

LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT

Business Perspective

Few businesses have the luxury of being able to design and build their own premises, but for those that do, the benefits of commissioning low carbon buildings are becoming stronger. Reading's planning policies already encourage the design of commercial buildings to at least BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) 'very good' standard, and this is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. With energy costs on an upward trend this is likely to pay dividends in the future; commercial buildings constructed on a speculative basis are likely to be more appealing to potential occupiers if they have a good energy performance rating, due to the reduced operating costs this will deliver. Other sustainability standards for commercial buildings include SKA, an environmental assessment tool for sustainable fitouts.

The emergence of new energy efficiency and renewables products and rating standards, together with government initiatives like the Green Deal, provides commercial opportunities for both entrepreneurs and established businesses, by creating new markets and stimulating demand. Up-skilling to deliver low carbon solutions for both domestic and commercial customers will be a source of significant revenue for those who already work in construction and associated industries.

