SUMMER EVENT 2012

Ventilation in Low Energy Housing

A study of occupants' behaviour, understanding and acceptance of new systems

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Research Summary

How can we, as academics and sustainable building practitioners, ensure that the transition to MVHR as the a priori domestic ventilation strategy in the UK will result in the predicted and required energy savings?

- Increasingly airtight and insulated homes provide new challenges in terms of providing sufficient ventilation for people and buildings.
- Mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) is predicted in all new housing.
- Behaviour is influenced by a combination our intentions and habits or 'practices'.
- Mismatches in the way the technology is handled by suppliers and building professionals as well as how the new technology is adapted to the preferences of users can result in low rates of user acceptance and satisfaction.

Preliminary Findings

- Lack of understanding of ventilation by occupants.
- Conflict between vision of architect and needs of resident.
- Windows are being opened when heating in use.

Stakeholder Opportunities

 Engage with designers, engineers, housebuilders and landlords to ensure successful adoption of new technology.



"These are the vents I was talking about.
What they were doing- what work it does I have no clue."



"All the bad smells in the house seem to hang out here"

"Because I think it is a learning process when you're living in a house that requires slightly different way of approaching it"

"I've heard it make funny noises every now and again"



