

Findhorn Foundation: New Education Building Development.

The Findhorn Foundation is a spiritual community, ecovillage and an international centre for holistic education, helping to unfold a new human consciousness and create a positive and sustainable future. The Foundation is based on the Moray Firth in the north east of Scotland.

The Findhorn Foundation community began in 1962 when the founders – Eileen and Peter Caddy and Dorothy MacLean moved to what was a windswept caravan park on the edge of derelict land. In 1972 the community was formally registered as a Scottish Charity under the name The Findhorn Foundation and in the 1970s and 80s grew to approximately 300 members.

At the end of the 1980s, the Ecovillage Project at Findhorn was begun, with an energy producing wind generator and the first of our eco-friendly buildings. An ecovillage is defined as being sustainable ecologically, economically, culturally and spiritually, and for us this is a logical continuation of our work with nature. There are now 90 ecological buildings, and in the mid 1990s our biological sewage treatment plant, The Living Machine, was opened.

Today as part of our sustainable development strategy and aim to be carbon neutral, we are building a new education facility for use by our educational programmes and for wider community events and activities.

In order to meet the highest standards possible, the building is

- constructed in FSC certified timber
- has high specification of double-glazing
- and a rainwater collection system to supply the toilets

The building is also fully accessible with ramps, wide access doors, Braille signage and an induction loop. This Spring we will surround the building with a newly landscaped area with aromatic and insect friendly plants and flowers.

With the generous support of the Naturesave Trust and their grant to us of £1,000 we have been able to fully insulate the building to a high level using insulation made of recycled materials. The building is in place and will be completed for Easter 2011, ready for our summer guest programme.