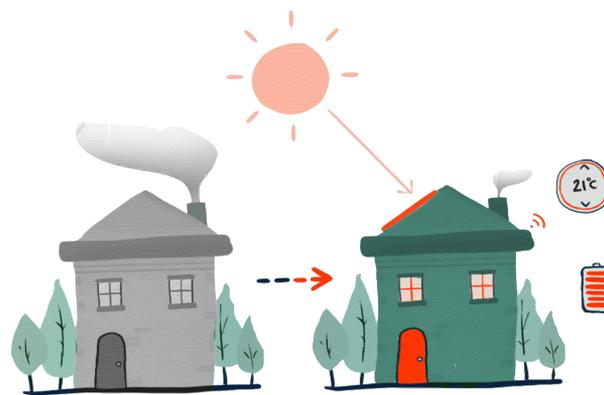


Welcome

Spring has sprung and although the weather may be unpredictable, our commitment to achieving net zero is unwavering as you will soon find out in April's edition of our Optimised Retrofit newsletter.

We have a lot of news for you in this edition so make yourself a cup of tea and settle down for a read and, as always, if there is anything you would like featured, or have a story you would like to tell, please get in touch.



Also in this issue

- Opportunity for Welsh Businesses and Tradespeople
- Whole Home Surveys Underway
- Building Renovation Passports
- Further CPD opportunities

Digital Tools

Whole Home Surveys Underway

Did you see we made the news?

The project has moved from the drawing board to delivering results, with the first surveys being conducted by the social housing teams as they begin to assess the pilot homes that will be retrofitted as part of the project.

Following a rapid period of development of the Whole Home Survey app by Sero, a first version of this cutting-edge digital tool has now been launched and is being put into action.

This follows more than 100 industry professionals having been trained in how to use the Whole Home Survey digital tool to enable them to begin assessing the pathway homes.

Pathways to Zero aligns with the Green Finance Institute's work on creating a standard for Building Renovation Passports (find out more below).

Following the completion of the Optimised Retrofit Pathways programme, the digital tools will be made available to Welsh social housing providers, academia, government, and subsequently private homeowners.

This will enable the long-term delivery of a legacy of tools, skills, frameworks and an evidence base that will allow others to follow and enable the decarbonisation of Wales' homes to quickly gain scale and pace.

Read our full feature in [Business News Wales](#) or [LABM](#) now.



Foundational Economy

Engaging Communities on Climate Change

Green Finance Institute: Building Renovation Passports

The Green Finance Institute's Coalition for the Energy Efficiency of Buildings (CEEb) in March 2021 released [Building Renovation Passports: Creating the pathway to zero carbon homes](#), a report setting out the steps to establish a digital tool to help property owners access decision-useful information to retrofit their homes.

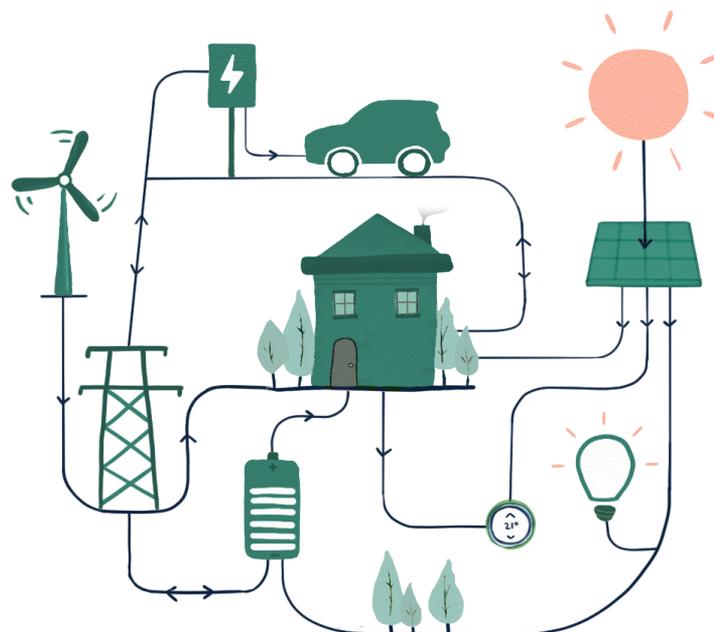
Already in use in several European countries, Building Renovation Passports (BRPs) contain a digital logbook with information about the property, its operational performance and historic renovations; and a long-term renovation roadmap that identifies future retrofit measures, along with links to contractors and finance options.

