

Leading the Way in Sustainability

The strategic business development decision made in the mid-1990's to design and build new homes to standards well in excess of Building regulations, has helped to make Gusto Group one of the UK's leaders in the field of sustainable development.

These new principles were first employed on the award-winning Millennium Green development, at Collingham, Notts which was completed in 2002. Very broadly, the 25 properties on the development were designed and built to use around 50% of the energy and 50% of the mains-water compared to their conventional Building Regulations counterparts.

The "secret" of this level of environmental performance lay partly with the designs of the individual properties and their solar alignment, partly with the attention to build standard, and partly with the environmental technologies employed.

Designed to appeal to buyers who preferred traditional designs, most of the properties were aligned north-south with the majority of the glazed areas on the south-side, along with solar-thermal panels.

Built to exceptional standards of air-tightness, each home was constructed to limit the number of air-changes per hour to around 3, compared to the general UK standard of around 18. This step alone substantially reduced the carbon footprint of the properties, further enhanced by the installation of heat-recovery air-management systems.

Use of environmentally-sound materials throughout the build-programme, and the avoidance of materials likely to needing premature replacement also played key roles. Windows alone, for example, took into account 6 advanced design features to ensure their durability and environmental performance.

Alongside this, Gusto group became an early pioneer in the UK rainwater harvesting industry, by designing and manufacturing systems for its own use that met the required parameters of easy to install, needing minimum end-user maintenance, and very reliable.

As a precursor to the Code for Sustainable Homes by more than 5-years, Gusto Group's Millennium Green development helped to lead the way in the UK in the design and build of truly sustainable new homes for the future.

