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WDH goes “Back to the Future”!

How can you change the mistakes of the past?

While a TARDIS is out of the question, when it comes to going back to address the causes of climate change and lowering carbon output, Wakefield and District Housing (WDH) is once again ahead of its time as it changes the history of some homes built over 50 years ago.

WDH has been awarded £150,000 so it can retro-fit four old homes in Kettlethorpe, built back in an age when words like “Global Warming”, “eco-friendly” and “recycling” could only have been heard during broadcasts of low-budget black-and-white science-fiction television shows (let’s not forget “being green”).

After demonstrating how 21st century green technology can be installed into 20th century buildings to reach an 80% carbon-reduction goal, WDH and Bramall were awarded £150,000 to begin the work.

So what’s in store for the tenants and their homes?

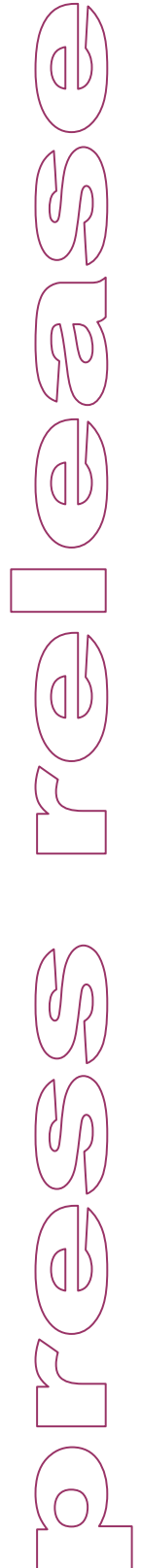
“The residents are excited at the prospect of not only reducing their carbon output, but also by savings on fuel costs,” says Owen Daggett, Energy Efficiency Manager for WDH. “One man will be keeping a live blog to record an account of the changes as they happen.”

If all goes according to plan, building works on the semi-detached homes will begin in April, and are scheduled to be completed after eight weeks.

Upon completion these four Kettlethorpe properties will be among the first to have achieved the Government’s target for an 80% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions... forty years ahead of schedule (they stipulate all properties should meet the 80% reduction by 2050)!

Of course, not only will the properties benefit from reduced carbon emissions, but energy bills will be reduced to as low as £200 per year.

ENDS



Notes To News Editors

1. Photo caption:
2. WDH was established in April 2005 and became the largest single transfer housing organisation in the country when it took ownership of homes from Wakefield Council. It manages 31,000 properties occupied by 100,000 tenants and has a workforce of over 1,400 people, making it one of the largest local employers. WDH became the first housing organisation in the north, and the third in the UK to achieve the top rating of three stars from the Audit Commission in October 2007. The rating was awarded in particular for WDH's progress in delivering major repairs, the range of ways tenants can access services, and the high standards of customer care. WDH were also commended for their clear focus on delivering value for money services, catering for vulnerable people and impacting on the regeneration of the area.
3. WDH has been awarded Silver Band status by Sustainable Homes Index For Tomorrow (SHIFT), which recognises housing organisations' environmental sustainability and commitment to preventing climate change.