

Press Release
For Immediate Release
9 April 2013

Deputy Major Richard Blakeway launches Green Sky Thinking Week

Open-City's Green Sky Thinking Week (15-19 April) (<http://www.greenskythinking.org.uk>) was launched today, Tuesday 9 April, at a lively London debate about the way forward for embedding sustainability in the built environment.

Hosted and chaired by Gardiner & Theobald, and opened with a keynote speech by **Richard Blakeway, Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property**, the launch was attended by more than 100 private and public sector professionals, who debated the case for more concerted action from both the property industry and government on how to future-proof London's built environment; from data transparency among industry to social integration and collaboration with London's public.

The Deputy Mayor outlined initiatives to be led by the Mayor's Office to address the carbon imprint of London's existing building stock, including domestic, public and commercial buildings. Two initiatives in the making stood out: a major retrofitting programme for schools and a pilot on energy use data transparency, modelled on New York's experience. More is to be revealed in the coming months.

Richard Blakeway said: "There is clearly real potential to grow London's low carbon economy and grow the jobs that that provides and the productivity that it creates."

The panel debate, chaired by **Richard Francis, Director of Environment & Sustainability, Gardiner & Theobald**, challenged speakers **Mike de Silva** (Crossrail Ltd), **Paul Heather** (Skanska UK), **Tatiana Bostells** (Hermes Real Estate) and **Peter Madden** (Forum for the Future) and the audience on how we 'build the city of tomorrow' for London.

The debate concluded with a call from Victoria Thornton, Founding Director of Open-City for the profession to 'be less passive' and show 'real vision'.

It provided a suitably challenging introduction to Open-City's Green Sky Thinking Week, starting on Monday 15th. This programme of 50 free to attend, expert-led events aims to showcase, profile and debate some of the leadership and vision already happening in the public and private sectors of London.

It provides a cross-sector forum for in-depth engagement, debate and professional development on sustainability for architects, planners, developers, contractors, local authority officers and councillors, amongst others, aiming ultimately to inform better decision-making.

Driven by practicality and applicability, each event gives an inside view from top experts, and industry leaders such as participants: Greater London Authority, Max Fordham, British Land, LB Islington, Bennetts Associates, Rockwool, and Paul Davis + Partners.

GREEN SKY THINKING WEEK IS FREE TO ATTEND BUT BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

For full programme listing and booking details visit our website: www.greenskythinking.org.uk

Notes to Editors

For further information, images or to arrange interviews contact:

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Green Sky Thinking Week is created and run by Open-City.

Sponsors: Gardiner & Theobald and Interface.

Supporters: Arup, Ash Sakula Architects, Conisbee, Rockwool.

Media Partner: The Architects' Journal.

Open-City Corporate Members: British Land, Derwent London, Henderson Global Investors, ING Media, Rocket Investments, Waterman Group.

There are many practices and organisations involved including:

AHMM, Architype, Arup, Ash Sakula, BACA Architects, Bennetts Associates Architects, bere:architects, Biotecture, British Council for Offices, British Land, Conisbee, Cullinan Studio, David Morley Architects, E2 Architecture + Interiors, Eight Associates, Feilden Clegg Bradley studios, FFE Consulting, Gardiner & Theobald, Greater London Authority, Henderson Global Investors, Hilson Moran, Hounslow Homes, Interface, Islington Climate Change Partnership, Islington Council, Max Fordham, Nicholas Hare Architects, Passivhaus Trust, Paul Davis + Partners, Penoyre & Prasad, Pollard Thomas Edwards architects, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Rockwool, Squire & Partners, The Architects' Journal, Ventive Ltd, Waterman Group, WSCP.

Full listings of the Green Sky Thinking Week programme can be found at www.greenskythinking.org.uk from 4 March 2013. All events listed require booking in advance, either through Open-City or the event participant or supporter.

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About Open-City

Open-City is London's leading independent, non-profit built environment organisation. It champions the value of well-designed places and spaces in making a liveable and vibrant city and the role everyone places within it. Our mission is to champion a better-built environment and by implication a more sustainable one.

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