

# AWARD: PUBLIC SECTOR COMMITMENT TO CARBON REDUCTION

Swaythling Housing Society (now part of the Radian Group)



## 'Radian's commitment to Low Carbon homes'



Radian housing with low carbon features



75 kW solar PV array at the Chapel development, Southampton

### Notable Features

Radian owns and manages 15,000 homes in the South East, and we aim to build 800 more annually. Investment in renewable energy technologies of over £1million to date means a saving of over 200 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year. Radian is committed to making further reductions through inspirational good practice.

### Setting the scene

Radian – the RSL resulting from a merger between Drum Housing Association and Parkside and Oriel Housing Groups - has put sustainability at the heart of its homes. It is a regional leader through its expertise and programme of national dissemination. All Radian's housing schemes completed in 2006/07 achieved EcoHomes Very Good or Excellent. Since 2006 its standard new home is the highly insulated air tight TEK Haus SIPS system with whole house ventilation and heat recovery. Radian was among the first RSLs to use ground source heat pumps, has supported a local renewables business at the Way of the Sun and The Evergreens developments, and has installed 88kWp of Photovoltaics in ten different locations. It has also tackled the challenge of how to deal with **our** existing stock: The 2007 Generation Homes project was a national first, saving 75% CO<sub>2</sub> in annual household emissions on six 1950's homes.

### Beating the odds

The challenge of climate change is beginning to be taken seriously now, but as far back as 2000 the partners in the Radian Group were putting sustainability at the heart of their corporate ideals, launching sustainability strategies, taking the time to learn about different renewables and recognising that benefiting the planet and residents. One of the biggest challenges is existing stock – over a third of the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> is produced by older homes - which form a sizeable chunk of our housing stock, yet which tend to be overlooked in the debate on climate change.

### Reaping the benefits

- As well as lowering carbon emissions, Radian has delivered affordable warmth and power to hundreds of residents with eye-catching renewables attracting important visitors.
- Gordon Brown visited the Chapel Development - one of the South East's largest Photovoltaic installations, covering a roof area of 600m.sq. and saving 26.5 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>pa.
- The PV at Siward House was opened by Angela Smith MP who has climate change within her remit.
- Through basic insulation measures applied to the entire stock and exemplary projects such as Generation Homes, the challenge of older homes was tackled and helped Radian partner Drum win the Housing Corporation's prestigious Gold Award for excellence in environmental sustainability in 2007.
- The Generation Homes were jointly launched by Caroline Lucas, Green Party MEP for the region and The Sustainable Development Commission.
- The Radian team is very cohesive because of its strong commitment to sustainability.

### Contact details

Jo Williamson  
Sustainability Coordinator  
Drum Housing Association Limited  
Drum Court  
The Spain  
Petersfield  
Hampshire  
GU32 3NG  
Tel: 01730 403200  
jwilliamson@drumhsg.co.uk

Award sponsored by:



Awards organised by:



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE SOUTH EAST