

Heat Electric radiators: perfect for housing association properties

Prospect Community Housing is one of Scotland's leading Housing Associations based in Wester Hailes, Edinburgh. Providing and managing just under 900 homes, the association has recently celebrated its 21st anniversary with a host of improvements – including a heating provision overhaul.

With cost management top of the agenda for the association and its tenants, Estates Service Office Steve McDiarmid and his team have identified "the best heating solution we could have hoped for" when looking to replace the night storage heaters installed in all current properties.

running – they heat up over night and churn the heat out during the day, draining power continuously. "After looking into the Heat Electric radiators we could see it would be a considerably more economical system, particularly when running from Economy 10. With low cost of installation because they're simply wall mounted and plugged in, there is also no mess or disruption caused. Unlike other electric heaters, the Heat Electric radiators are extremely robust which makes them long lasting and perfect for a Housing Association environment." He adds: "The bonus for our tenants is that the heat is completely controllable and can be altered



electric only supply. With gas central heating not an option due to the time it would take for a feed from the main supply to each property and the cost and disruption of installation, all heating provision must be electrically fed.

Steve concludes: "The Heat Electric radiators offer a long term heating solution for our entire property portfolio which is cost effective to install and easy to maintain and provides a controllable, efficient and affordable heating system for our tenants."

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Celutex for Community Homes

Plymouth Community Homes has recently completed a project using Celuform's Celutex product - the 100% calcium organic alternative to fibre cement siding. The project was on Lizard Close and involved the external repair and painting of Plymouth Community Homes. Karl Donegan, Team Leader at Plymouth Community Homes explains: "The properties we improved included 3 blocks of maisonettes and 42 houses. We needed to repair and paint some of the existing surfaces and replace some asbestos panels

with Celuform's shiplap cladding, Celutex. We opted for Celutex because while the main objective on this project was to remove the asbestos material on the property, we also wanted to give the properties a complete makeover and extend the maintenance cycles. Celutex allowed us to achieve a good sand coloured wood grain appearance and was a more cost effective option. The product itself is good quality and easy to use."

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Ecodan® the A1 choice

Residents of A1 Housing Association in Ranby, Nottinghamshire are now benefiting from reliable low cost, low carbon heating thanks to the installation of Ecodan® air source heat pumps. The 5kW Ecodan units were retrofitted into eight bungalows run by A1 Housing, which works in partnership with Bassetlaw District Council after

taking over the management of Council homes in North Nottinghamshire, in 2004. Award-winning Ecodan is proven to cut fuel bills and emissions over traditional heating systems whilst delivering reliable heating throughout the year. The Ecodan unit, which is very user-friendly, is fitted to the outside of the property and because it uses



advanced technology taken from the commercial heating sector, it has a whisper-quiet operation.

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UK's lowest access bath

More people can enjoy bathing thanks to a new, low-level access bath from Eurocare Showers. The new Adagio Ancora boasts a threshold of just 45mm (1.8 inches), making it the lowest walk-in bath currently on the market. Eurocare MD, Mike Holborn, says Eurocare has redeveloped its best selling Adagio bath to address the age-old problem of making bathing as accessible as possible for as many people as possible. Thanks to its specially designed frame, the Adagio Ancora can be installed directly onto the joists to achieve its 45mm threshold but, even in applications where people don't want to go to the disruption of removing floorboards, the bath can be surface mounted and still achieve a threshold of 70mm.



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Warm Homes, Greener Homes

Managing Director of Heat Electric, David Garrity, looks at the crucial role housing associations have to play within the new Government strategy for household energy management.

The recent publication of 'Warm Homes, Greener Homes' - the long awaited Government strategy for household energy management - underlines social housing's continued role at the forefront of environmental performance, paving the way for the widespread adoption of new eco technologies and improvement of the UK's building stock.

A new obligation on energy companies to help householders save energy will see a partnership approach between such organisations and both local authorities and the third sector to identify vulnerable households on low incomes and to encourage improvements, where possible, to entire housing blocks. Key to the success of the new

strategy will be the trust between a housing association and its tenants enabling it to market the proposed improvements to an audience which may be unfamiliar with the technology on offer and its long term benefits to them in terms of warmer homes and reduced fuel bills.

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Due to the wide variety of housing stock in the UK there is no 'one size fits all' approach to energy efficiency which is why we'd also like to see heating manufacturers invited to work closely with these new partnerships. This will not only give decision makers access to experts

who have been commissioned to provide heating solutions for similar properties in the past, enabling them to make an informed assessment of the options available, but will also help to identify systems that will cause tenants the least disruption and upheaval. Post installation, housing

associations can also work with manufacturers to ensure that tenants are equipped with the information they need to use their new heating system in the most cost effective and efficient manner, thereby reducing their fuel bills and helping to fulfil the Government's

aim of reducing emissions from social housing by at least half by 2020.

One crucial issue we feel the new strategy fails to fully address is controllability. Improvements to controls can reduce by over 20% the carbon emissions from heating and hot water while enabling tenants to make behavioural changes to further reduce their energy usage, for example by turning down a thermostat.

Investment in new technology alone will not bring about the results the Government desires - education and the resulting changes in behaviour are equally as crucial. By offering fingertip time and temperature control on a whole house, predefined zone and individual room basis the latest



generation of electric heating offers tenants cost effective warmth when and where they need it. We'd therefore urge housing associations to look beyond the issues raised in this latest report and to also consider the vital role of

controllability when seeking to reduce fuel bills, lower carbon emissions and ensure their tenants' ongoing thermal comfort.

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Comar launch new door system

Comar Architectural Aluminium Systems are pleased to launch their new Comar 7Pi ECO Door System which integrates with the Comar 5Pi ECO Window System. This new launch completes the innovative Pi ECO range which provides casement windows and doors that have slim 55mm profiles and, through innovative integration, actively reduces costs. Comar 5Pi ECO Window System has also been re-launched with additional screw-ports, bay pole options, high lx profiles and three aluminium sill options. The Comar Pi ECO range of aluminium windows and doors provides an integrated solution that meets the very latest criteria in product specification. The Comar Pi ECO range offers an eco-nomic and eco-logical solution for residential and social housing, flat developments and light commercial projects. Where economic solutions are required, the window and door suites have been priced to provide cost effectiveness and, as the aluminium is 100% recyclable, sustainability concerns are alleviated. Along with these key eco-nomic and eco-logical features, the window and door suites provide excellent performance.



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Sapa supports Euro Windows



Euro Windows has won a top award for its work in refurbishing a housing estate in London - and has praised systems designer Sapa Building Systems for its 'crucial' contribution to the project. Euro Windows, main contractors The Apollo Group, and the client London Borough of Lambeth shared the honours as joint winners of the Project of the Year in LHC's Annual Awards competition, aimed at promoting the work of LHC's appointed companies and illustrating the advantages of an LHC supply chain in ensuring members achieve Government standards for compliance, efficiency, quality and sustainability. Sapa supplied aluminium windows and doors systems for Euro Windows' contract with the LHC's scheme at Westbury Estate for Lambeth Borough Council, using Sapa's Monafame vertical sliding-sash windows along with Dualframe casement and fully reversible windows and doors systems.

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