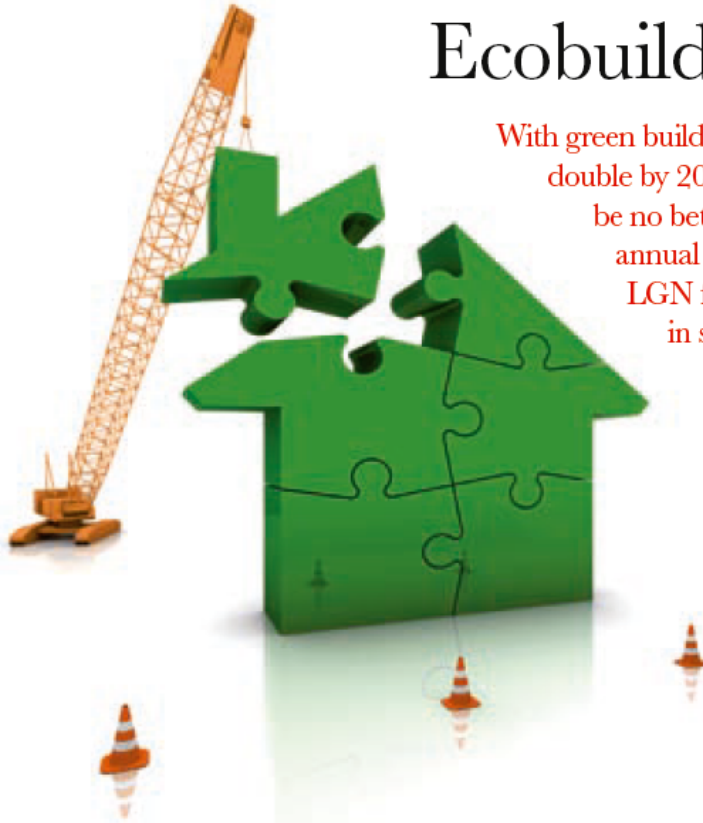


Ecobuild 2016

With green building expected to double by 2018, there could be no better time for the annual Ecobuild show. LGN finds out what's in store for visitors this year.



The Ecobuild Fringe

The Ecobuild Fringe is a forum for people to present and discuss ideas and achievements unique in the UK.

Addressing a variety of key topics, the 2016 Fringe will follow on from last year's very popular event with a bigger and even more impressive line-up of talks, debate and events. As well as the hugely popular Pechakucha, there will also be the new 'Fringe Factor' talks and competition - short soundbite presentations that showcase and address some impressive ideas and key issues.

According to new research, green building is expected to double over the next two years, with the number of companies expecting to have more than 60% of their building projects certified green rising to 37% by 2018.

The study, from Dodge Data & Analytics and United Technologies Corporation, also revealed building owners report seeing a median increase of 7% in the value of their green buildings compared to traditional buildings.

Set against this back drop, Ecobuild 2016 - the UK's leading UK exhibition and conference for the construction and energy market - could not be coming at a more pertinent time. As well as over 800 exhibitors and a series of interactive and practical demonstrations, there will also be a conference programme delivered by some of the most influential and innovative figures in the construction industry.

The 2016 conference centres around three hot topics - Homes, Architecture and Next Generation. In addition, six CPD accredited Learning Hubs will also explore Building Performance, #BuildCircular, Design, Digital Building, Energy and Infrastructure Revolution.

Stephen Fry will also be appearing as a special guest at Ecobuild 2016, and he will be interviewed by broadcaster Will Gompertz on 9 March.

Martin Hurn, director of Ecobuild, said: 'Stephen personifies the spirit of Ecobuild to inform, entertain and inspire the industry. He is the most exciting speaker we have welcomed in Ecobuild's history of thought leadership. We couldn't have hoped for a better conclusion to what promises to be a fascinating day on the Ecobuild Arena.'

Ecobuild 2016 takes place 8-10 March at Excel in London. Visit www.ecobuild.co.uk

Big Innovation Pitch competition

Five forward-thinking companies have been named as finalists in Ecobuild's Big Innovation Pitch competition, giving them a chance to become a potential supplier to Marks & Spencers.

The finalists have designed products ranging from an air-removing heating device to a water-saving tap fitting.

Air2eau, Actimass Ltd, Skanska Facilities Services, Tadpole Energy Ltd, and Waterblade have all made the final shortlist and will be delivering their final pitch to a panel of judges on the last day of the show.

Chris Marney, head of engineering and energy at M&S, said: 'We have been overwhelmed by the response to the Big Innovation Pitch 2016 both in terms of the number and quality of applications.'

Each of the shortlisted entrants in particular showed ingenuity to develop a product or service that is addressing a real-life issue and spoke with real passion for their future applications.

'We look forward to hearing the pitches of the five finalists at Ecobuild 2016 and selecting the overall winner.'

The hugely successful debut at Ecobuild 2015 saw the winning firm Endo Enterprises triumphing over 40 other products entered.