

Sustainable Community - BRE Innovation Park

The BRE Innovation Park in Watford, Hertfordshire, UK is a world leading and ground breaking demonstration development designed to give a glimpse of how the future delivery of sustainable buildings and communities can be achieved not only in the UK but around the world. It features seven of the world's most sustainable houses (built to the Code for Sustainable Homes), a health centre of the future and over 300 different construction innovations and emerging technologies as well as a state of the art community landscape design. Collectively these projects demonstrate diverse and innovative approaches to sustainable design and construction. They each share the common goal of having a low impact on the environment but a high impact on the quality of life of building and community occupants and CO2 emissions reduction. Since opening in 2005 the BRE Innovation Park has attracted tens of thousands of visitors.

The buildings and key features on the Innovation Park currently include:

- Visitors' Centre - provides convenient access to full information on all of the buildings and products on the Innovation Park, while also showcasing a range of new designs and technologies.
- Barratt Green House - the first house on the Innovation Park to be built by a mainstream house builder, the Green House achieves Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes • ecoTech Organics House - demonstrates a flexible system of sustainable homes that can be both mass produced and designed to suit individual circumstances.
- Hanson EcoHouse - constructed using traditional building materials, precisely assembled to conform to the best principles of innovative methods of construction.
- Kingspan Lighthouse - this super insulated, airtight house, designed to encourage a more sustainable lifestyle, has achieved Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes.
- Natural House - demonstrates a simple, low-tech and easy to build alternative for volume housebuilders seeking to meet increasingly stringent low carbon targets for new homes. • Osborne House - shows that high quality, sustainable housing can be delivered affordably and in volume.
- Renewable House - illustrates how renewable building materials, such as hemp, wood and wool, provide excellent options for constructing low carbon, practical and affordable modern housing. • Stewart Milne Sigma Home - has been test run by a family to obtain a 'real' perspective on living in a home constructed for sustainability using the latest technologies.
- Willmott Dixon Healthcare Campus - points to a new age of healthcare that helps people to manage their conditions more independently by using both health clinics and their home.
- Landscape - demonstrates the role of landscape design, not only in creating great places to live, but also in providing energy, waste and water management.
- Energy monitoring - gas and electricity consumption is being monitored with smart meters in six of the Innovation Park houses.



