

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

19 February 2025

COUNCILLOR ADAM VARLEY - CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE AND NET ZERO

For the period December 2024 to February 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Solar initiative and MakeMyHouseGreen

The Council has launched its solar initiative to encourage the uptake of roof top photovoltaic panels in the district. This project looks to break down many of the barriers to such installations for residents and SMEs.

This includes:

- the promotion of free solar modelling tools from 'MakeMyHouseGreen' to help determine if buildings are suitable for solar;
- practical advice on how to start on the journey, right through to how to decide whether solar is right for individual circumstances; and
- advice on how to choose a suitable installer.

The project includes both a general and targeted communication campaign and all members have been provided with details to share with their residents.

UKSPF and Norfolk Warm Homes

The Council used part of its 24/25 UKSPF allocation to help with works to reduce bills and carbon emissions from households in the district that were proving difficult to fund entirely through the Home Upgrade Grants delivered by Norfolk Warm Homes. These included homes with failed cavity wall insulation, which were ineligible under the HUG2 scheme. By blending the funding, the following outcomes were achieved:

£16,179.90*
Estimated annual
energy bill savings

78.92 T*
Estimated annual
carbon savings

25 Homes
Received additional
support and works

£200k
Additional
investment for
households

Norfolk Warm Homes with UK Shared Prosperity Fund



Gary – North Norfolk Case Study

Loft, Cavity, Flat Roof Insulation, Air Source Heat Pump & Solar

Gary embarked on an energy efficiency journey through the joint support of the Norfolk Warm Homes Team and North Norfolk District Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Cavity, Loft and Flat Roof Insulation have been installed alongside an Air Source Heat Pump and Solar Panels.

The energy efficiency improvements have increased the home's Energy Performance Certificate score by four bands, moving from F (33) to B (89). The improvements have reduced the household CO2 emissions by an estimated 7.5 tonnes per year.

Gary Stated that 'we were really worried about how we would survive next winter when our old oil central heating system finally broke down. We were informed about the Warm Homes Grants after seeking help from our local District Council. It turned out to be the best call we ever made'.

After completing an application, Norfolk Warm Homes arranged for a full home survey which found that extensive insulation work was required before a new Air Source Heat Pump could be installed. An inspection of the cavity walls found that the insulation had degraded and failed, which needed extraction and refilling.

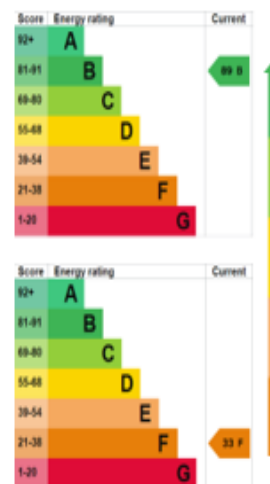
The HUG2 funding used by Norfolk Warm Homes would not cover all works identified to enable this project. It was therefore agreed that North Norfolk would provide UKSPF to supplement the funding, covering the Cavity Wall Insulation extraction and refill as well as Solar Panels to allow the project to proceed.

The enabling works reduced the home's heat loss which was a vital step to ensure that the new Air Source Heat Pump would run efficiently. The addition of Solar PV further increased energy savings and reduced the home's carbon footprint.

Gary's Feedback:

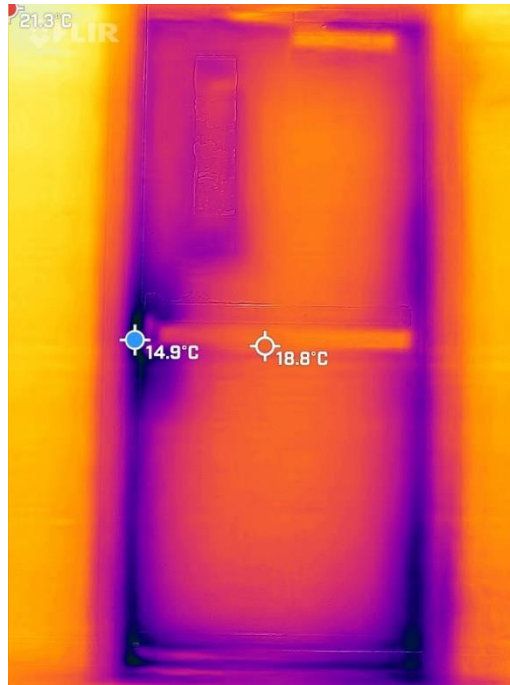
'The insulation alone has improved our home comfort and has removed any need for portable heating. The Air Source Heat Pump and hot water system is less noisy than the old oil boiler and is so much better for my health as I suffer from a lung condition that was aggravated by burning fossil fuels'.

'We can recommend the Warm Homes Scheme to everyone and encourage you to enquire. Like us it may be your opportunity to help the planet and be the best call you ever made'.



Thermal imaging scheme

As part of the Net Zero Communities project, Stalham has been trialling a community thermal imaging camera scheme. This scheme allows groups of residents to borrow the cameras to identify significant areas of heat loss from their properties. These are a great way of visualising problems and starting conversations about retrofit and home improvements.



Youth Advisory Board project and CL workshops

Our Climate Project Officer has delivered the first of several carbon literacy workshops to secondary school age children in North Norfolk as part of the Youth Advisory Board project. This scheme is being organised by the Leisure Services team.



2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.
<p>There was a workshop facilitated by the Carbon Trust and organised by the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP) to look at opportunities in Norfolk to initiate Community Energy schemes. The next step is to produce an action plan for North Norfolk District.</p>
3 Meetings attended
<p>Cabinet Business planning NZAP team meetings Webinar – hitting emission targets on a budget RSN seminar – rural net zero Climate Cluster actions Bacton Summit Solar initiative briefing Climate Cluster home energy</p>