

Café Scientifique Headingley

Monday 15 May 2023

How can retrofit help with the current energy crisis and in reaching net zero?

By David Glew



Outline: Retrofitting our homes has never been more important than it is in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, with 6 million homes at risk of fuel poverty, and the desire to achieve climate change and net zero targets. Homes hold a unique place in the solutions to many of the problems societies are currently facing and so retrofitting our homes is seen as an essential part of the solution which can have profound impacts nationally and for individual householders. Measuring the benefits of retrofitting on a individual home to neighbourhood scale is essential to understanding what works but also what risks there may be when we retrofit homes. Social and technical challenges exist around householder choices around retrofitting as well as switching to low carbon heating in the form of hydrogen and heat pumps. How can these things come together to help the UKL on its journey to net zero carbon and to eradicate fuel poverty?

David Glew is the Director of the Leeds Sustainability Institute (LSI) at Leeds Beckett University and Head of Energy Efficiency and Policy. The LSI's work in developing the coheating test over the past few decades was revolutionary for the ability to provide actual measured performance of buildings, which was fundamental to the performance gap becoming an accepted phenomenon in the construction industry. His team continue to undertake Building Performance Evaluation (BPE) field trials, in use monitoring and post occupancy evaluations as well as investigating behaviour change and how homeowners and industry can make more sustainable decisions. Recent building performance evaluation (BPE) research projects David has managed for Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) include the DEEP retrofit project compares retrofit performance and risks when installed separately in piecemeal, compared to a whole house approach and describe how modelling input assumptions used in policy (EPCs) can be improved.

Venue: The New Headingley Club, 56 St Michaels Road, LS6 3BG

Time: Room opens 7:30pm, the presentation begins promptly at 7:45pm

Entry: Donation please, for room hire and expenses: £4 at the door



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