



2011 Eco Design Advisor Conference Summary

This document provides a summary of the 3-day Eco Design Advisors Conference held in Wellington and Lower Hutt on the 23- 25 November 2011.

Wednesday 23 November

The Conference Open Day was attended by more than 60 people from Councils, Government Departments, architects, researchers, funding and sustainability organisations. The feedback we have had has been positive and reflected a very successful day.

Program

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Green Building, Hair Dressing on the Titanic. An overview of climate change issues, our response and what we still need to address, by Prof Brenda Vale and Dr Robert Vale from Victoria University
3. Eco Design Advisor Overview, including the results of our customer research
4. Asthma and respiratory problems in the domestic environment by Dr Julian Crane, Department of Medicine University of Otago Wellington
5. An overview of moisture problems in homes: indoor moisture, moisture in walls and condensation control by Mark Bassett Principal Scientist BRANZ
6. Home Heating: Comparison of systems and efficiencies in different homes by Albrecht Stoecklein, Design Navigator Ltd, and founder of the EDA service
7. NZ homes are affected by mould and dampness which cause health problems. Covering mould growth and remediation measures with a brief overview of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) by Robyn Phipps Associate Prof. Massey University
8. Improving Hot Water Heating in Your Home. Solar and heat pump hot water systems by Andrew Pollard Energy Efficiency Scientist BRANZ
9. Domestic Ventilation: The do's and don'ts, including comment on positive and balanced air systems by Stephen McNeil Materials Scientist from BRANZ

For copies of presentations see

<http://www.ecodesignadvisor.org.nz/eda-2011-conference-papers/?stage=Live>

Feed back included:

Just a quick note of commendation on the superb day of high quality and vitally important speakers that you put together for the EDA Conference in Wellington. You left us in no doubt of the importance of healthier homes and provided some solutions for combating dampness, mould and efficient heating.

The line-up and progression of professionally researched and well-presented topics equalled that of a number of international (and very expensive) conferences that I've attended in the past. By far, the most significant downside for me was that there weren't more people to hear the information and messages.

Matthew Cutler-Welsh
Technical Manager - Homestar
THE NEW ZEALAND GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

General feedback:

Great speakers and good range of topics

Awesome! Really great. More useful information than many conferences costing \$500+.

All topics very good and informative

Excellent high calibre speakers.

Very good balance to the programme, good in depth technical information

Very informative, so useful to have access to research and authoritative advice.

Thursday 24 November

The Conference continued at the Petone Community House and was attended by 16 people including the Eco Design Advisors and members of the Community Energy Network. The day involved a mix of presentations and 3 home visits with plenty of time for peer learning and discussion. Feed back was very positive.

Program

1. Review previous day
2. Find out about designing homes that reflect the changing needs of the occupant by Andrew Olsen from Lifemark
3. Eco Home Visit with a guided walk through and discussion about design by Matthew ter Borg. Followed by a group discussion at the community house
4. The latest building information from SB 11, Finland and England by Lois Easton from Beacon Pathway
5. Local home visits led by the EDAs as a training exercise followed by a group discussion at the community house
6. Homestar: Overview with Q and A by Matthew Cutler-Welsh

Feedback included:

Thanks again for all the effort you all put in to pull together the EDA workshops last week, and for making the sessions accessible to CEN-affiliated folk.

Feedback from the advisors is that the sessions were really useful and informative. The other bit of feedback was that it was valuable just to strengthen ties with you all and for some it provided a much needed sense of community and collegiality.

It was great to spend a couple of days with a group of interested, informed and motivated practitioners thinking about advice and behaviour change.

Sally Blackwell

Executive Officer

Community Energy Network

Friday 25 November

The EDAs met in closed session to discuss their coordination, marketing, funding and research programmes. Hutt City Regulatory Manager Helen Oram was a guest for some of the morning as the manager of the local EDA, Sarah Fleet, and helped with strategies for funding future conferences, including the option of becoming an Advisory Group under the Building Officials Institutes. A tentative date of October 2012 was set for the next conference, to be held in Hamilton.

Conclusion

The Conference was a further indication of the maturing of the EDA Network, judging by the calibre of the speakers and the numbers of delegates it attracted. As in previous years, it showcased the success of the EDA service and promoted it to the councils, private sector organisations and funding partners from many parts of the country.

- We demonstrated the abilities of the EDAs to organise and collaborate on a professional scale with more than 60 people attending the Conference Open Day.
- We upgraded our level of knowledge in several areas and strengthened our team dynamics.
- We worked with home sustainability advisors to increase the spread of information and advisory techniques to a wider audience.

Overall, the conference provided a great opportunity to share knowledge and reinforce the benefits of our national network.

Thanks to all the participants, the speakers, the Eco Design Advisors, to Richard Morrison from Kapiti Coast District Council and Sarah Fleet from Hutt City Council for organising the conference.

Richard Morrison, Eion Scott and Sarah Fleet
On behalf of the EDA Network