

Welcome

The sun split the sky, it may have only been for a week, but it was glorious and most welcome, wasn't it?

Summer tends to bring a much slower pace to life - the kids are off school, people are booking annual leave - but not for Optimised Retrofit.

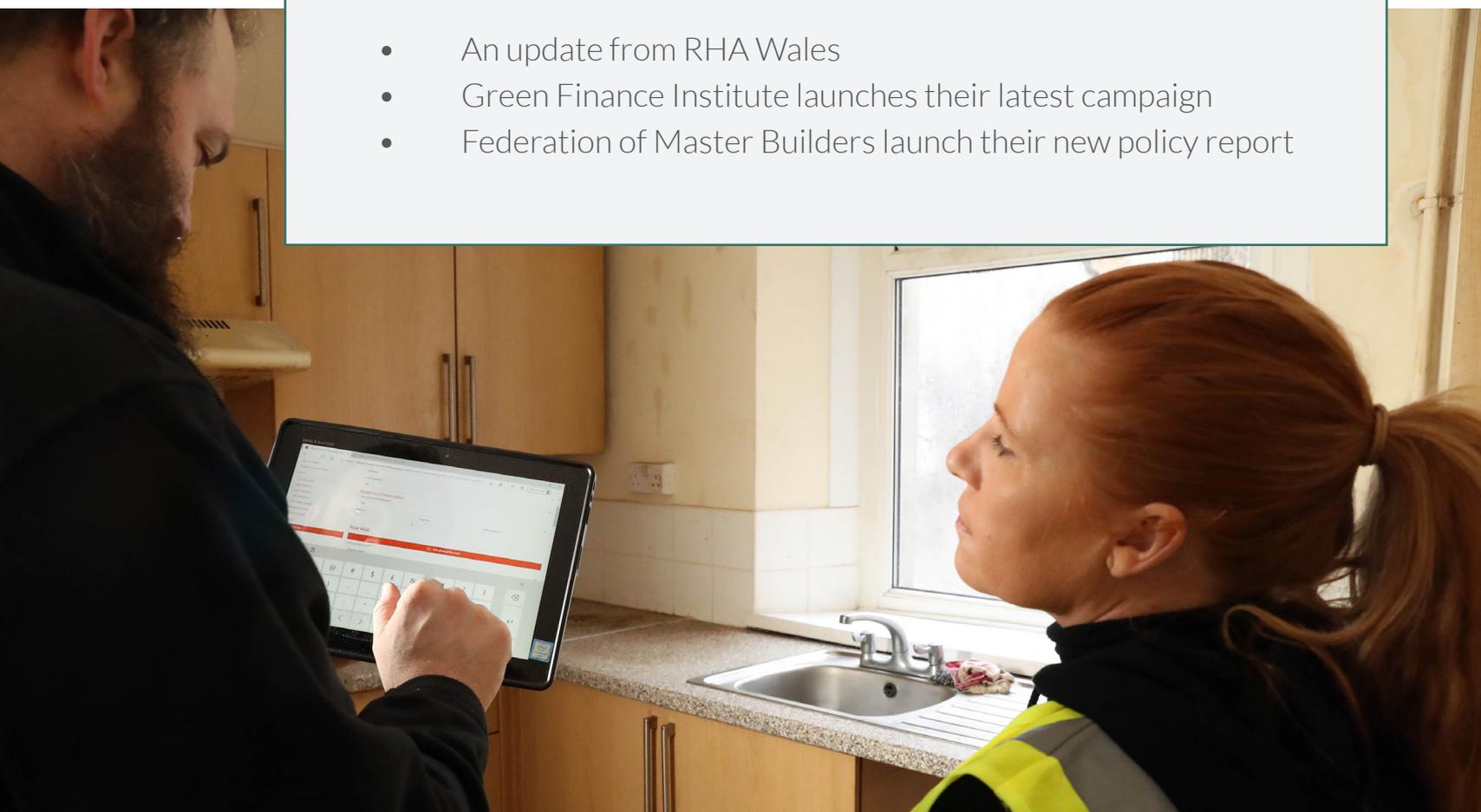
We have been hard at it, developing strategies that will influence our future approach and providing training for our partners to support them in delivering the project on the ground.

So, relax, take 10, and catch up with the latest goings on.



