



February Newsletter

The Carbon Savings Alliance e-newsletter for business partners

February 2013

Dear business partner,

Hello, and a very warm welcome to the first edition of the business partner newsletter from the Carbon Savings Alliance (CSA), designed to share information with members and keep them informed on matters relating to carbon and energy reduction initiatives and strategy.

If you have any comments, feedback or newsworthy items, please let us know by sending an e mail to: info@carbonsavingsalliance.co.uk

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ECO Phase 1 gets the "Green" light

The CSA unveils plans for their first round of ECO funding pilot scheme.

Read more about the scheme [here](#)



In the News

Steve Drew & David Greensmith speak about the impact of carbon reduction within future asset investment plans.

Find out what David & Steve think and their vision for a Low Carbon future [here](#)

The 10 Step Plan

The 10 steps to whole stock assessment.

Read more about our thoughts on the 10 stage process to carbon reduction within stock [here](#)



This month's Top Stories

ECO Phase 1 gets the "Green" light:

The CSA has been offered a £20m ECO funding contract, with one of the big six, as part of the 1st phase. The scheme is intended to help homeowners and landlords insulate hard to treat cavities and solid wall properties by providing improved thermal efficiencies to the fabric of the building, significantly reducing CO₂ emissions and home owner's energy bills, whilst at the same time improving SAP ratings.

The 1st phase will deal with around 3,700 homes across the South of England for 7 Social Landlords who are members of the CSA, with an initial pilot scheme focussed on tackling a group of properties in the North Somerset and Wiltshire area. The launch of these pilot schemes is aimed for as early as May 2013.

The initial pilot schemes will be set up to help SME contractors develop their skills in Solid Wall applications, which will strengthen their ability in future works to CSA members. This development programme will be supported by one of CSA's strategic partners RegenSW, under their SME development programme.



In the News:

Steve Drew of Alliance Ventures and David Greensmith of Aster Property offer their views and outline their vision for a Low Carbon economy.

Steve Drew – Alliance Ventures & the CSA

“This is an exciting time for us all with a real opportunity to work with the utility companies and the ECO fund to support our tenants.”

“Energy costs have always been a significant part of our household bills. The trends we are experiencing now are increasing these costs to a point where some of our tenants are making choices about leaving the heating off permanently in their homes. Our work to improve the performance of the homes we manage has moved from the ‘nice to do’ to the ‘essential’ category for social landlords. Very few landlords have the financial capacity to bring about these changes, however the opportunity is now available under ECO where we can make a difference.”

“As might be expected with something of this scale, there will be some work to do. The objective behind the Carbon Savings Alliance is to do this work once for the benefit of many and successfully transfer the funding into our homes.”

“The value of the larger landlord consortium places CSA as a ‘main player’ with the utility companies, perhaps even in a unique position having a solution to the ECO liability that is placed on them. Our partnership culture is a real strength and I look forward to meeting you very soon to plan our next steps together”

David Greensmith – Aster Property and the CSA

“Energy provision is on all of our agendas. The costs to our customers combined with changes in the welfare reform make this a key priority for Social Landlords.



“The CSA, a strategic consortium of Social Landlords, aims to tackle these challenging issues head on; we have jointly developed carbon reduction and energy policies to help housing associations and local authorities meet their moral and social obligations for reducing energy costs”.

“The CSA will be able to support you through this process with our ten step plan to help you achieve the **Carbon Charter** for social housing”



The 10 Step Plan:

The CSA has developed a 10 stage plan and process to help Social Landlords and Housing Associations in formulating a cost effective carbon reduction strategy for their stock. Adopting the guidance under the Homes Energy Conservation Act (July 2012), we will look to produce carbon reduction plans, aiming to reduce carbon emissions by 29% by 2017 based on 2009 baseline data.

This will involve establishing the baseline figure and undertaking a whole stock assessment to determine the amount of CO₂ required to be saved. By blending the amount of grant funding available, along with planned expenditure and technologies that attract “Green Cash back”, the process will look to significantly reduce the capital investment burden likely to be placed upon Social Landlords.

We are also looking at alternative ways in which some of the capital cost can be recovered through the rental system as an alternative proposal to Green Deal, we will be looking to discuss and debate these ideas at our next workshop.

Other News in Brief

PV Framework Continues to Thrive:

Alliance Homes PV framework continues to go from strength to strength as we near the 5,000th home to benefit from the process. With further planned increases in tenant's energy bills and the impact of proposed welfare reforms, including the controversial bedroom tax, more and more enquiries are being made, to see how PV could help alleviate the financial burdens placed upon Social Housing tenants.

Our award winning framework is now well-established, with good yield and performance data. Having seen a 60% decrease in capital cost since the framework inception, coupled with a Feed In Tariff that has now remained constant for 9 months, PV can make a significant difference to tenants lives whilst at the same time delivering a healthy return on investment.

To obtain further information please contact info@carbonsavingsalliance.co.uk

The Next CSA Workshop:

The next workshop will be held at Alliance Homes Harbour Court offices in Portishead Friday 1st March 2013, 10:30 start. Information and agenda items have been sent to both existing and new members and a light lunch will be provided to let members network at the end of the event.

EWI/IWI Procurement:

The Carbon Savings Alliance are currently working with lawyers to post a full OJEU notice by Mid-March 2013. The supply and install tender will be an accelerated process where we will review/award tender submissions directly after those contractors have successfully met the PQQ criteria.

Our target is to have a fully compliant OJEU tender in place by early summer. It will cover all CSA member areas in the South, South West and South Wales.

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