

TRACK 38. TOWARDS ZERO EMISSION BUILDINGS, SETTLEMENTS AND CITIES

After the establishment of man made climate change as hard scientific fact, the promise that human activity can be (near) neutral in terms of emissions has attracted considerable political attention as well as research funding. In Europe the built environment accounts for about 40% of all primary energy use, contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. Low or zero emission buildings have been technically feasible for years. Therefore the combination of making buildings more energy efficient and using renewable energy is often discussed as being the “low hanging fruit” of greenhouse gas reduction.

Buildings are indeed a promising arena in the fight against climate change, especially when compared with other sectors such as transportation and production. However, there is evidence suggesting that the implementation, operation and use of zero emission buildings within a “non-zero emission” world is still a little understood task on *all* levels – technically as well as socially, politically and culturally.

We invite contributors who are involved in research on low/zero emission buildings, the reduction of energy consumption in the built environment and the use of renewable energy in buildings, settlements and cities to share their experiences, findings and reflections.

Possible topics for presentations are:

1. Zero emission, zero energy and sustainability: Concepts and definitions
2. Architecture and climate change
3. Energy consumption in domestic and non-domestic buildings
4. Zero emission building use
5. Zero emission building operation
6. Urban planning for emission reduction
7. Building regulation and emission reduction
8. A zero emission construction sector: Mission impossible?

Abstracts of no more than 500 words should be sent by email (following website instructions) by 2010 March 15th.

Convenors

Susanne Balslev Nielsen is associate professor at the Technical University of Denmark. As vice director of the Center for Facilities Management she is involved in research on sustainable building operation.

Thomas Berker is associate professor at Centre for Technology and Society at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). A sociologist by training, he is currently working with two interdisciplinary research projects which are based on the promise of creating and implementing zero emission buildings.