

Welcome

Ahead of whatever spooky weekend plans you have for Halloween, we wanted to share with you our latest newsletter, with updates from project partners Green Finance Institute to interviews with our project chair, Chris Jofeh, all while we have been busy prepping our resident engagement toolkit, as we look to set up our resident focus groups.



Also in this Issue

- Local climate bonds
- Putting residents at the heart of Optimised Retrofit
- Decarb army latest events



Pathway to Zero

As you are aware we have been working with [University of College London's](#) (UCL) Behavioural Science department to develop key messaging around retrofit to support our resident engagement and ultimately secure buy-in for the delivery of the Optimised Retrofit project.

We have developed messaging and early core materials such as video case studies, key messages,

overarching narrative and infographics.

We are now ready to move into phase two, which is testing the messaging of these.

Over the next month we will be working with our RSL partners, to run several focus groups where we will share our messaging and early core materials for review and feedback, as well as to establish a resident

champions network for ongoing dialogue and feedback.

This forms part of the wider resident engagement toolkit which will contain resources which our RSL partners can use to support their wider resident engagement process - from that all-important introduction to Optimised Retrofit right through to keeping them up to date as work begins in their homes.

Heat and Buildings Strategy

The UK's Heat and Building Strategy is out [now](#). We're pleased to see the beginnings of a scale up in ambition starting to recognise what's needed to deliver Net Zero Carbon homes.

So, what do we like and dislike on first read through?

It's great to see a recognition of the need to rebalance energy taxes to align with carbon impacts. We also like intent to 'ban' fossil fuel heating (albeit we might like to start it sooner) which will

currently make the UK a leader in this way.

It's a shame not to see a holistic approach to upgrading homes with heat pumps as (usually) part of that journey - instead we've got a "measures-led" drive for heat pumps that might miss important efficiency measures which should precede them.

It's also a shame to see the strategy doesn't fully grasp that energy and carbon are not interchangeable terms (especially as we scale up

electrification). We're only going to hit our legal obligation for Net Zero Carbon if we start measuring in Carbon!

Lastly, they'll be many calling for more funds (they're right).

We'd say the bigger opportunity is to set clear and real future consequence for homes that don't decarbonise - this will drive value differentials that underpin most tenure types as our #VALUER project shows.

Foundational Economy

Green Finance Institute launches 'Lender's handbook on green home technologies'



LENDER'S HANDBOOK ON GREEN HOME RETROFIT AND TECHNOLOGIES



Project partners Green Finance Institute have launched their 'Lender's handbook on green home technologies'.

A comprehensive guide to inform financial institutions and industry about retrofit technologies and funding options.

Unlocking the private finance needed to decarbonise the UK's 29 million homes is dependent

on financial institutions having sufficient, relevant, and up-to-date information on the green home technologies their customers are seeking to fund.

So, the Green Finance Institute's Coalition for the Energy Efficiency of Buildings (CEEB) has released the [Lender's handbook on green home technologies](#), a practical guide to help financial institutions and others

understand the key energy efficiency, heating, microgeneration and resiliency technologies available to homeowners.

The Handbook offers users a snapshot of each technology, including the current costs, carbon savings and benefits, as well as profiling the main funding options, quality assurances and guarantees to protect customers.

Give us a listen

Our project chair, Chris Jofeh, and chair of our training and skills advisory board, Wyn Prichard, have featured in two different episodes for Business News Wales podcast.



Catch Wyn discussing his work and why addressing the need for green skills in Wales is imperative now -

[Why Addressing the Need for Green Skills in Wales is Imperative - Business News Wales.](#)



Listen to Chris, where he discusses his work which is centred on the decarbonisation of Welsh homes, and how this offers enormous opportunities to create a vibrant and socially-just economy -

[Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World - Business News Wales](#)

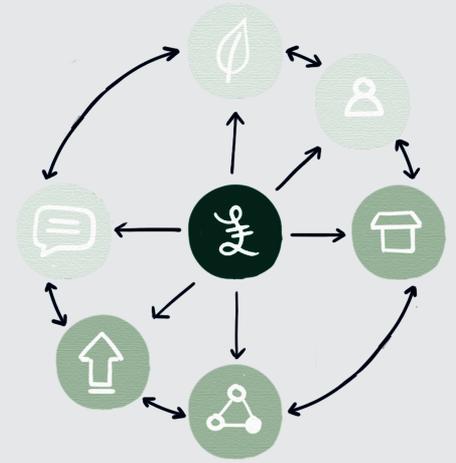


Our Dynamic Purchasing System is now live

Our Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) has been developed to provide a straightforward and flexible procurement solution for local authorities, social landlords and other public sector bodies to source specialist suppliers who can undertake retrofit works to make homes and public buildings more energy efficient and can carry out any associated repairs.

Using simple process, companies and tradespeople will be able to join the DPS at any time by demonstrating the relevant skills, experience, and competencies, and will then have the opportunity to bid for work.

Keep an eye on our socials for further updates, which will be coming soon!



BetaTalk Podcast

We are now 11 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
 Episode 6  Zoning Heat Pumps Can Be Bad For Comfort & Efficiency	 Episode 7  What is the Best Boiler - if you can not have a heat pump yet?	 Episode 8  What is a Hydrogen and Hydrogen Ready Boiler?	 Episode 9  Big Heat Pumps - Talking to Dave Pearson from Star Renewable Energy?	

Events



Our Decarb Army hosted their third event

This week Optimised Retrofit held its third Decarb Army virtual event, in partnership with [Sell2Wales](#) and [Business Wales](#), bringing together SMEs and tradespeople with a passion for zero carbon.

The event was an opportunity to update our growing list of potential future suppliers on the OR project's progress and provide an in-depth briefing on the role of Sero's Intelligent Energy Systems (IES) in decarbonising homes.

You can read what was discussed on our blog here. You can also catch up on the other two previous events here too.

[Blog - Battery storage: what is it and what is the opportunity?](#)

[Blog - Decarb Army: Smart Hot Water Cylinders](#)

Our next event will centre around our new [Dynamic Purchasing System](#) and will take place **Tuesday 16th November, 09:00**. To sign up to attend and for regular updates, please follow this [link](#).



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

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