

Build to Low Carbon

Steering Group Meeting Summary

July 2017

Managed in the UK by **Severn Wye Energy Agency**

What is Build to Low Carbon?

Build2LC is 5 year programme offering Gloucestershire a fantastic opportunity to join up, plan, and build on, efforts being made to reduce fuel poverty. The foci for the project are shown below:



The second Steering Group meeting: A quick guide

The Steering Group met on 19th July 2017. The main aims of the meeting were to:

1. Review current project progress and funding.
2. Share understanding about innovation in the energy retrofit industry.
3. Confirm objectives and formalise actions to pursue.
4. Select good practices to explore from partner countries to support the action plan.

Build2LC: Stride Treglown's perspective

Richard Jessup presented a range of retrofit case studies to the group. Both Howard Thomas and Richard, Stride Treglown, stressed the importance of community engagement alongside technical solutions. Issues around quality assurance and the negative impact of lowest bid tendering, on quality and supporting skills within the local economy, were also discussed.

The production of information leaflets with decision trees and learning points for contractors to support trades people in retrofit actions was proposed.

Carbon Trust advice: Retrofitting domestic properties

Poppy Potter, Senior Manager at the Carbon Trust, presented the learnings from the Arbed scheme in Wales which can inform Build2LC activity.

Key advice offered included:

- Ensure that there are clear maintenance plans for properties, whatever their age.
- Have a dedicated liaison officer to communicate with residents.
- Use an independent surveyor.
- Record temperature and moisture levels, plus photographs before and after works.
- Consider innovative solutions (smart technology).

What will Severn Wye do next?

1. Take each action forward to develop a draft plan.
2. Secure sharing good practice meetings with two partners.
3. Attend the Innovation Seminar in Sweden with Howard Thomas and Richard Jessup, Stride Treglown.
4. Meet reporting and deliverable deadlines.

Next meeting:

10am-1pm on Wednesday 22nd November 2017

What are the confirmed objectives and actions to pursue?

The tables below summarise the foundations for the action plan. The next stage is to pursue each action individually to formulate a clear plan ready for implementation in September 2018. We will also draw on the experience of our project partners, particularly in Lithuania, to inform plans.

Health & Well-being

Objective: Gloucestershire stakeholders will work in partnership to maximise efficiency and effectiveness of resources
Action 1: Use Warm & Well to support the <u>further development of social prescribing</u> . Action 2: <u>Expand existing delivery partnerships</u> to include Gloucestershire Older People's Association, social services, education, and PCSOs to ensure clear and evaluated referral processes to Warm and Well are in place. Action 3: Create an <u>action for research project</u> to assess the feasibility of developing a housing and well-being database.
Objective: Resources are targeted at those most in need
Action 4: <u>Pilot for Growth</u> – A partnership project will be developed to focus on Oakely, Cheltenham and Matson, Gloucester. (The aim will be to roll out the project to other areas within each Gloucestershire district once the initial pilots are underway and have been reviewed.) Action 5: Launch a modified <u>Pupils Against Fuel Poverty</u> pilot project across the county to include formal education and community groups. Plans will include the use of social media.

Finance & Rental

Objective: Gloucestershire will create an energy bank to provide a local cost energy tariff and education programme for people in fuel poverty
Action 6: Create an <u>energy bank</u> to provide a local cost energy tariff and education programme for people in fuel poverty.
Objective: The energy performance of rental properties will improve, resulting in positive economic and health outcomes for tenants.
Action 7: Develop a <u>0% loan to support landlords</u> for: EPC E, F and G rated properties (to support ECO and GEEG+ funding); and to support landlords within Matson, Gloucester and Oakely, Cheltenham. Action 7 should also include: Action 7a: Provide/source <u>grant funding to support landlords</u> to install energy efficient measures within Matson, Gloucester and Oakely, Cheltenham. Action 7b: Implement a range of <u>small measures packages</u> for landlords. Action 8: Create a <u>formal partnership structure</u> to support all RSLs and private landlords. Action 9: Implement an <u>awareness raising and training programme for students</u> in rental properties.

Construction, Innovation & Training

Objective: Well-trained and skilled installers work within a framework that supports quality
Action 10: <u>Upskill contractors as community engagers and holistic practitioners</u> Action 11: <u>Upskill property owners</u> by raising the awareness of processes and responsibilities. Action 12: Review <u>procurement processes</u> with the aim of: improving standards through contracting and avoiding the exclusion of smaller, local businesses. Action 13: <u>Promote contractors with a set of 'approved' accreditations and insurance.</u>
Objective: SMEs seeking advice on reducing costs will be supported by practical advice and partial grants to support implementation
Action 14: Expand the Link to Energy network to have <u>greater focus on businesses.</u>

To find out more or to get involved.....

Contact Victoria Boynton, Senior Project Manager on 01452 835081 or via email at victoriab2@severnwye.org.uk

<http://www.severnwye.org.uk/our-work/live-activities/profile/project/show/SWAPProjects/build-to-low-carbon.html>

<http://www.interregeurope.eu/build2lc/>