

## **Appendix D – Other relevant initiatives and Projects**

**Cambridge Retrofit** is an initiative aimed at enabling and maximising the amount of building retrofit in Cambridge. It looks to bring key stakeholders together to improve energy efficiency with a view to compliance with the Climate Change Act 2008 target of 80% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. Its aim is to make Cambridge a national exemplar in retrofitting buildings for improved energy efficiency.

The initiative is designed initially to deliver the following outcomes:  
To identify and facilitate the finance mechanisms to deliver retrofit in Cambridge. (Green deal is identified as one important financing mechanism)

To identify and overcome significant barriers such as regulation, infrastructure, skilled-labour shortage, and supply chain issues.

The initiative has now brought together a wide range of key stakeholders from the commercial, public and third sectors that need to combine to deliver 'at scale' energy retrofits to meet Climate Change Act 2008 targets.

Cambridge Retrofit sits as a parallel to Green Deal. In detail both are financing and delivery models for retrofitting energy efficiency measures. Where they differ is in the scale at which they operate. Green deal is for individuals, companies and single buildings and is wholly government sanctioned and regulated.

Cambridge Retrofit is about scaling projects up to a point at which the financing is possible through the commercial sector or even as an attractive investment opportunity. This is to be achieved by reducing costs through economies of scale, aggregating similar projects together, and de-risking the process so as to realise the economic benefits of reduced energy costs as a consolidated investment return.

Both initiatives require whole supply chains to combine to identify energy efficiency savings and deliver the necessary interventions to realise them at a reasonable financial cost.

As a result there is much synergy between the two initiatives and indeed DECC have always intended that Green Deal lead to the commercialisation of energy efficiency retrofit. The independent development of Cambridge Retrofit alongside Green Deal increases the domestic and commercial opportunities to enhance uptake of energy efficiency measures and as such has led to considerable national interest.

The City and County Councils have been involved with the project from an early stage and are well set to potentially benefit by co-developing their green deal offering alongside the multi stakeholder work of Cambridge Retrofit.

## **Potential Third Sector Partners**

Transition Cambridge and Cambridge Carbon footprint currently play a 'grass roots' role in developing awareness of and participation in energy efficiency activities. This is largely done through volunteer networks and planned events. These activities offer great benefit to the city council through the additional resource their work can provide and the peer to peer contact available through the use of volunteers.

Officers have regular access to their and other stakeholder networks through the established Household Energy Liaison Group (HELG).

This has led to the 'Open Eco-Homes' events, 'Carbon Conversations', 'Climate Friendly Homes' and a number of other awareness raising and information gathering projects.

Funding has been given by the City Council in the past in terms of both core funding and one off project funding and there is potential to utilise this partnership further for the Green Deal. It is possible that the activities of these groups could be scaled up, funded further by the City Council or as a partner in a 'Green Deal' delivery model to carry out some lead generation, community support and or preliminary household assessment in the future. The benefits of this might be:

- Trusted Third party approach not from commercial or Council
- Independence of advice
- Community Connection

The main risk with using these types of organisations is their ability to make effective contact with residents who are currently disengaged with the market, however this is an issue for all organisations of this type.

In any event these networks will provide an important resource to the process and could offer significant support to local residents.

Further information on City Council involvement with these activities is available from Justin Smith (Home energy Officer) [Justin.smith@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Justin.smith@cambridge.gov.uk) and Helen Brookes – [Helen.brookes@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.brookes@cambridge.gov.uk) (Sustainability Officer)

## **Historic Building Retrofit Guidance**

This project was established as a way of facilitating energy efficiency improvements in buildings of historic interest, either listed or in conservation areas. It was later adopted as an early collaborative project for the Cambridge Retrofit initiative (see below) and is considered an important issue in the City with around 13000 properties in conservation areas.

The purpose of this project is to enable property owners and installers in Cambridge to be clear about the best way to improve energy efficiency in Conservation Area's and hard to treat homes. The idea is to agree a reasonable set of measures that will not be detrimental to the historic built environment but will give owners the confidence to improve their properties.

Developing clear guidance on energy efficiency in the historic environment will play a significant role in helping to assist residents in reducing domestic energy consumption. There is currently a range of guidance from English Heritage and the Energy Saving Trust but this covers a very limited range of possible improvements and will not take us close to the level of energy efficiency we need to realise. It is vital the guidance is focussed locally and must:

- Be relevant to local properties, and should include examples of typical construction;
- Offer significant improvements to properties to reduce energy demand while still maintaining conservation requirements;
- Be prepared with the co-operation and approval of our Building Conservation Team;
- Encompass properties that are listed as being in conservation areas and may also include some construction methods applicable to listed buildings;
- Conserve important historical elements;
- Promote the benefits of energy efficiency and demonstrate how this work can be carried out in a way with minimum hassle;
- Offer clear, practical details that are both resident and contractor friendly. It should also include pictorial diagrams to demonstrate approved methods.

The development of a guidance document will give confidence to property owners and installers to engage in retrofits both through Green Deal and ECO and commercially funded retrofit activity.

More information on this project is available form Justin Smith (Home energy Officer) [Justin.smith@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Justin.smith@cambridge.gov.uk)

### **Cambridge District Heating Scheme**

Cambridge City is looking to demonstrate low carbon leadership and stimulate significant reductions in carbon emissions. Recent studies have shown that the entering into a Joint Venture with Cambridge University and using the Local Authorities ability to prudentially borrow can create an economically viable combined heat and power (CHP) operation that will deliver return on investment producing an new income stream, reduce carbon emissions and protect large parts of the Cambridge community against significant future energy price increases. Over the last 18 months, in partnership with the Low Carbon Development Initiative (LCDI), and with support from EON, AECOM and Ernst & Young investigation have shown a low risk investment into a city centre based CHP operation for an outline capital investment of £25m could

produce an Internal Rate of Return of up to 6.8%. Although not of interest to a commercial developer / investor, this would appear attractive to both the Council and Cambridge University and very worthy of continued investigation.

There is no obvious direct relationship between this project and Green Deal except at a very strategic level they are both designed to save Carbon. Indeed Heat networks are not within the legislative scope of measures identified as qualifying for green deal funding. However there is scope for this to be added in the future.

However there is more synergy with the wider aims of the Cambridge Retrofit initiative and it is important that any proposed retrofit activity in the vicinity of the District Heat Network considers joining the scheme.

Further details on this project please Contact Emma Davies (Senior Sustainability Officer) [emma.davies@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:emma.davies@cambridge.gov.uk)