

Teignbridge Action on Climate - Carbon Cutters team.

Number 3. Retrofitting your home

There are around 28 million dwellings in the UK today. Of those 28 million, over 22 million were built before the year 2000. These older homes are typically less easy and more expensive to keep warm and dry than homes built in compliance with recent building regulations, and they can produce many times more greenhouse gas emissions to run than an efficient home.

We will live in these older dwellings for years to come. To make them comfortable and efficient to modern standards will require a retrofit.

What is a retrofit?

A retrofit involves improvements to the thermal performance and energy efficiency of your home.

It could involve improved insulation; elimination of draughts; higher performance windows, hot water and heating systems and controlled ventilation, all to keep the home dry, warm and comfortable while consuming less energy and emitting less greenhouse gasses.

A retrofit may switch your heating and hot water to modern electric systems from oil or gas to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.

The average home in the UK today consumes approximately 135 kWhs of energy per square meter of floor space to stay warm each year. A deep retrofit should get most houses to an annual heating demand of around 50 kWhs of energy per sqm of floor space per year.

How do I get started?

Get good advice!

Not all homes are average, and retrofitting is not always simple.

Literature is available to help you start thinking about the task, risks, and rewards.

Energy Saving Devon has information and a guide to retrofit. It is a valuable resource with great regional information at <https://www.energysavingdevon.org.uk/document/>

There is an online tool to help users make a first level assessment of what might work in their home and you can register to get an independent assessment and advice.

The Carbon Cutters team can provide you with ideas and help you develop your knowledge. We can also guide you to others able to provide technical knowledge and support.

Let us know if we can help.