

Informally suggested reading list for continuing professional development on sustainability – general titles

This list of general interest titles has been compiled by the Institution's Sustainable Construction Panel

CIRIA guide C695: Guide to sustainable procurement in construction

Provides some context and background to sustainable procurement in construction, why it is important and what the business drivers are. Discusses issues on how to achieve successful sustainable procurement and how to put it into practice.

Cradle to Cradle. Remaking the Way We Make Things by Michael Braungart & William McDonough

This book outlines a philosophy of zero waste that is applicable across all industries, not through reducing waste, but by eliminating the concept. It is relevant to designing for deconstruction.

Heat: How We Can Stop the Planet Burning? by George Monbiot

It shows how a modern, industrial nation could achieve cuts in greenhouse gas emissions sufficient to avert dangerous climate change while remaining a modern, industrial nation. George Monbiot does this by looking at various sectors of the UK economy in turn and asking whether it is feasible to achieve a 90% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2030 from that sector. This may sound dull, but this is not the case.

How Bad Are Bananas? by Mike Berners-Lee

Provides the carbon footprint of nearly everything, from sending a text message to hosting a world cup. It's about picking the right battles to reduce carbon.

How Buildings Learn: What Happens After They're Built by Stewart Brand

Illustrated book exploring the ways buildings are adapted throughout their life and what this might mean for future design.

ICE Manual of Structural Design: Buildings - Sustainability chapter

Introduction to the mind-set required for a structural engineer to manage sustainability. It reviews case studies, policy and reviews sustainability throughout the design process.

Sustainable Energy - without the hot air by David McKay (freely available on the internet at www.withouthotair.com)

This book explores facts about sustainable energy. It provides a very good overview of energy consumption in the UK and the contribution that renewables can realistically make to meeting energy demand.

Sustainable Materials - with Both Eyes Open by Julian Allwood and Jonathan Cullen

Contains facts, figures and case studies in terms of material use and carbon emissions. Looks at the size of the challenge and potential solutions. Focusses predominantly on steel and aluminium but also touches on cement, plastic and paper. Not purely construction industry focused but is a significant part.

What Colour Is Your Building? by David Clark (due out May 2013 from RIBA Publishing)

Puts into perspective the whole carbon footprint of buildings (operating, embodied and transport) and ways in which this can be reduced including specific guidance for structural engineers.

Sustainability Guidelines for the Structural Engineer by the ASCE SEI Sustainability Committee

These guidelines educate and advise structural engineers on: Sustainable Design and Construction, Sustainable Strategies, Building Materials, Infrastructure, and Case Studies. Although related, each topic has a standalone section in the guidelines; case studies are included.