Produced in partnership with over 50 members from the retrofit energy, property and finance sectors and fields of data and academia, as well as local authorities and RSLs, the CEEb's report presents the key recommendations for how to develop a standardised

framework to support the introduction of Building Renovation Passports in the UK.

It considers the data inputs and outputs required, roles and responsibilities in developing and deploying BRPs, and the cross-sectoral benefits that widespread adoption can unlock.

The CEEb is inviting feedback from energy, data, retrofit and finance professionals, in order to further develop and publish an industry-backed framework to help introduce Building Renovation Passports in the UK.



'Collectively we demand change' - Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly published recommendations

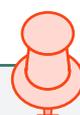
Wales' first-ever Climate Assembly concluded at the end of March and published its recommendations for a citizen-led response to climate change in South Wales.

The Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly has spent the last four weeks designing and deliberating on proposals to tackle climate change in Blaenau Gwent.

The final proposals were presented and voted on during the Assemblies final session on Sunday (**28th March**).



**Climate Assembly
Cynulliad Hinsawdd**



Five key recommendations were passed with over **80%** of the assembly members support across areas such as transport, housing and green spaces including:

- 1.** The establishment of an affordable, integrated road and rail transport system in Blaenau Gwent with a one-ticket system for bus, rail and cycle schemes.
- 2.** Establishing safe and easily maintainable infrastructure for walkers and cyclists.
- 3.** New training for local tradespeople, qualifications and upskilling to increase green construction skills across the borough.
- 4.** Implementing a programme of woodland preservation and reforestation increasing opportunities for jobs, biodiversity and connecting woodlands.
- 5.** Ensure new housing is developed with the latest sustainable techniques.

A full list of recommendations can be found [here](#).

It was organised by United Welsh, Linc Cymru, Melin Homes and Tai Calon in partnership with sustainable development charity Cynnal Cymru, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and ERS Cymru. You can watch the assembly sessions [here](#).

Make the Future Yours!

First milestone reached for 'Careers in Decarbonisation' activity

Make the Future Yours! magazine is delighted to confirm that the first of three editions to be produced in partnership with the Optimised Retrofit Project has now been published.

Available online in Welsh and English, the issues can be read here:

[Wales/Welsh language edition](#)

[Wales/English language edition](#)



Sitting under the 'Foundational Economy' pillar of this project, Make The Future Yours! is leading on the 'Careers in Decarbonisation' theme.

The magazine intentionally includes the broadest possible range of information and advice, to appeal to the broadest readership, but the Optimised Retrofit Wales editions will include significant features on construction careers in general and decarbonisation in particular.

Over the course of 2021, print copies will be posted to every secondary school and sixth form college in Wales.

The magazine also intends to continue publishing in Wales after the Project is complete so is keen to establish useful contacts and working relationships across the Principality.

The next Project editions are due early June and late October 2021 and any project partners with ideas for content or case studies are very welcome to contact the Editor, Claire Sutton, on claire@makethefutureyours.com



Forthcoming Events

Construction Wales Innovation Centre

The Construction Wales Innovation Centre (CWIC) is a unique CITB funded all-Wales training centre with its hub forming part of the [University of Wales Trinity Saint David's](#) new SA1 Swansea Waterfront Innovation Quarter.

CWIC has new fully funded courses available now and with limited spaces on each you need to be quick.

Topics include Domestic Energy Assessing, Drone Pilot Licence, Drone Surveying for Surveying/Risk Assessment.

Click [here](#) for more information and how to enrol.

