

The Environmental Assessment of Domestic Laundering

EPSRC

MEARU

A 3 year funded research project titled 'The Environmental Assessment of Domestic Laundering' carried out across three leading academic institutions. The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funded the work, under the title Environmental Assessment of Domestic Laundering.

Work commenced in late 2008 and the research team has thoroughly investigated the laundry habits across a wide demographic mix of residents drawn mainly from within social housing in Glasgow. The research team focussed on energy consumption ; indoor air quality and environmental impacts.

The outputs of this body of research aim to change the norms for housing design and construction in order to improve air quality and reduce energy consumption. In 2012 the project produced a Design Guide: Healthy Low Energy Home Laundering which provides a critical body of knowledge of environmental impacts having significance for the health and wellbeing of occupants. Based on the evidence, the design guide provides technical guidance on design upgrades to existing building stock to mitigate energy consumed and any undesirable side effects with respect to air quality or the fabric and contents inside homes.

The project's findings were presented to the Scottish Government's Building Standards Division and at seminars aimed at audiences (such as housing association managers) that can instigate meaningful change. Public engagement through media coverage has raised awareness of the impacts on health and energy consumption in order to change laundry practices in the home.

The project gained significant public interest and was featured as a key news story on the BBC network both in the UK and overseas. In addition, the news article was published in over 200 media outlets worldwide.

Project Title: The Environmental Assessment of Domestic Laundering

Client/ Funding body: The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)

Date : Oct 2012

Project Value- £522,000

Team: MEARU- Prof Colin Porteous, Prof Tim Sharpe, Rosalie Menon

Links

Laundry Project website:

<http://homelaundrystudy.net/>