



14TH JANUARY 2011 - SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The fourth round of the competition for joint academic/industry feasibility studies and for 10 days free academic consultancy will close on 14th January 2011. Please see information on how to apply by accessing the links to Feasibility Studies and Academic Consultancy at www.cicstart.org. Eleven feasibility study and five academic consultancies have been approved to date. Outcomes of the first completed feasibility study were presented at our first live and interactive seminar/webinar (see below).

FIRST WEBINAR RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE

"A Hybrid Solar Thermal Mass System Development for the Application to Tenants First Housing Co-operative's Zero-Carbon Affordable Homes"

The webcast of the first interactive online webinar organised by CIC Start Online has been published on the project website. The live seminar disseminated information on the outcomes of a feasibility study on Hybrid Solar Thermal System for Housing undertaken by Mackintosh School of Architecture, Edinburgh Napier University and Tenants First Housing Co-operative in Aberdeen. Along with the audience in the seminar room, there were 23 online viewers who also engaged in the discussion using the online chat facility.

>> The Webinar Recording is now available here

Most online viewers were from Scotland (e.g. from Aberdeen, Aboyne, Anstruther, Banchory, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Glendevon, Greenock, Hawick, Inverness, Moray and Stirling) but there were also attendees from from Reading and Greyabbey, Northern Ireland. The list of online viewers indicates that the project will achieve its aim to disseminate innovations on sustainable building design and refurbishment across Scotland and enable wider promotion of research capacities and expertise at the participating universities.

Following the event, our online attendee from Glendevon commented: "Many thanks for today's webinar. I have to say I was very impressed with how easy it was and, generally, how well it worked. From my point of view it was an enormous benefit to be able to engage with the topics discussed in what was effectively my lunch break, rather than spending most of the day in the process, which is what attending in person would have meant."

The online webcast is available free to members of the CIC Start Online project (membership is free at www.cicstart.org). At the end of the first year of the project operation, there are currently 370 members. Following this first online event, the CIC Start Online team anticipate further growth of the membership.

OTHER NEWS: £5000 TOWARDS SMALL BUSINESS TRAINING COSTS

Flexible Training Opportunities gives Scottish businesses with under 50 employees the opportunity to apply for up to £5,000 towards employee training costs. Enhancing employees' skills will bring real benefits to your business including improved productivity and a stronger more confident workforce.

The types and levels of training that are eligible for support:

- Qualifications including individual units
- Masterclasses
- Learning based on National Occupational Standards
- Industry recognised qualifications
- First line supervisory management
- Workshops
- Taster sessions

Funding is available for up to 10 employees per business and the money is not a loan so there's no need to pay it back. A refund up to 50% of each episode of employee training up to a maximum of £500 for each employee is available. For example, if an episode of training costs £1200, you will receive a refund of £500. If it costs £300, the refund would be £150. For further information see Flexible Training Opportunities



Follow us on twitter and keep up to date with forthcoming events!

CIC Start Online is led by Glasgow Caledonian University in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University, The Glasgow School of Art, Heriot Watt University, The Robert Gordon University, University of Edinburgh and University of Strathclyde Glasgow.





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