

RE-TRAIN - TRAINING INSTALLERS AND ARCHITECTS

Existing or Proposed Project:	PROPOSED COMMENCING 2002
Partners:	TV Energy, Marches Energy Agency and Powys Energy Agency
Description:	The RE-TRAIN project aims to increase the rate of deployment of building integrated renewable energy technologies in each of the UK regions involved. This will be achieved by developing and delivering an installer training programme which can then be replicated throughout the UK, and in other countries where deployment rate is low.

Background:



In July 2002, TV Energy, the Marches Energy Agency and Powys Energy Agency received approval for 'RE-TRAIN', a joint project under the European Commissions ALTENER programme.

A general lack of understanding, awareness and skills amongst installers, engineers and architects in the UK is a barrier to the wider deployment of renewable energy technologies, particularly building integrated technologies of biomass heating, solar thermal and solar PV. This situation has a number of effects:

- These technologies are not promoted by the installers and specifiers
- They are misunderstood and thus disregarded
- They can suffer operational problems when they are installed because of improper design or installation
- The system design and project management costs are unusually high

This exists because (a) building integrated renewable energy technologies are not widespread in the UK and (b) because there is no targeted training and awareness programme for the key groups.

In other parts of Europe, where the deployment of renewable energy technologies are rather more advanced, this situation is far less apparent. There is therefore an opportunity of drawing on this existing experience to improve the skills base in the UK.

RE-TRAIN aims to raise the technical understanding and ability amongst UK installers and specifiers of building integrated renewable energy technology, using experience gained in other parts of Europe.

RE-TRAIN:



The basis of the project is that in the Thames Valley, Marches and Powys areas of the UK, at least five practitioners, drawn from architects, plumbers and heating engineers and electrical contractors, will receive in depth training in the design, specification, procurement and installation of the following:

- Wood fuelled heating
- Building integrated photovoltaics
- Solar thermal water heating

The training programmes will include an introduction to the basic principles of each technology, cost considerations, technical considerations, their benefits and drawbacks and where possible, practical examples.

What next?

The final agreements for RE-TRAIN are currently being drawn up by the European Commission. The project is due to commence in late 2002 and the latest developments will be posted on the web site.