

Draft Nature and Climate Emergency Strategy Theme: Buildings

The emissions arising from the construction and operation of buildings in the district impacts all sectors and presents a significant opportunity to reduce greenhouse emissions and provide warmer, more comfortable, resilient and safer homes. The cost of heating our homes is also an increasingly significant proportion of the cost of living and is often impacted by international events which increase fuel and energy costs.

FoDDC and its partners have already been working together to improve the efficiency and comfort of homes and buildings through action including; [Warm & Well](#) Programme, providing home energy advice, support with grants and installation including a focus on low income households; significant investment in social housing retrofit including [Two Rivers Housing](#) who are upgrading over 750 homes in the district; [Furbnow](#), a county wide one stop shop for home energy efficiency for self-financing households and a [Thermal Imaging Camera Loan Scheme](#) to help residents assess the thermal efficiency of their homes.

Actions within this theme will focus on a coordinated and strategic approach to ensure that retrofit can be supported and delivered across the whole district regardless of tenure, building type, income and location including existing and new buildings. Actions will also support local implementation of the [Warm Homes Plan](#) which was recently announced including £15 billion of public investment, to upgrade to up to 5 million homes.

Aim/Actions	Priority
Aim BD01: Accelerate high-quality retrofit across homes and businesses	
BD01-01: FoDDC supports development and promotion of high-quality retrofit services for homeowners and businesses (including Warm & Well / Severn Wye Energy Agency and Fairer Warmth / Furbnow).	1
BD01-02: FoDDC to work with community delivery partners to expand the thermal imaging camera loan scheme for households and organisations.	1
BD01-03: FoDDC supports the Gloucestershire Green Skills Programme and identify opportunities for employment, training and skills in the Forest of Dean to meet local building and energy needs.	1
BD01-04: FoDDC supports exploring the provision for free or low-cost water saving guidance and equipment for households (e.g. water butts) and businesses.	1
BD01-05: FoDDC supports providing community, housing and retrofit delivery partners with open access to data to support better targeting of retrofit and energy action.	4

BD01-06: FoDDC develops and promotes a set of practical retrofit and energy guides for key sectors (household, business and organisations) highlighting the opportunities for different building types (including heritage buildings).	4
BD01-07: FoDDC supports action in the Private Rented and Commercial sectors, aligned with new responsibilities including Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards , damp and mould standards, and renters' rights.	4
BD01-08: FoDDC works with its commercial property tenants to retrofit buildings and identify opportunities for energy saving, renewable generation and 'green leases'.	4
BD01-09: FoDDC develops clear guidance on permitted development which supports building energy efficiency, decarbonisation and renewable energy generation (e.g. Solar PV).	4
Aim BD02: Decarbonise and adapt the council estate	
BD02-01: FoDDC ensures all opportunities for building and site measures have been explored as part of the redevelopment of Five Acres (e.g. renewable energy and heat, EV Charging, Active Travel and Climate risk / adaptation).	1
Aim BD03: Embed climate resilience, planning and standards	
BD03-01: FoDDC ensures that the Local Plan 2025-2045 supports adaptation, sustainable construction methods, net zero new development, climate adaptation and retrofit of existing buildings.	1
Aim BD04: Build community capacity, engagement and equitable access.	
BD04-01: FoDDC supports ensuring retrofit support is provided for vulnerable households and underrepresented groups; providing free or very low-cost practical essentials.	1
BD04-02: FoDDC delivers a retrofit and energy engagement programme to include events such as " open homes and buildings ", climate awards and nature and climate stories.	1
BD04-03: FoDDC supports development of a network of community retrofit and energy champions to provide guidance and support to households (to include simple and practical cost saving ideas along with healthy and resilient, warm home actions)'. to provide guidance and support to households (to include simple and practical cost saving ideas along with healthy and resilient, warm home actions)'. to provide guidance and support to households (to include simple and practical cost saving ideas along with healthy and resilient, warm home actions)'.	2
BD04-04: FoDDC supports development of community led and mixed housing tenure retrofit initiatives (e.g. group buying / discount schemes for solar , targeted street / neighbourhood retrofit and area improvement projects.	3
BD04-05: FoDDC supports exploration of the creation of local flood wardens to proactively support vulnerable communities, households and businesses.	3
BD04-06: FoDDC supports establishment of Community Nature and Climate Hubs where residents can seek advice and support on nature and climate action (including building retrofit and resilience / adaptation ideas).	5
BD04-07: FoDDC explores the potential for retrofit support directed at long term empty properties to help bring properties back into use.	5