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# *STRAW BALE BUILDING*

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Addressing the Climate and Ecological Emergency





# *SOLUTIONS FOR OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT*



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- Buildings accounted for 34% of UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2014 <sup>1</sup>
- Zero Carbon Homes policy was axed
- To achieve climate targets all new buildings must be zero carbon
- Making buildings zero carbon in both construction and in use can help the local environment and economy

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Fact-sheet-buildings-updated-July-2015.pdf>



# WHY BUILD WITH STRAW?



- Climate Crisis - stores carbon, sustainable, local
- Highly insulating
  - Wall U-value of 0.1 (Regs 0.3, Cavity 0.2)
  - SAP score 80+ achievable
- Easily cement-free
- Zero carbon in construction and use
- Cost neutral up front, save money long term
- Suitable for all sorts of buildings



# WHAT IS STRAW?



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- Not hay (food)
- Dry stalks of cereal plants (e.g. wheat, oats, barley)
- Similar to wood
- Kept dry will last forever
- Agricultural by-product
- **Enough spare each year to build 500,000 bale houses**



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# *MANY WAYS TO BUILD*

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# *MANY WAYS TO BUILD*

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# STRAW BALE PANELS

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- Research by Dorset Community Action in 2017
- Local timber
- Local straw
- Local plaster/render
- Local labour
- Factory produced - quality and speed
- Helping local communities whilst also providing zero carbon buildings to address the Climate and Ecological Emergency



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# *HOW DO WE MAKE THIS HAPPEN?*

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- Planning Policy
- Council buildings
- Council social housing
- Housing Association social housing
- An initial project would be a great start





# WHO CAN DELIVER IT?



- Local businesses and people!
- Straw-bale Building UK
- Constrawtium - a network of straw bale builders, currently delivering a 216m<sup>2</sup> visitor centre for Hastings Borough Council



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# QUESTIONS

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