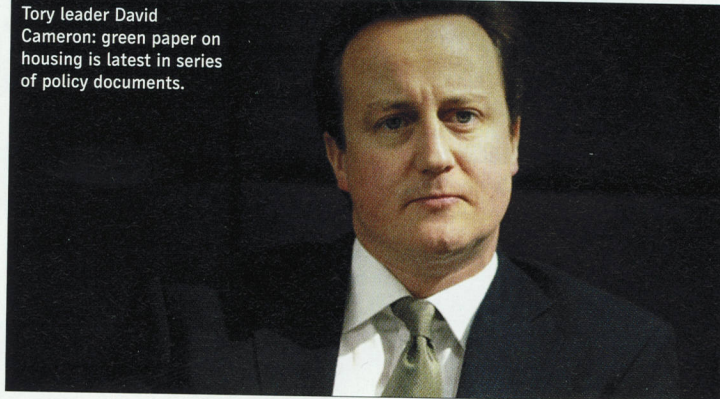


INDUSTRY UPDATE

Tories propose CRC trade-off

Tory leader David Cameron: green paper on housing is latest in series of policy documents.



STEVE BACK WWW.POLITICALPICTURES.CO.UK

Employers should be able to offset some of their mandatory carbon reduction targets through improvements made to their employees' homes, says the Conservative Party.

The party suggests that employers covered by mandatory schemes such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC), and which run insulation schemes for employees, should be able to count the reductions from employees' home improvements.

The proposals are outlined in the

party's green paper on housing. A spokesperson said it was a way to help companies who were finding it difficult or expensive to reform their business to offset their carbon emissions by "greening up their employees' homes."

However, he conceded that the party was still working on how to implement the proposal.

Bringing household emissions into corporate business may prove controversial however. The Tories argue that a certain amount of

"keeping up with the Jones" could be useful in driving down emissions.

The green paper also suggests that household energy bills should carry average household energy use as a means for comparison.

Tom Korden, energy consultant at XCO2 Energy, questioned directing the emphasis onto the employee rather than the employer, since the CRC was concerned with direct electricity and fossil fuel use in companies' operations.

"This idea would make sense in 50 years time, after companies have truly exhausted all their options in driving down emissions," he said, "but you have to take care of your own house first."

The CRC applies to businesses and organisations with a total half-hourly metered electricity consumption greater than 6000MWh a year.

The scheme will save around 4 million tonnes a year by 2020, the equivalent of taking a million cars off the road.

The full report is available at www.bsdlive.co.uk

Shard starts on site, minus one (huge) radiator

The Shard, which at 310m will be London's tallest mixed-use building, has lost an innovative radiator which was to wrap around its tip and dissipate excess heat without the use of fans or condensers.

Developments in heating and cooling equipment over the nine years since the design was first

envisaged mean it is no longer the sustainable solution it once was.

Speaking at a press event to mark the start of construction on the London Bridge site, project architect William Matthews of Renzo Piano said he and his colleagues had reluctantly ditched the radiator because the energy expended

in pumping water to the top of the tower would have been greater than that used by conventional coolers.

However, the team is still aiming for an BREEAM excellent rating for the building, which is due for completion in May 2012.

The building services consultant is Arup.

