

# PRESS release

## **Isover's understanding of Passivhaus design increases**

1 September 2011

Saint-Gobain Isover's technical development manager, Mark Allen is now a fully certified Passivhaus Designer, putting him into a small group of people who are able to advise on constructing a Passivhaus building in the UK.

The Carbonlite Passivhaus Designer Course and exam, run by The Sustainable Building Association (AECB), has been designed specifically for the UK industry and uses UK building examples. The two week intensive course ends in an exam, that if successfully passed makes attendees fully qualified Passivhaus Designers.

The course focuses on five key areas including; an introduction to Passivhaus, the science behind it, construction of a Passivhaus, building services for Passivhaus and how to use the Passivhaus Planning Package (PHPP). It also recommends that attendees take part in the thermal bridging course which takes place alongside the other units of the course. This provides a balance between practical and theoretical learning which no other course in the UK provides.

Because of Isover's sponsorship of the AECB courses, Mark was able to take part in the pilot course and gain his accreditation before it becomes available to the wider industry this month.

m/f...

Your environment. It's the nature of our business.

2/...

When asked about the benefits of being a qualified Passivhaus Designer, Mark said: “Being able to advise on Passivhaus is a huge benefit for Isover as we can increase awareness of issues such as the differences between UK regulations and Passivhaus implementation, thermal bridging and looping, U-value design, air tightness and indoor air quality, as well as how material specification or detailing can affect the overall energy performance of a building and how Isover can add value to engineer clients’ fabrics and help them address these issues.

“By raising awareness of these considerations while also demonstrating that Passivhaus design isn’t as complicated as many believe it to be we can increase the number of buildings being constructed in the UK to Passivhaus standard and ultimately help improve occupants’ quality of life and wellbeing. It’s also a great way for us to raise awareness of our Multi-Comfort House concept and how it builds upon Passivhaus principles in optimising occupant’s wellbeing by taking into account acoustic and safety features, indoor air quality and energy saving measures.”

To attend the course previous experience or a qualification in the building sector is required. To find out more about the Passivhaus design course visit [www.carbonlite.org.uk](http://www.carbonlite.org.uk)

ends

(377 words)

### **Note to Editors**

#### **Saint-Gobain Isover**

Your environment. It’s the nature of our business. Isover, part of Saint-Gobain Group, develops sustainable insulation solutions to protect both the built environment and the natural environment and is the only glass mineral wool manufacturer to achieve the maximum possible recycled content, 86 per cent, using recycled glass that would otherwise go to landfill.

Isover products provide the highest performing energy efficiency and acoustic insulation solutions that are safe to use and that help protect the environment. Over a typical 50 year lifespan of a building Isover insulation will save 300 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, which equates to over 375 times more CO<sub>2</sub> than is needed for its manufacture.

Isover insulation warms and protects one in three European and one in five American homes. The company is committed to ongoing R&D to deliver technical excellence and global leadership in glass mineral wool insulation.

### **Saint-Gobain**

Saint-Gobain, the world leader in the habitat and construction markets, designs, manufactures and distributes building materials, providing innovative solutions to the challenges of growth, energy efficiency and environmental protection. With 2010 sales of €40.1 billion, Saint-Gobain operates in 64 countries and has nearly 190,000 employees.

In the UK and Ireland, some of the best known and respected companies in the construction industry are part of Saint-Gobain. Alongside Isover, these include British Gypsum, Solaglas, Weber, Saint-Gobain Glass, Saint-Gobain PAM, Pasquill, Ecophon and Saint-Gobain Solar. Together they offer a range of high performance energy-saving products and solutions to help create a more sustainable built environment. For more information on Saint-Gobain visit [www.saint-gobain.co.uk](http://www.saint-gobain.co.uk).



- ★ Less Materials
- ★ Less Energy
- ★ Less Emissions

For further editorial information contact Tonic Public Relations:

- Kim Whitaker: Tel:01527 834647  
Email: [kim@tonicpublicrelations.co.uk](mailto:kim@tonicpublicrelations.co.uk)
- Tessa Biddulph: Tel:01527 834675  
Email: [tessa@tonicpublicrelations.co.uk](mailto:tessa@tonicpublicrelations.co.uk)