Living up to the Green Build Challenge

The British government's zero carbon 2050 agenda and new legislation will define the future of the building industry in Britain. But soaring energy prices are making the delivery of energy efficient buildings and retrofits a top priority everywhere. Austria is no exception, but its response to long-term climate change and regulatory pressure has seen it become a recognised leader in sustainable building technologies, notably playing a key role in the development of the first passive houses.

As a contribution to the momentum of COP26 in Glasgow, ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA London, the Commercial Section of the Austrian Embassy, will host a British - Austrian Web Symposium from 11am – 12.30pm on 2 November 2021.

The event will explore the challenges, solutions and best practices on the path to net zero carbon buildings - engaging with an audience of local authorities, construction companies and key stakeholders from the building industry.

Gavin Killip from the University of Oxford Environmental Change Institute will take a critical look at whether the UK net zero carbon strategy is actually realistic. In the second keynote Susanne Formanek, President of the Austrian Institute for Building Biology and Ecology, will talk about the Austrian collaborative approach to delivering energy efficient buildings. The keynote presentations will be followed by four best practice case studies presented by UK and Austrian companies.

OPPORTUNITIES AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Government is ramping up energy efficient standards: The long awaited publication of the Heat & Building Strategy is expected before COP26. The Future Homes Standard is due to be introduced from 2025, with a Future Building Standard for non-domestic buildings to follow. The required upgrading of energy performance regulations will begin by 2022 with implications for heating and insulation. But while all these changes will undoubtedly have strong impact on the future of building and the entire construction industry in the UK many questions and uncertainties remain.

BRITISH - AUSTRIAN WEB SYMPOSIUM ON "GREEN BUILDING"

In view of Austria's international reputation as an innovator and thought leader in sustainable building technologies and on the occasion of COP26, ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA (Commercial Section of the Austrian Embassy) will host a web symposium to discuss challenges and share experiences on the path to net zero carbon buildings.

THE KEYNOTES

- **Gavin Killip** will take a critical look the UK's challenges with green building. As a researcher at the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford he identifies underlying problems with the feasibility of Government plans. Killip talks about the sheer scale of refurbishing the existing building stock being compounded by a lack of familiarity of the new low carbon technologies and the challenges in building up a strong supply chain with the skills and resources to carry out installations.

- **Susanne Formanek**, President of the Austrian Institute for Healthy and Ecological Building (IBO) introduces Austria's collaborative research programmes and other initiatives that facilitate continuous cooperative interaction between government, the research community, private business and key stakeholders.

BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDIES

- **Fronius** is an inverter technology developer and integrates modern digital and monitoring technology into existing PV-solar energy systems. They work with social housing suppliers across the UK to provide more energy efficient homes and save tenants money by increasing efficiency of existing systems.

- **Ochsner**, an Austrian heat pump manufacturer, shares experiences with investment in pioneering training programs for their UK design and installation partners as the bedrock of the optimal performance of their efficient but complex technology.

- **Variotherm** introduces a retrofitting project of a listed office building faced with the requirement to retain the 1920s parquet flooring, thus ruling out underfloor heating. The installation of a Varioherm modular wall and ceiling panel heating system with additional cooling options resulted in 70% energy savings.

- **Islington council's Bunhill 2 project (**this year's National Energy Globe Awards winner) re-uses waste heat from London's Underground to provide low carbon heating. As well as saving 500 tons of carbon per year, the scheme also alleviates fuel poverty.

MORE TO COME

ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA is organising the Austrian Pavilion at Futurebuild 2022 (1st to 3rd March at London's ExCeL).

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

British - Austrian web symposium on Green Energy
organised by ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA

Date: 2 November 2021
11 AM to 12.20 PM
Location: Online (GoToWebinar)

Please register here
View the full programme

Contact us:
Peter Franklin, Senior Sector Manager
E: london@advantageaustria.org
T: 020 7590 5093

- ends -

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Profile ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA
Operating as Commercial Sections of Austria's embassies ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA is Austria's international trade promotion organization; helping Austrian companies and international partners to grow cross border business with 100+ service centers in more the 70 countries.

The London office provides business intelligence, contacts and coaching services, and helps with cross border sourcing, financing, R&D cooperation, technology transfers, trend consulting, trend scouting and the establishment of subsidiaries. It is also responsible for establishing economic and R&D partnerships between Austrian institutions and British partners, enhancing Austria's profile as an investment location, a high-tech manufacturing base and a renowned source of custom tailored business solutions in the UK market.

ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA webpage

GREEN BUILDING FROM AUSTRIA – SURPRISINGLY INGENIOUS
Austria is a leader in sustainable building technologies - from high-quality windows to passive ventilation, biomass heating and solar energy systems. Austria played a key role in the development of the first passive houses.

More information on green building in Austria

Biography keynote speakers at the web symposium on 2nd November 2021

Dr Gavin Killip has a BA in Linguistics from York University and an MSc in Architecture: Advanced Environmental and Energy Studies from the University of East London, in association with the Centre for Alternative Technology.

He joined the ECI in 2004 after working for 10 years on energy efficiency and building-integrated renewable energy projects in the voluntary and public sectors. He has reduced energy consumption and CO2 emissions in his own 1908 home by 60% through major refurbishment.

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Gavin is interested in finding solutions for a more sustainable built environment. He takes a broad 'socio-technical systems' approach to investigating how technology and behaviour evolve and affect each other, with the ultimate goal of proposing positive change by understanding better the workings of complex systems.

Most of his research focus has been on existing housing in the context of climate change mitigation - investigating how 2050 climate change targets might be met through the markets for property (sales and rentals) and repair, maintenance and improvement (RMI). This involves economic transactions, flows of information at many different levels, and challenges for many existing institutions.

More information on ECI webpage

Susanne Formanek graduated from the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna in the field of forestry and timber management.

She is managing director of the innovation laboratory GRÜNSTATTGRAU. Susanne initiated many projects in the green building sector and since 2017 president of IBO, the Austrian Institute for Building Biology and Ecology.
ASSOCIATION AND ROLE

GRÜNSTATTGRAU AND IBO
Innovation lab "GrünstattGrau" is the only existing Austrian Coordination Centre for the development and promotion of greening of buildings in urban cities in Austria. It acts as a catalyst and facilitator in the sense of urban green visions - in urban cities.

As an independent, scientific non-profit society, the IBO investigates the interactions between people, buildings and the environment. IBO, the Austrian Institute for Healthy and Ecological Building was founded in 1980 with the aim of providing topical information on the impact of buildings on human health and well-being (Baubiologie) and on the environment (Bauökologie). Private individuals, experts and companies who attach importance to green building and healthy living can support the IBO with their membership.

More information on IBO webpage