



Hambleside Danelaw Ltd
Press release – 2nd July 2008

‘Energy bill savings mean it still pays to go green’, says Green Heroes winner

Hambleside Danelaw Ltd, winner again this year of a Green Heroes award, says that commercial and public sector clients can save thousands of pounds in energy bills each year from the outset if they move into a building constructed with insulated materials and rooflights that cut the need for artificial lighting.

The British roofing products and rooflights manufacturer is urging specifiers and builders not to use current economic pressures as an excuse to source cheap materials that deliver poor energy efficiency for the building occupier.

Many in the industry already recognise that heating and air-conditioning costs can be cut by the installation of rooflights with low U-values, such as Hambleside’s own award-winning Insulator range. But now that it is becoming more common for rooflights to cover more than 10% of the roof area, more are also seeing a real difference in reducing artificial lighting bills as well as cutting carbon emissions.

Architects should therefore consider the benefits of rooflights in conjunction with the specification for artificial lighting and the reduced costs of using less artificial lighting when rooflight cover is increased. The Government’s ‘Switch it Off’ campaign has, for example, identified relatively small factories saving up to £20,000 per year in energy bills by keeping their rooflights clean and switching off the lights.

Academic research shows that increasing rooflight cover with the resultant inflow of daylight has a positive impact on those living or working in a building. It links natural daylighting to tangible work place benefits, improved retail sales, lower staff absenteeism, faster hospital recovery rates and improved school exam results.

Robin Jeffery, Hambleside Danelaw’s vice chairman, said: “The economic case for insulated building materials is just as strong as the environmental one, because investment in increased insulation performance has a relatively short pay-back period for the client. And don’t forget that the energy savings will accumulate year on year throughout the service life of the product.”

Green Heroes award recognises Hambleside’s adoption of environmental best practice

Robin Jeffery was speaking after Hambleside Danelaw’s environmental manager Ray Khan had been presented with the Green Heroes 2008 award by top botanist and TV personality Professor David Bellamy OBE in recognition of the company’s Planet Positive accreditation.

The Green Heroes judges commented: “As manufacturers of GRP structures, Hambleside Danelaw are aware of their environmental impact and have been actively reducing their impact for many years. They are now operating in a carbon positive manner by sustainable practice and carbon offsetting, supporting environmental projects across the world.”

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Contact Aidan Relf on 07710 305182

Notes to editors

1. About the Green Heroes Awards

The Green Apple and Heroes awards are awarded annually in recognition of companies, councils and communities carrying out projects that enhance environment, that wish to share their experience and knowledge with the world. The Green Apple Awards campaign is run by the Green Organisation, an independent, non-political, non-profit organisation that recognises, rewards and promotes environmental best practice around the world. Their supporters include the Environment Agency, the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and various other professional bodies.

2. About Planet Positive

Hambleside Danelaw was given Planet Positive™ certification by leading carbon solutions company dcarbon8 (<http://dcarbon8.com/index.php>) because its design and production processes embody an environmentally responsible footprint which is imperative to receiving certification. The Planet Positive™ mark will inform contractors that Hambleside's business carbon footprint, the volume of greenhouse gasses generated by the company's manufacturing and distribution processes, is more than offset by activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

3. About Hambleside Danelaw Ltd

Hambleside Danelaw Ltd (www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk) manufactures Glass Reinforced Polyester (GRP) rooflights and other roofing and ventilation products in Daventry and Inverness. As part of the Hambleside Danelaw Group with headquarters in Waterlooville in Hampshire, its turnover is currently in excess of £10 million a year and it employs almost 90 people. The Group was established in 1975 with its first factory at Inverness for manufacturing GRP products becoming operational in 1978. In addition to winning numerous environmental awards, the factory has attained BS 14001:2004 in recognition of its environmental management systems and has now been independently assessed as carbon neutral. In 1992, the company began producing in Daventry non-GRP products primarily for roof and cavity wall ventilation and last September it opened a new state-of-the-art facility in the East Midlands town.

In 2006, the Group won a Business Commitment to the Environment award, presented by David Cameron MP, as well as a Queen's Award for Enterprise: Innovation for its Insulator GRP thermally efficient rooflight. The Group won its third UK national Green Apple award for Environmental Best Practice before being recognised by The Green Organisation as 'Green Heroes'. This was followed by Hambleside Danelaw's third Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) award in five years in the medium sized companies' category. In 2007, the Group was accredited with the Planet Positive mark by leading carbon solutions company dcarbon8 and it collected the Scottish Natural Heritage Award for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability.