



**York**

**Transforming the energy debate**

## 3 years ago - York had:

- no energy strategy
- no cross-departmental energy body
- no audit of energy use
- no sustainable council buildings
- ill-informed elected members
- inward-looking departments

# the worst of all worlds

- partially informed and anxious public
- elected members unable to challenge the status quo
- municipal departments avoiding difficult issues
- isolated specialists / energy managers



what is York like?

## a thriving historic city

- 181,000 inhabitants
- founded by the Romans.
- a thriving city, in transition from manufacturing to knowledge-based economy
- major tourist destination with over 4 million visitors a year
- packed with about 2000 historic and listed buildings

# the Minster



# energy efficiency in a historic context

- quantifying and explaining the risks of inaction
- developing a planning process that protects old buildings AND reduces energy use
- encouraging the development of renewable energy technologies that work in a historic environment

# St Nick's environment centre





# St Nick's environment centre

## energy features

- 2.4kW wind turbine
- solar heating panels
- photovoltaic cells

the centre also teaches the community about composting and runs a local recycling service

# Fieldside Place



- very high levels of insulation
- solar rooms for passive solar gain
- air-tightness
- minimising of cold bridging



**solar houses**

## Horsman Avenue

- solar rooms
- high quality insulation
- special light fittings only allow low energy bulbs to be used
- sold with fitted low energy appliances

how do all these  
projects fall short?

FACTS

FACTS

FACTS

FACTS

none of these projects actively  
monitors energy performance

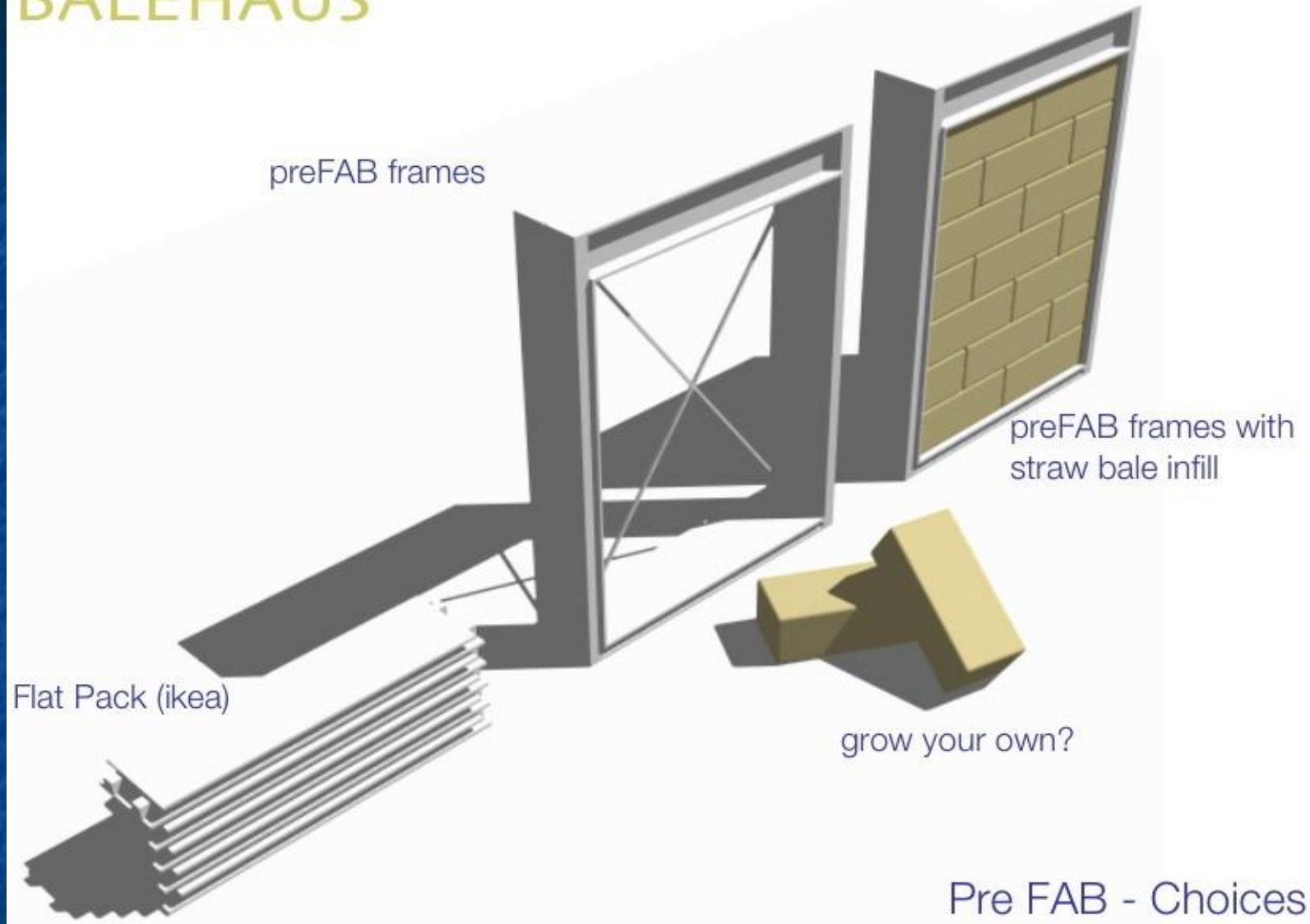
there is no data

so there is no proof  
that these buildings work.



ecoDepot

# BALEHAUS



innovative straw cladding



# straw buildings in the public mind



Illustration by nick sharratt



across Europe we don't need 20,000 low energy buildings,

we need **200,000** buildings ...

we need **2 million** buildings

so these landmark buildings must:

- **be seen to work**
- **be replicable**
- **be adopted by mainstream construction**

but the **eco**Depot is not just  
a building ...



it is  
a story

the **eco**Depot is:

- a blog
- a website
- a webcam



it will be:

- a book / dvd
- an interpretation suite
- open days during construction

the **eco**Depot is:

- intelligent metering

# so what has changed in York?

York has signed a declaration committing it to reduce its impact on Climate Change

Monthly meetings to educate and inform elected members about energy use have produced a series of reports on:

- energy use,
- energy efficiency,
- renewable energy,
- energy in housing,
- street lighting ...

# the executive has agreed to:

- to set up a cross-departmental energy working group
- to instruct that group to create an energy management policy
- to create a post of council energy champion
- to ensure that future planning strategy requires high energy efficiency from new developments

# A council working together

- the **eco**Depot is transforming the way the municipality views itself.
- elected members and council employees are better informed and better able to act
- our energy managers and sustainability officer feel supported
- Energie-Cités' Display posters in 20 buildings across the city and helping us identify savings



# Progress requires a culture of:

- **openness**  
(where people feel encouraged to report ideas / issues)
- **on-going learning and debate**  
(to deal with a rapidly changing situation)
- **involvement**  
(don't leave it to energy managers and other experts)
- **engagement**  
(with the public, the media, the renewable energy sector, education, construction industry, architects, planners ...)

Past and future, history and energy, can work together,  
as in this light installation by French artist Patrice  
Warrener projected onto the Minster in last autumn



**Let's make it happen**

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