

Low energy house

BASF Polska and partners promote energy-saving building.

By Andreas Meier and Dorota Iwanowska

Attractive architecture, energy-efficient design, cost-effectiveness: On the right, the model of the Jan Kowalski house, below, the house under construction.



Low energy houses are an investment in the future that helps to save energy sustainably and therefore cash. BASF Polska, together with its local partners, would like to send out this message to the 65,000 or so private builds per year in Poland. A low energy house is currently in planning that consumes less than five litres of oil per square meter a year, but is still attractive and inexpensive. With it they would like to specifically target “Jan Kowalski”, i.e. the average Polish consumer. “Our goal is to take energy-efficient building out of the high tech and high price niche and to make it accessible to everyone”, Dr. Torsten Penkuhn, Managing Director of BASF Polska explains. “This way we also contribute to energy saving within the country.”

“We want to make energy-efficient building accessible to everyone.”

The project offers a coherent overall concept, which includes attractive financing. The BASF partners are Termo Organika, the leading Polish insulating material producer and BASF’s longstanding partner in the Neopor® sector, as well as Lipincsy Domy in Wrocław, a firm of architects specialising in energy-efficient house design. A special financing concept from Fortis Bank supports the project. BASF itself supplies the insulating materials, above all Neopor, the latent heat storage material Micronal,

for everyone

as well as other innovative building materials on request. Colleagues from a range of specialist fields work closely together in the BASF project team, including Slawomir Galas (BASF Polska), Marco Schmidt (EDK), Mariusz Barszcz (EB) and Dirk Funhoff (EUM).

Opening up options

The costs for delivery of a “Jan Kowalski house” with 180 square meters of living space amount to around 90,000 Euro in Poland. The initially higher costs for the modern building materials are soon recouped by the building principal: These costs are paid back after just five years or so, thanks to the low energy consumption and the owner continues to save money handsomely year on year.

“We not only wish to awaken awareness to energy-saving building among the Polish population with our approach”, stresses Project Manager Bozena Aniol-Walczak (EU). “In addition, we are convinced that the average Jan Kowalski can also afford energy efficiency in house building. We simply need to demonstrate these options to him.” 65,000 houses are built every year in Poland, most of which are individually planned by private building principals. They select the design, craftsmen and building materials themselves. “Energy-efficient building has hardly been a consideration until now. Quite the opposite: The energy consumption of family homes in Poland is often higher than that of large prefabricated concrete buildings”, explains Aniol-Walczak.

Setting standards

In the project just started, the applications expertise of Termo Organika, the technical expertise of BASF and the design and energy-efficient competence of Lipinsky complement one other perfectly. “Our experi-



Neopor is bonded on the facade. The craftsman fixes the insulating board by pressing on firmly by hand. The insulating material is then secured with screw anchors.

ence shows that low energy and passive houses are making headway in Poland”, points out the architect and company boss Ludwika Juchniewicz-Lipinska. “With our clear almost archetypal house design, high functionality and by using high quality building materials, we want to set a new standard in the Polish low energy house sector.” Dariusz Stachura, Managing Director of Termo Organika, adds: “Against the backdrop of steadily increasing energy prices, we want to convince building principals to think in terms of economical and ecological sustainability. If we succeed in this, I see great potential for our project.” Soon it will be possible to gain first impressions of the house – a show house is currently under construction in the southern Polish city of Wroclaw. Although this is a

passive house with less than 1.5 litres of oil consumption per square meter, the design is very close to the final draft of the “Jan Kowalski” house. A PR and advertising campaign with BASF involvement is now set to make the low energy house concept known in Poland. And, in just a few weeks, the pilot house in Wroclaw will be open for public viewing.

Further info is available from Bozena Aniol-Walczak and at www.domy-pasywne.pl.