

WMCA Citizen's Panel: Retrofit and Devolution

ENERGYCAPITAL



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Why retrofit?

WM2041

- Residential properties account for 17-21% of global emissions
- 1.1 million homes in the region need efficiency improvements

Fuel Poverty

- Estimated 235,512 fuel poor homes in the region
- Highest rates in the country, over 40% of homes in some areas

Additional Outcomes

Health:

- 10% of excess winter deaths are directly attributable to fuel poverty
- A fifth of excess winter deaths are attributable to the coldest quarter of homes

What we're working on

Capacity building

- Bidding for funding from government
- Advising and supporting partners
- Representing region's needs to government

However, government funding is often short term and doesn't meet our region's needs.

Demonstrator projects

- Managing delivery of retrofit projects
- Seeking to improve quality of work taken
- Gathering useful learning

Market development support

- Engaging supply chain to understand opportunities and needs
- Understanding housing stock and customer needs
- Seeking funding to help overcome barriers

Context

- March 2023 – Trailblazer Devolution Deal agreed
- Commitment to pilot a single, multi-year funding agreement for the region, including funding for retrofit
- We are now consulting on the terms of the single funding settlement

Why pursue devolved funding?

Current roadblocks

- Funding is short-term and difficult to complete projects in timescales
- Stop start funding doesn't give installers confidence
- Focus of projects can be too restrictive – excluding certain homes or types of work

What we want devolved funding to achieve

- More flexibility in terms of which homes and types of work can be funded
- More of a focus on real world performance – i.e. does it actually work
- Ability to bring in more funding – e.g. private finance
- Use some funding to remove barriers that stop retrofit from happening

How you can help

Help us shape the terms of the single funding settlement to best fit the needs of the region

Prompt Questions:

What outcomes do you want to see for retrofit across the region?

What should the focus for retrofit funding be to achieve these outcomes?

How should a devolved fund best encourage participation from citizens?

How do you feel about a focus on real life performance (rather than estimated savings)? And would you be willing to sharing non-identifying data to support learnings, e.g. energy usage, air quality, etc?