

Welcome to the **Building Retrofit Information Hub**

An initiative from HGN to bring together people, information and professional expertise to help with the challenge of making homes (and workplaces) comfortable year-round in the face of high heating bills and the need to cut carbon emissions.

We're going to be expanding this section but are starting small, with links below to what we reckon are very good sources of information. (Last update February 22nd 2021)

IMPORTANT If you are struggling to keep your home warm and deal with the costs, the advice team at Keep Herefordshire Warm can help – [Get help here](#)

Quick and easy fixes to help in a cold house

You can lose up to 20% of your heat just through draughts. See these guides from

- Keep Herefordshire Warm [http://www.warmandwell.co.uk/fileadmin/Resources/WarmAndWell/Pages/Advice/Docs/RHL_7 - Draught-proofing your home.pdf](http://www.warmandwell.co.uk/fileadmin/Resources/WarmAndWell/Pages/Advice/Docs/RHL_7_-_Draught-proofing_your_home.pdf)
- Centre for Sustainable Energy <https://www.cse.org.uk/advice/advice-and-support/diy-draught-proofing>
- Energy Saving Trust <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/draught-proofing/>

Embarking on retrofit

Done right, this can make big improvements to comfort levels and can reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions by 60-80%. It's a large financial commitment and can be a disruptive process, but can be done successfully in stages. We strongly recommend that anyone planning a retrofit should start with a Whole House Plan. Read more here:

<https://cat.org.uk/info-resources/free-information-service/eco-renovation/eco-retrofit/>

Example of a whole house plan (from Carbon Co-op) https://cc-site-media.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2020/07/MyHomeEnergyPlanner_Sample_Report.pdf

Another useful explainer <https://retrobook.co.uk/what-does-whole-house-retrofit-mean-to-me/>

Insulating walls (from Bristol but it applies here) https://sdfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2015_bristolsolidwallinsulationguidance.pdf

Websites with a broad range of information on Building Retrofit

<https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/> The Simple Energy Advice website has information on easy energy saving, retrofit measures, and heating – plus a guide for people in rented accommodation. Includes information on funding

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/> The Energy Saving Trust has reliable, regularly updated information for householders and businesses. Includes information on funding.

Intro to Retrofitting your home webinars at an introductory level:

[A beginners guide to retrofit](#)

[How do we make our homes Zero Carbon Ready ?](#)

[Home Health Check](#)

[An Introduction to Home Energy Systems](#)

[An introduction to Heat Pumps](#)

[An Introduction to the Green Home Grant Scheme](#)

[Building Airtightness Webinar with Diane Hubbard](#)

Check how your home/building performs in terms of energy and carbon emissions

Good calculator: <https://www.lowenergybuildings.org.uk/leb/home-energy-use-check/>

Funding Possibilities : Green Homes Grant, other funding, and retrofit mortgages

Keep Herefordshire Warm has advisers who can guide you through all the funding sources available nationally and locally. <https://keepherefordshirewarm.co.uk/grants-and-funding/>

At the time of writing (mid February 2021) this scheme is in a state of confusion and its future is uncertain. In principle, it will provide vouchers for insulation and low-carbon heating measures, up to £5000, provided they are installed by registered installers. Read more here

<https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/pages/green-homes-grant>

Retrofit loans are available from some financial institutions – this article gives an indication of some of those with offerings: <https://www.greenfinanceinstitute.co.uk/green-home-retrofit-finance-principles/>

For Businesses – the [Business Energy Efficiency Program](#) (BEEP) program provides an energy survey and some funding toward solutions

Explore a bit further – More Introductory Level of Information to Retrofit

Retrofit in a nutshell <https://cat.org.uk/ask-expert-eco-refurbishments/>

Retrofit case-studies from Cosyhomes Oxfordshire <https://cosyhomesoxfordshire.org/blog/case-studies/>

Recordings of online events from Carbon Co-op

https://carbon.coop/events/list/?tribe_paged=1&tribe_event_display=past&tribe-bar-date=2021-02-19

Video case studies of homes on the Superhomes website (n.b. being updated so some are a bit out of date but very useful <http://www.superhomes.org.uk/get-inspired/video-flythroughs/>)

Before and after – energy and carbon measurements from the AECB database

<https://www.lowenergybuildings.org.uk/leb/charts/energy-use-and-emissions-refurbishments-and-retrofits/>

Medium / Implementation Level of Building Retrofit

Many of these links are to the website of Manchester's Carbon Co-op. Follow the links we've identified or have a browse yourself.

[Setting our Retrofit Standards with Mark Siddal \(a good explanation of the benefits of systematic planning. The main talk starts nine minutes in\)](#)

- The Fundamentals of Deep Retrofit with Nick Parsons
- Retrofit: Replacement windows and doors with Diane Hubbard
- Info Night: Construction Contracts – sign on the dotted line? with Sarah Fox

More Detailed level of information and case studies

- Deep retrofit principles and case studies webinar with Liam Schofield
- SuperHomes (see the video fly-throughs)

- Heat Pumps for Beginners- Session 1 with Andy Hamilton and Florence Collier
- Heat Pumps for Beginners – Session 2 with Trystan Lea and Florence Collier
- Heat Pumps for Beginners – Session 3 with Florence Collier and Andy Hamilton
- Heat Pumps for Beginners – Session 4 with Liam Schofield and Florence Collier
- Heat Pumps for Beginners- Session 5 with Florence Collier and Andy Hamilton
- Retrofitting Domestic Heat Pumps – methods and lessons from Ireland

See some retrofit schemes in other areas

Carbon Co-op

Cosyhomes Oxfordshire

Warmer Sussed

Marches based Architects, Energy Assessors, Builders, Equipment installers

'The inclusion of a company or individual on this website does not represent an endorsement of this business or the quality of its work. We have taken steps to ensure participating businesses are genuine and competent, but as with any transaction it is your responsibility to satisfy yourself that the business is able to provide the services being offered. '

(We would recommend asking the businesses for local project details that can be used for reference)

Please note this list is at a very early stage and will be added to – further suggestions for inclusion can be sent to us at HGN.

Architects

AECB group

Andrew Simmonds

Tom Mason , Circle Architecture

Energy Assessors

Waxwing Energy

BEEP - Energy assessment and funding for Businesses

Claus Best, Smart Energy services <https://www.smart-energy-services.co.uk/about-claus-best/>

Claus is a retrofit Co-ordinator.

Jacinta Walton, part of Idea-ingham, <https://www.idea-ingham.co.uk/>

Builders – with experience in good Insulation methods

Dai Rees- Passive House Builder

More to follow

Equipment Installers (renewable Energy, Air Source Heat Pumps etc)

SolarKinetics : Solar PV

Caplor Solar: PV, ASHP

Nick Walker : Biomass Boiler Systems and Solar PV

[PVServ](#)

Couldn't find what you wanted? Please let us know what you need via our contact page <https://hgnetwork.org/contact-hgn/> with subject line ATTN BUILDING SENSE. Thank you!