



# Unit 3 Introduction

## Sustainability



What is sustainability? Why does it matter? Why is it suddenly so important? Who benefits from sustainability? Do solar panels work? Can you use wood from local trees in a new house? Should we buy local materials? Can you recycle a house? How are sustainable design and construction techniques used to address environmental issues? Can sustainable construction increase the value of my property? Can sustainable construction benefit society and communities? How can sustainability be integrated into a community construction project?

Increasingly, society is becoming concerned with the environment and sustainability issues, such as minimisation of waste, pollution control, use of resources, preservation of heritage and culture, flora and fauna and protection of biodiversity. Consequently the construction industry has to show it is responding with how it develops and maintains the built environment. Meeting legal and regulatory requirements for sustainability is an added pressure for any construction and built environment development. Whether an architect is designing a new or renovated building, a supplier is making available materials for building contractors or a contractor is planning the process used in constructing the built environment, they will be exploring the concept of sustainable construction and how it affects the built and natural environment and their users.

### **During the Summer consider the following:**

1. Why is sustainability so important to the construction company and to society as a whole?
2. Look for news items etc. on sustainability generally. Quite a lot on plastic packaging in the news at the moment.
3. As you notice building projects locally or wherever you travel to. What sustainable materials are being used? What impact will the project have, both negatively and positively?