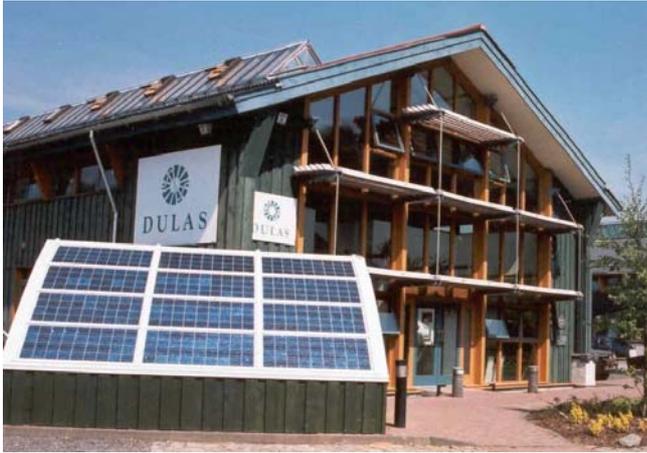




CAT has also acted as a 'nursery' of small businesses, some now fully independent of the parent organisation. These include



Dulas Engineering, one of CAT's daughter companies, located in the Eco-Business-Park in the nearby town of

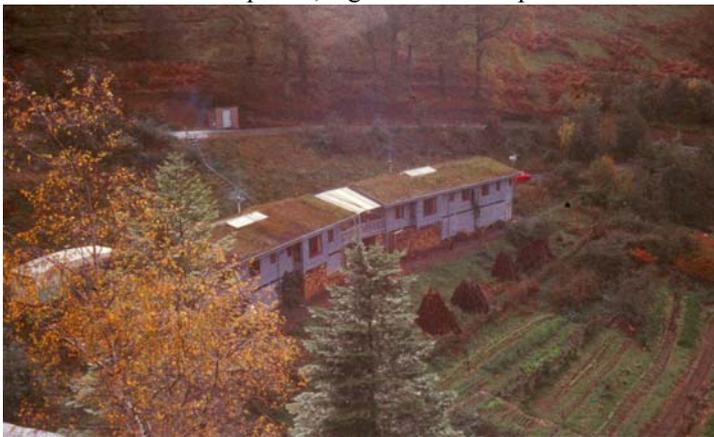
- A vegetarian café in the nearby town of Machynlleth
- A shop for supplies of healthy foods and other products, also in Machynlleth
- A company to run a 600kW wind generator near the main site, which is a teaching tool but also generates about £50,000 a year in electricity sales to the national grid.
- Two renewable energy companies, both based near Machynlleth. One, Dulas Engineering Ltd, operating mostly in developing countries, with a staff of 20 and a turnover similar to CAT itself. The other, Ecogen Ltd, initiates renewable energy schemes in the UK, principally with wind and biomass. It has 85MW of installed capacity to its credit, and another 125MW soon to be commissioned
- An electronic instrument company, Aber Instruments Ltd, designing and manufacturing a wide range of high-tech products.

It is probably fair to say that the presence of CAT has had a strong influence on the surrounding area, making the region a natural centre for green initiatives. The most recent of these is the Dyfi Eco-Valley Partnership which aims to 'ecologise' the entire watershed of the River Dyfi and has brought together a wide range of public and private bodies, including three Local Authorities, several NGOs, central government agencies and private citizens. This is important because it is part of the new thinking in regional development: not to compete with other regions for inward investment by fickle multinationals, but to generate local enterprises, if necessary with the aid of development grants, adding value by 'synergies' between different sectors. A recent initiative has been the setting up of a renewable energy company owned by local people, whose first investment is a 75kW wind-generator whose output CAT has guaranteed to purchase.



The wholefood vegetarian restaurant.

In research and development, a great deal of experience has been gained



The Eco-cabins with autonomous servicing, designed for residential training. They can accommodate up to 36

in energy management and local electricity systems. Recent innovations have been a 13kW building-integrated, grid-linked PV roof; and a district heating system that combines active solar with biomass, linked by a heat main. In buildings there have been successful new applications of renewable materials such as structural earth, straw and sheep's wool. In sanitation there are novel designs for dry toilets and rapid-separation of solids and liquids. In waste management there has been a unique programme of research in optimising home composting, resulting in improved methods and equipment. In horticulture the most recent research (in collaboration with the local university) concerns non-copper-based treatments for late blight in potatoes.

After a quarter-century of struggle and slow progress, CAT is increasingly recognised as a valuable resource by business, government and academia. A period of accelerated growth, development and diversification appears likely.