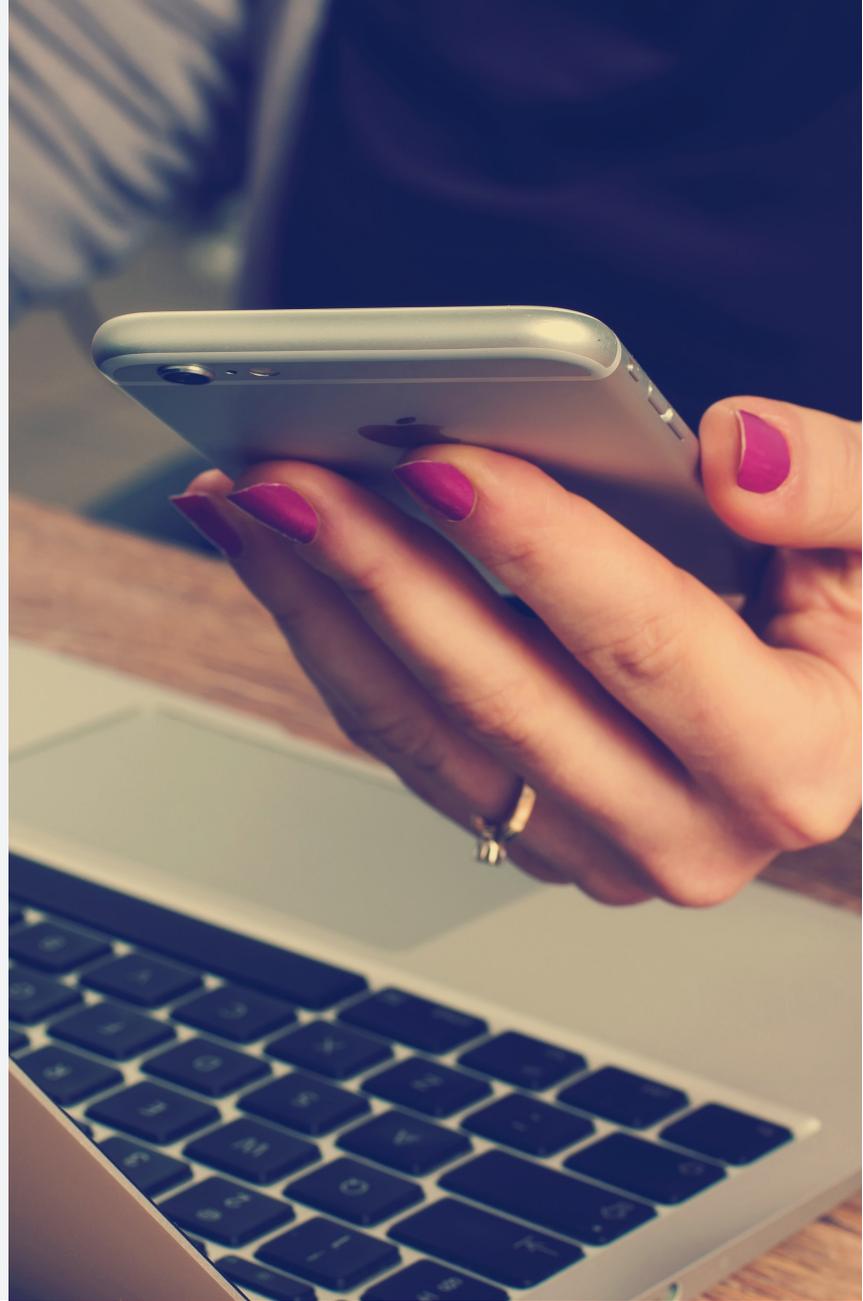


'Tweet us'

We are on social media. You can find us on:

Twitter ([@OptimisedR](#)) and LinkedIn ([Optimised Retrofit: Overview | LinkedIn](#))

Please follow us for project updates, related articles and active case studies.



We Want to Hear From You!

If you have any questions or want to find out more about the Optimised Retrofit project, then please get in touch:

Visit: [Optimised Retrofit – Sero Group](#)

Email: optimisedretrofit@sero.life

Follow us on Twitter: [@OptimisedR](#)

LinkedIn: [Optimised Retrofit](#)

sero