Also in this Issue

- An update from RHA Wales
- Green Finance Institute launches their latest campaign
- Federation of Master Builders launch their new policy report



Pathfinder Homes

Earlier this year RHA, one of our registered social landlord partners, launched their first decarbonisation strategy, 'RHA Optimise'.

This outlines their commitment to reduce their carbon emissions and use less energy through all of their activities including their offices and commercial buildings, their homes and their ways of working.

Their work in this area presents a real opportunity for partnership working and collaboration.

“ *As a result of the pandemic restrictions, we had to rethink our original plans to survey each home first so instead we installed solar PV and battery storage to twelve homes that we knew would benefit from them based on our knowledge of the homes.* ”

We were aware of the Welsh manufactured Solar PV panels that locally based GB-Sol develop and they have worked with us to install Solar PV and battery storage to the twelve homes in Llanharry. Solar PV systems have been shown to reduce electricity bills by providing free electricity to the occupants.

However, the difference with this project was the addition of a battery to enable any unused energy generated to be stored for use at a time when the Solar PV panels are not generating electricity.

Moving forward we will be taking an optimised retrofit approach where we will develop an individual plan for each home with the aim of reaching EPC A on as many as homes possible by 2030, in line with the recommendations of 'Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World' and Welsh Government targets.

– RHA Wales

Foundational Economy

Local Climate Bonds

In July 2021 the Green Finance Institute and Abundance launched the Local Climate Bond campaign, to raise awareness and support participating councils through the process of releasing their own Local Climate Bonds in the year of COP26.

Local Climate Bonds have the potential to raise millions of pounds for green projects in the UK.

They are finance products launched by councils to access cost-effective funding for specific decarbonisation projects, offering local people an opportunity to invest in their area in a way

similar to crowdfunding and to make a return from doing so. As the appetite for place-based finance products grows, it is hoped that other investment platforms will join Abundance in supporting councils to offer Local Climate Bonds.

Find out more and how to sign up [here](#).

Building on our strengths: A market transformation approach to energy retrofit in UK homes

Project partners Federation of Master Builders with the Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS) released a joint report investigating what is needed to integrate domestic energy efficiency retrofit into the everyday practices and activities of builders in the repair, maintenance and improvement (RMI) market.

The report was launched at an online event on 20 July 2021 where guest speakers included the Shadow Minister for Energy and the Green New Deal, Dr Alan Whitehead MP, and the Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee the Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP.

You can watch the recording and read the full report [here](#).



BetaTalk Podcast

We are now five episodes into Season 4 of the excellent [BetaTalk podcast](#), hosted by industry influencer Nathan Gambling.

As part of our mission to get the word out about Optimised Retrofit (particularly amongst future suppliers and tradespeople) – we are sponsoring Season 4 the podcast, which explores on-the-ground issues around technology, skills and training, with engineers across the country.

So, grab yourself a cuppa and give them a listen.



Episode 1

To Heat Pump
Hull & Back

Episode 2

Solar Thermal
Hybrid

Episode 3

Retrofit with PAS2035
and TrustMark

Episode 4

Decarbonising Heat in
America: a conversation
with Nate the House
Whisperer

Episode 5

Chatting with John
Cantor Author of
the book Heat
Pumps for the Home

Events

Optimised Retrofit: an introduction to the growing home retrofit opportunity in Wales and the role of battery storage.



About this event

The Optimised Retrofit collaboration and Sell2Wales invite you to an online event, on **Tuesday 3rd August, 9:00am**, to tell you about the Optimised Retrofit project and the growing retrofit market in Wales and provide an in depth briefing on the role of battery storage and smart energy systems.

There are currently around 1.4m homes across Wales that need to be made more carbon efficient to help meet 2050 net zero targets, so getting retrofit right and making it happen by delivering the skills and training needed, is going to be key to building a strong future economy and helping tackle the climate emergency.

The session will also provide an introduction to Business Wales and explanation of how we can support you and your business to be ready to tender for future work in this sector.

This event is aimed at those interested in the retrofit and decarbonisation sectors, and those who work in electrics (and their teams) within Wales to provide an overview of:

- What is Optimised Retrofit and what are the opportunities for installers across Wales?
- Introduction to battery storage from sonnenBatterie and smart homes.
- The important role batteries play in utilising PV and balancing the grid.
- How can businesses get involved and how can we help you?

To register to attend please email optimisedretrofit@sero.life.

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](#)

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