

Imperial College Union  
**A Sustainable Beit Building Masterplan**  
*A Note by John Collins, IC Union President*

**Introduction**

The purpose of this paper is to discuss how we can move forward in developing a sustainability plan for the Beit Building. Presently our building's heating infrastructure lacks basic insulation and, in many places, our windows are only single glazed. High energy lights are regularly left on over night and the walls and roof of the building are far from air tight. Furthermore, in spite of our College's strong reputation for research in a variety of renewable energy technology fields, there is not a single large scale example of renewable energy infrastructure at any of our nine campuses.

**Background**

When the Beit Masterplan was launched in 2004 the then Executive Committee (which I was a member of at the time) explicitly called for the Beit Building to be redeveloped in a way that reduced the carbon footprint of the building.

Whilst our architects have conducted some research into renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives that could be incorporated in to the masterplan, it is apparent that there is much more that we could do.

In early 2006 the previous president, Sameena Misbahuddin, commissioned a consultant working for the Carbon Trust to produce a feasibility study for this building. The resulting report is appended to this paper. As useful as this report is, it is not nearly detailed enough for us to move forward with confidence and there are serious misgivings about some of the proposals that are put forward in this study (I'd like to thank one of our postgraduate Council members, Mark Flower, for offering his expert opinion on this subject).

**Proposal**

Ben Harris and I have met with various experts in green building design who work both inside and outside the College. They have all advised us to commission a consultant to produce a more detailed feasibility study and authoritative business case to reduce the carbon footprint of Beit that we can present to the College in the New Year. Unlike the previous study, this one would not be free.

The Executive Committee has the authority to commission such a study; however, as this is an issue of great importance, I would like to ask the Council for its view on this matter.

**JC 07/10/06**