LOW CARBON BUILT ENVIRONMENT KNOWLEDGE HUB: ACCESSIBLE, CONCISE, AUTHORITATIVE EVIDENCE

PROJECT FACTSHEET

LOW CARBON LIVING CRC

KEY POINTS

- **Our project is developing a knowledge hub solution to connect and make accessible, for policy makers and industry practitioners, the wealth of scattered and highly varied low carbon built environment research**
- **This solution will:**
    - **narrow the gap between research, policy and practice by facilitating the translation and synthesis of built environment evidence**
    - **present the wide variety of evidence types and formats in an easily accessible way**
    - **include an open access website offering collated content, the ability to contribute research and to connect with people in your specialist field**

THE OPPORTUNITY / CHALLENGE

In the built environment, policy makers and practitioners are challenged in finding, using and providing evidence to support their decision-making processes. All are looking for assistance to help them identify information faster, from trusted sources, and in a format that is readily understood.

Our project addresses these opportunities by collecting the latest evidence in low carbon living and offering that information via an easy to use online service. Our curation of this collection will improve evidence discoverability and our synthesis and translation will improve accessibility. We will also support those involved in research, or interested in research outcomes, to collaborate to draw upon existing and build new evidence.

OUR RESEARCH

The first stage of our project was to investigate the diverse needs of built environment stakeholders and to understand what evidence is currently used in both policy and industry decision making, how it is identified and applied, and what knowledge exchange solutions are required.

Our research included three workshops, a survey completed by 47 respondents across all sectors, and 21 interviews with key stakeholders. This identified the following current behaviour in evidence-based decision-making:

- Policy makers look for authoritative evidence to support policy proposals
- Policy makers want this information often on short notice and in easily digestible formats
- Industry practitioners look for supporting evidence of their decisions
- Industry practitioners want evidence to be easily found
- Researchers look to show the impact of their research
- Researchers have trouble in finding funding for further research while industry and government people have difficulty in finding researchers to conduct research

These research outcomes informed our online solution.

OUTCOMES

Our project is developing a new, online knowledge hub that enables policy and practitioners to easily access the latest evidence for achieving a low carbon living built environment. This solution will deliver value through improved:

- discoverability – through better metadata collection on quality research
- accessibility – through translation of quality research
- visibility of good practice – through review of quality research

We will do so through four key services:

1. collecting, curating and synthesising the latest in research
2. promoting the use of these outputs
3. facilitating the translation of these research outputs for improved accessibility
4. connecting people and evidence that in turn leads to the creation of new evidence through further research projects

The project will also establish the ongoing business model to ensure durability of these services.

VALUE PROPOSITION

Our research forms a solid base for dissemination of research evidence to policy and practitioners, promoting the activities of the CRC for Low Carbon Living and supporting future research collaboration activities in the built environment.

Our overall solution aims to:

- improve transparency of the source of evidence
- assist in filtering the evidence required
- identify further research opportunities.

PROJECT TEAM

Prof Peter Graham, Amanda Lawrence, Michelle Zwagerman

The team brings expertise and experience in collating and disseminating information about the built environment. Peter Graham is Deputy Director of the Centre for Urban Transitions at Swinburne University of Technology, CRC-LCL Node Leader and Executive Director of the Global Buildings Performance Network (http://www.gbpn.org). He has more than 15 years' experience in international advocacy, research and education in sustainable building design, construction, evaluation and policy.

Amanda Lawrence has extensive knowledge in the library and information sector. Amanda is the Research and Strategy Manager at Analysis & Policy Observatory.

Michelle Zwagerman has extensive experience in project and product delivery.

The project is supported by the members of the Steering Committee.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about this project, please contact:
CRC For Low Carbon Living
E: s.summerhayes@unsw.edu.au   T: +61 2 9385 0394
W: lowcarbonlivingcrc.com