

INNOVATE UK: BUILDING PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OUTCOMES

This paper was put together following the CBx evening event in November 2014, to summarise the open discussion around the knowledge and experiences from Innovate UK's £8m commitment to fund the costs of building performance evaluation studies on domestic and non-domestic buildings.

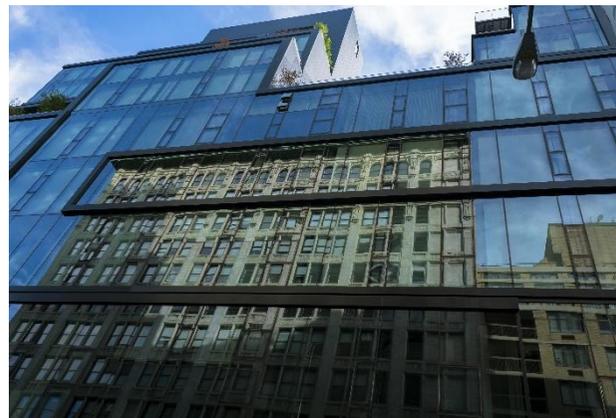
The Building Performance Evaluation (BPE) programme is one of the longest programmes that Innovate UK has run and has seen £8million put towards investigations of individual buildings in both the domestic and the non-domestic sectors. Funding was awarded for the performance evaluation of buildings at handover / early occupation and buildings in use no more than two years old at the time of joining the programme. While most of the case studies were new builds, the set included some refurbishments. Awarded over 7 tranches, the final portfolio consists of 53 domestic projects and 48 non-domestic projects, all of which are now coming to an end. A programme of dissemination will begin in early 2015.

Objectives set at the beginning of the programme in 2010 aimed to better understand how to deliver high performing buildings and to embed building performance evaluation into professional practice. This would enable the industry and the clients to learn, to

implement the findings and to improve their own performance. The final objective was to assemble a suite of 'fit for purpose' BPE tools. Research outcomes are of immediate use to the projects teams involved including their present and future supply chains. Over the next 6 to 9 months, learning outcomes will be collated and made available for the wider industry.

"Better informed clients are the cornerstone to improved performance. Their key challenge is around energy literacy"

- Sophie Chisholm, CBx



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Air tightness has been found to have changed quite dramatically in many case studies over the two year period; in some this has become worse whilst other buildings seem to tighten up.
- Client engagement is vital; many case studies are illustrating scenarios where aspects are paid for but not necessarily fully delivered. An engaged client is more likely to recognise this during construction, commissioning & handover and early occupation.
- The skills of building occupants are at odds with the complexity of the systems in new buildings; where schools have previously employed caretakers, skilled facilities managers on high salaries are needed to look after new high-tech buildings.

FULL REPORT:

<http://cbxchange.org/knowledge/whitepaper-innovate-uk-bpe-outcomes/>

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