

TRANSFORMING HOMES NEWSLETTER

The Transforming Homes consortium is an ecosystem of stakeholders working together to transform existing homes through design using biobased materials and low carbon solutions to provide better places to live for future generations.

Happening across our consortium

Transforming Homes Cart Unveiled

Dr Veronica Albarran Carrillo, Research Associate, Cardiff University

After two months of development at the Welsh School of Architecture, we are thrilled to unveil the Transforming Homes Cart—an innovative new ‘vehicle’ designed to enhance community engagement.

The cart is supporting our co-design workshops, sparking creativity and fostering collaboration amongst participants. Our researchers are taking the cart to key locations across the UK, supporting charrettes and gathering insights into the lived experiences of residents in 1920s–1940s homes. Equipped with essential materials, it is making our workshops more interactive.

Look out for our upcoming blog post, where our designers will share more about the cart’s design process and its ongoing journey.



Credits: Steve Coombs

Co-designing Transformation

Dr Lucy McFadzean, Research Associate, University of Exeter



This January, our team continued to deliver our Community Co-design Workshops (Co-design Charrettes), following their launch in Norwich in November. These workshops with residents of 1920s-1940s council-built homes are crucial for developing our catalogue of transferable design solutions to help upscale home transformation across the UK. Our goal is to improve the quality of homes and create healthier, better living spaces.



Credits: Joel Cady

2025 began with a second workshop in Newcastle, where we introduced the Transforming Homes cart, enhancing our community engagement efforts. At the workshop residents built models of their homes, flagged areas for change, and reimagined their streets, providing invaluable insights into how they adapt their living spaces.

The team then travelled to Manchester for a third charrette, exploring innovative bio-based materials, energy systems, and spatial layouts. We are always inspired by the residents’ creativity and energy, and appreciate their enthusiastic participation. We are also thankful to the local organisations that supported us in the process. Over the coming weeks, we’ll be processing the gathered insights to inform the development of our catalogue

Scaling Up Transformation: Neighbourhood Training Programme

Emma Taylor, Research Associate, University of Bath

As part of the Transforming Homes project, our partners at WeCanMake and the University of Bath are collaborating with the Green Register to pilot a place-focused approach to retrofit training and skills. This initiative provides an opportunity for local people and trades to help lead and speed up the green transition on their doorstep.

Designed around the core structure of a Level 2 accredited retrofit training programme developed by the [Green Register](#), this training integrates practical training modules to address the retrofit needs of the type of homes found in Knowle West, where six of our demonstration homes are located. It also emphasizes the use of locally sourced bio-based materials as a pathway for reducing embodied carbon in the built environment.

This pilot will lay the foundation for a rolling training programme to scale up retrofit delivery across the neighbourhood; and provide a template for other neighbourhoods to develop their own training programmes. Participants will gain skills leading to further job opportunities and the project will establish a pathway for ongoing quality assurance through a combination of localised accreditation system, kit-of-part specifications, and accountability for ongoing monitoring and maintenance of retrofit projects.

The first Neighbourhood Trade Crew programme will launch in Spring 2025. Graduates will work on the delivery of the Bristol demo homes in Summer 2025, which are key to apply the co-design research being developed in our consortium.



Credits: Ibi Feher

Celebrating a year of community engagement: Knowle West

Athlyn Cathcart-Keays, Co-investigator, WeCanMake



Credits: Ibi Feher

One year after our first 'Retrofit Street' event in Knowle West, over 70 people gathered at The Factory to celebrate a year of co-designing solutions with residents of Andover Road – the location of Bristol's Demonstration Homes. This was an opportunity to share emerging ideas with the wider community, bringing together local residents, councillors, academics, technical retrofit experts and trades people.

Residents shared their experiences in a panel discussion alongside [Sara Edmonds](#) (National Retrofit Hub), [Immy Kaur](#) (Civic Square), and [John Christophers](#) (Retrofit Balsall Heath/Zero Carbon House), demonstrating the clear shift towards people- and place-led retrofit that is happening across the UK.

Attendees also explored Andover Road designs, engaged with biomaterials which may be used in retrofit works, and participated in activities encouraging small, practical steps for home upgrading.

These efforts highlight our consortium's commitment to a collaborative, people-centred approach to home transformation.

Featured Articles

Transforming Homes at the National Housing Maintenance Forum Conference.



Julian Ransom, Director of iON Consultants and National Housing Maintenance Forum (NHMF) Management Committee member, reflects on Transforming Homes' participation at the **NHMF Conference**, where Prof Pete Walker, Prof Jo Patterson, and Dr Louise King led a dynamic workshop on key advancements in decarbonising 1920s-1940s UK housing. Discover Julian's insight on how the project is driving innovation in low-carbon retrofit solutions, fostering social housing collaboration, and leveraging resident co-design in the process.

Highlights from the 5th Transforming Homes Consortium Meeting



Explore Dr Eleni Toumpanaki's reflections on the recent **Transforming Homes Consortium Meeting**, which brought together our multidisciplinary team to review progress across workpackages—from community co-design charrettes to advancement in our demonstration homes and strategies for scaling up transformation. This was an opportunity to refine our dissemination efforts, showcasing the diverse research and resources produced to date. Discover how the consortium is shaping its next steps.

Spotlight on ...



Prof Pete Walker

Principal Investigator and Co-director, University of Bath Transforming Homes



Dr Christina Demski

Co-investigator, University of Bath, Transforming Homes

Insights from beyond Transforming Homes

Retrofit Reimagined

Film suggested by Athlyn Cathcart-Keays

Webinar suggested by Veronica Albarran Carrillo

4th New Researchers Online Seminar



External events of interest

12-13
Feb

**NEW HOMES IN NEW WAYS
SUMMIT 2025**
12th and 13th February

New Homes in New Ways
Summit 2025
London

26
Feb

Insights 2025 - Housing at the
heart: creating healthy, equitable
and sustainable communities



Housing at the Heart:
Conference
London

4-6
Mar

Transforming
Homes @

**THE EVENT
IMPACT**

futurebuild
04 - 06 March 2025 | Excel, London

Futurebuild 2025
London

1
Apr

INSIDEHOUSING
**WARM AND SAFE
HOMES SUMMIT**
1 April 2025, 155 Bishopsgate, London



Warm and Safe Homes
Summit
London

14-16
Apr

**HSA Conference
2025**

HSA THE FORUM FOR
HOUSING-RELATED
RESEARCH AND DEBATE

HSA 2025 Annual
Conference
Sheffield

24
Apr

IGPP

The State of Housing
Conference and Exhibition
2025

The State of Housing
Conference and Exhibition 2025
Manchester

24-25
Apr

Transforming
Homes @



**CIBSE IBPSA-England
Technical Symposium**

CIBSE Technical
Symposium 2025
London

28-30
Apr

**HSA Conference
2025**

HSA THE FORUM FOR
HOUSING-RELATED
RESEARCH AND DEBATE

HSA 2025 Annual Conference
Online

13-14
May

**HOUSING LANDSCAPE UK
2025 [HLUK 2025]
CONFERENCE**

Housing Landscape UK 2025
London

We are on Bluesky!

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance engagement across different platforms, we are happy to announce the launch of the [Transforming Homes Bluesky](#) account.

Follow us for quick updates on the multidisciplinary, collaborative work happening across our consortium as we continue to co-design homes for future generations.



Interested in contributing our next issue? Contact Veronica at AlbarranCarrilloV@cardiff.ac.uk to get involved!

Stay connected

