



Green Investment Plan for Cumbria

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Roundtable

16 September 2021, 2-4pm

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The Challenge

- 70% of properties have an EPC of D – G
- All properties need to be at least C
- Domestic properties: around 250,000, so need to do around 220 per week over 15 year period.
- Non-domestic buildings also need work doing to them

What needs to be done?

- Improve insulation and air tightness while maintaining ventilation
- Install renewable or electric heating systems

Cumbria's experience of retrofit

Includes:

- **Cumbria Energy Efficiency Advice Centre**
Ashden Award winner in 2007 - for insulation of over 9,200 cavity walls and 5,300 lofts and a range of other measures over 2 years.
- **Work by Cumbria Action for Sustainability – since 2008**
 - home energy audits, advice, thermal imaging
 - Cosy Homes in Cumbria
 - Retrofit for Cumbria
- **Eden DC – Green Homes Grant LAD**
Working with EON, 135 homes with EPC of E-G.

Problems

- Loft insulation not installed properly
- Cavity wall insulation in poor quality cavities has got wet - damp
- Standard measures not suitable for older buildings (around a quarter of Cumbrian homes) – require use of breathable materials, tradespeople not always trained in their use
- Stop-start nature of public funding, failure of the Green Deal (2013) and Green Homes Grant scheme (2020)
- Construction industry not engaged in retrofit, enough other work
- Lack of installers/tradespeople, particularly in West Cumbria

Barriers from householder perspective

- What should be done?
- Who can do it?
- What will financial benefit be?
- Funding
- Complexity, hassle, upheaval

Solutions - Building supply chain capacity

- Training of tradespeople to work on older buildings (Ecological Building Systems)
- Start up a company in West Cumbria

Need

- training,
- jobs
- a stream of work (long term)

To get jobs benefits in Cumbria

Discussion

- What has been successful /unsuccessful with past energy efficiency retrofit projects/approaches?
- What needs to change to achieve the scale required?