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Bradfords Building Supplies is launching 'Building Sustainable Communities' – an innovative new series of events aimed at inspiring, informing and engaging the South West on achieving long term environmental and social sustainability for the built environment.

Created in partnership with TrustMark, the inaugural event will take place on 24 November at Somerset County Cricket Club and will address the challenges in achieving energy efficient, low environmental impact building projects and the latest in environmentally responsible products and materials.

The event is sponsored by ROCKWOOL, the UK's leading manufacturer of non-combustible stone wool insulation.

A programme of speakers will include:

- Optimised Retrofit Wales on learnings from its achievements so far in retrofitting over 1,700 social housing properties to make them more energy efficient.
- Future Plymouth 2030 and Low Carbon Devon on the challenges that Devon, and Plymouth specifically, see in achieving a lower-carbon built environment for the city and beyond by the end of the decade – and the approaches being taken to mitigate these.
- TrustMark on the Government's heat and buildings strategy and the national retrofit strategy and what this means for the construction sector.
- Verto Homes on how it incorporates low carbon into every aspect of a build and why this makes sense from both an environmental and commercial perspective.

"We know there needs to be significant changes in our approach to housebuilding at every

scale to meet net zero targets. The government's heat and buildings strategy sets the ambition and detail for what we need to do to our homes, so it's now time for us all to make that happen," said Giles Bradford, Head of Sustainability at Bradfords Building Supplies.

"Many of our customers – from housing developers through to self-builders and home renovators – are understandably right at the start of this journey. We're stepping up to help educate and inform the local construction sector on what environmental sustainability means for their projects and how merchants like us – and the wider supply chain – can support that.

"We hope both our customers and our teams will feel inspired, informed and more confident about what lies ahead."

Simon Ayres, Chief Executive at TrustMark, added: "We're delighted to partner Bradfords in this important series of events throughout the South West. These events will be the forerunner of looking at how we work with the supply chain in construction and energy as a whole, with a view to improving the outcomes for consumers and sustainability for industry.

"Sharing information and building understanding is key and these events will help to facilitate discussion, debate and learning for us and our customers, helping us along that path."

"We're extremely proud to be supporting this event. Broadening industry understanding of how we can all work together to improve sustainability and reduce environmental impact is key for everyone's future," commented Mark Bungay, Commercial Director, ROCKWOOL UK.

Additional event sponsors include Polypipe, a company that specialises in developing and delivering engineered water and climate management solutions for the built environment, plus ACO Technology, a provider of sustainable water drainage systems, and Stonemarket, a leading landscape product supplier.

The event will run from 6pm and will be accessible via live online streaming. For more information about the event, including online access, visit www.bradfords.co.uk/buildingsustainablecommunities

For more information on TrustMark, visit: www.trustmark.org.uk

ROCKWOOL: www.rockwool.com/uk

Polypipe: www.polypipe.com

ACO Techology: www.aco.co.uk/house-and-garden

Stonemarket: www.stonemarket.co.uk