carbon home; how the Code for Sustainable Construction will work and how to implement sustainable procurement.

Laura Bramley, SECBE project manager for sustainable construction, highlights the Code for Sustainable Homes, which is already a requirement for public sector developers and will be mandatory for the private sector by April 2008.

She added: "How far have local authority councilors and planners delved into the 700-page document? And do developers understand the technical requirements?"

Training and support needs will be identified so that SECBE can work with its partners to organise suitable provision for the sector. Local authority delegates will also be briefed on SusPurPol, a joint purchasing policy being run for 11 councils in South Hampshire, which is helping to achieve effective sustainable procurement.

Dr Williams added: "These seminars will really help fill the knowledge gap for local authorities who worry their staff don't know how to deliver or validate policies,. "And as for developers, they will find out exactly what they have to do and how much it will cost."

The free workshop will take place on July 10 at the Kassam Stadium, Grenoble Road, Oxford from 9.30am-12.30 pm, followed by lunch. To book, visit [www.secbe.org.uk](http://www.secbe.org.uk) and for more information contact Laura Bramley, [laura@secbe.org.uk](mailto:laura@secbe.org.uk) or call 0118 920 7200.

Oxford Times - 10:33am Wednesday 27th June 2007