**Retrofit and Reducing Energy Demands**

**Key discussion points**

**Insulation:**

Cavity walls- can cause damp if insulated.

Need to learn what hasn’t worked as well as what has. English Heritage have useful guidance.

Solid wall- can be difficult/expensive. Internal insulation can make homes warmer, healthier, cheaper.

New builds are more insulated but often low build quality.

Impact of insulation materials is important.

**Instigating change**

How do we increase uptake of insulation offers? Could knock on doors? Team of trusted volunteers/ partners. Have a stand at school/supermarket gates. Promote switch off, work with schools.

CSE train energy volunteers- + e.g. health/community connectors.
FTC/council.
Use existing networks- and ‘nudge units’ including local council, faith groups etc.

Open homes can help raise awareness and action around retrofit – there’s a national network of Open Homes.

Use stories to inspire change e.g. Chris Reed highly insulated loft reduced bills to £200.

Low house density increases energy use- ban detached houses?!

Need education around how to use houses/buildings such as keeping windows and curtains closed when hot.

Change mindset e.g. wear jumpers in winter rather than resorting to central heating- cultural barriers. How can we make thermal clothes fashionable?

Council tax to incentivize energy efficiency? Or does this penalise those who can’t afford to upgrade? Need to influence county council.

**Design and planning**

3D printing will enable people to print their own home, this will hopefully mean houses are better designed and insulated.

Energie sprong who retrofit whole houses are doing a trial of 20 homes in Notting with 300 planned for next year. Can we invite them to Frome / other aeras?

Sedgemoor are doing retrofit on social housing.

Neighbourhood plans should include retrofit- use Localism Act to get preferential treatment.

There are some houses in Bristol using seasonal energy storage – very interesting case study here: <https://www.icax.co.uk/Owen_Square_Community_Energy_Project.html>

Commercial and business retrofit is very important too. How do we enable this to happen? Can we promote Carbon Trusts Green Business grants? And / or provide loans to businesses that they pay back using the energy savings?

**Technologies**

Room sensors need to be used more – there is a company making them in Chippenham.

Smart meters: can be hacked, not inter-operable, requires mobile phone signal. We need the next generation.

Apps to control lighting and other electronic devices?

Underfloor heating can be retrofitted and efficient.

Lamp library/ LED kit could be lent out so businesses and residents can find the right bulb for them (SHARE in Frome has a kit).