

Building a Better New Zealand Conference 2014 Industry Submission

Theme: Warming up New Zealand's Coldest Town – Ophir Central Otago

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The Knauf Group was established in 1932, and is a family-owned multi-national manufacturer of building and construction systems. With turnover in excess of €5b, 24,000 employees over 50 countries Knauf is leading the way in product and system technologies for healthier and more sustainable construction. Knauf Insulation embraces community projects where people's health and comfort is compromised due to inefficient or cold buildings.

In 2012, Knauf Insulation New Zealand completed a project to insulate as many homes and commercial buildings in Ophir as possible, arguably one of New Zealand's coldest towns. The project installed Glass Mineral Wool (Earthwool) with ECOSE Technology into the homes of the 50 residents of the small historic mining town transforming their energy inefficient houses into cozy and welcoming homes.

In 2014, Knauf Insulation revisited Ophir and interviewed the residents, building users and owners to understand the differences the town's people of Ophir have found resulting from this initiative.

The presentation is to provide the audience an anecdotal overview by building users from Ophir regarding the changes in their comfort, building use and energy efficiency resulting from the project. Also discussed will be the advantages of improving the energy performance of existing buildings at low cost.

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