The Quick Start User Guide

For New Homes

MEARU

This project was developed in response to post occupancy research and work with the Scottish Government Building Standards Division on occupant guides and the benefits to home energy efficiency via simple instructions for operating a new house.

In 2011, Scottish Building Regulations introduced optional sustainability standards for new housing. These included the provision of a 'quick start user guide' for occupants that would promote energy efficiency through clear visual instructions for operating their new house, and deliver bespoke information about the building fabric, mechanical systems, ventilation strategies and other energy saving features.

MEARU and The Home Log Book Company worked together to design and deliver a template for a 'quick start' housing guide which met the sustainability requirements set by Scottish Building Regulations. The project identified the most effective process of gathering this information and proposed a simple template for a Home Starter Guide which could be replicated by housing providers. A pilot guide was tested within a range of new house owners and tenants in both the public and private sectors and feedback incorporated into the final template. The results of this research reinforce previous studies which indicate that residents need information about how their home was designed and constructed in order to be able to operate the house in the most energy efficient manner. The Home Starter Guide template gives housing providers a straightforward means of delivering this information to residents, allows them to comply with sustainability regulations, and ensures that occupants understand and operate their home efficiently, leading to improved environmental performance.

Project Title: The 'Quick Start' User Guide for New Homes

Client/ Funding body: CIC Start on-line

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Team: MEARU- Prof Tim Sharpe, Matt Bridgestock, Rosalie Menon
Project Partner- Stuart Young, Home Log Book