

Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF)

Promoting innovative housing policy and practice





About BSHF

BSHF is an independent research organisation that identifies innovative housing policy and practice, promotes these ideas and examples and supports the exchange and transfer of good practice.

We work both in the UK and internationally and in collaboration with a wide range of organisations.

Our work is focused on helping people access decent housing around the world and we do this through three related areas of activity:

We identify knowledge about innovative housing policy and practice

We produce knowledge about innovative housing policy and practice

We support the scaling up and transfer of innovative housing policy and practice

We believe that **everyone should have access to decent housing**, which:

- provides durable shelter from the elements
- is sufficiently affordable that other basic needs can be met
- provides secure tenure without fear of eviction
- has access to clean water and sanitation
- is large enough for the household
- is energy efficient and environmentally responsible
- offers access to livelihood opportunities and health and education provision
- promotes a sense of safety, well-being and belonging.



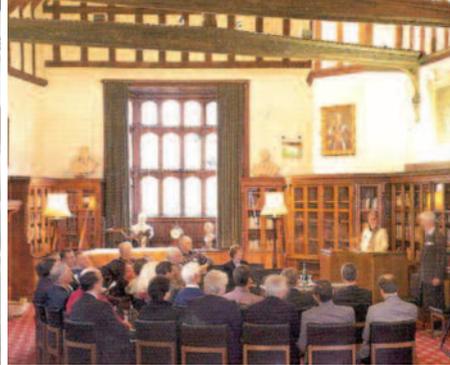
We identify knowledge about innovative housing policy and practice

In 1985 we established **The World Habitat Awards** as part of our contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards are given annually to projects that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing challenges throughout the world.

Entries are assessed by a panel of international judges. A cash award of £10,000 and a trophy are presented to each of the winners of the Award at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day.

Further details on the World Habitat Awards as well as a searchable database of innovative housing solutions can be found at www.worldhabitatawards.org





We produce knowledge about innovative housing policy and practice

As an independent housing research organisation, BSHF carries out a range of research activities. Most of our research is carried out in-house or in collaboration with other organisations and some is externally commissioned or sponsored.

As part of BSHF's work to promote innovation in UK housing policy and practice, we hold a three-day Consultation event each year at St George's House in Windsor Castle. We bring together leading experts and practitioners to discuss a theme of current UK housing concern and produce recommendations for action. Recent themes include:

- Building new homes for rent (2012)
- Increasing the diversity of housing supply (2011)
- Support with housing costs (2010)

Research areas within the international programme focus on the key housing issues identified through the World Habitat Award competition and the processes by which good housing practices can be effectively transferred including:

- Participatory housing processes
- Informal settlement upgrading
- Health and housing

BSHF also works in partnership with European social housing providers to investigate and identify ways of addressing barriers to the development of nearly-zero energy homes.



We support the scaling up and transfer of innovative housing policy and practice

Following our Windsor Consultation events we undertake subsequent work to promote the adoption of key recommendations both nationally and locally. In doing so we help to ensure that promising policy and practice innovations are developed and implemented.

We also work to ensure that the good practice identified through the World Habitat Awards is shared, adapted and transferred to other countries and contexts. We achieve this by organising international study visits to winning projects, providing bursaries to help meet costs for those attending, as well as producing easily accessible information.

We also support and facilitate a range of other knowledge-sharing activities, including workshops, seminars and community exchange activities between organisations, both in the UK and overseas.

We actively collaborate with a range of national and international organisations, including UN-HABITAT Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme and CECODHAS Housing Europe, to support the transfer of good housing practice.

We publish all the research that we carry out, commission or sponsor. A full list of our publications, all of which are available to download free-of-charge, can be found on our website www.bshf.org



Established in 1976, BSHF is based in Coalville in the East Midlands region of the United Kingdom, where it has strong historical ties.

Since 2006 BSHF has held Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, reflecting our work in support of the goals of UN-HABITAT.

BSHF seeks to play an active and positive role in the wider local community, as well as working nationally and internationally.

BSHF is committed to environmental sustainability and has planted over 37,000 trees on land that it owns, creating community woodlands and offsetting the carbon emissions generated through its activities.

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Charity Number: 270987

Company Number: 1247918