



Chartered  
Institute of  
Housing

# Housing and our changing climate

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# CIH

- The independent voice for housing and the home of professional standards
- Provide housing professionals and their organisations with advice, support, and knowledge
- Diverse membership of people who work in both the public and private sectors, in 20 countries on five continents across the world
- Net Zero – work with members to inform and influence Government on a national strategy and framework.



“The UK’s legally binding climate change targets will not be met without the near-complete elimination of greenhouse gas emissions from UK buildings.” – Climate Change Committee

- ‘Net Zero’ can only be achieved with decarbonisation happening in every place across the country
- Housing is unique; we have insight into community needs and are well placed to drive carbon reductions across whole areas
- UK Housing Review 2021



## Existing homes

Improving existing homes can help existing house-holders meet the challenges of climate change

- 1** **Insulation**  
in lofts and walls (cavity and solid)
- 2** **Double or triple glazing with shading**  
(e.g. tinted window film, blinds, curtains and trees outside)
- 3** **Low-carbon heating**  
with heat pumps or connections to district heat networks
- 4** **Draught proofing**  
of floors, windows and doors
- 5** **Highly energy-efficient appliances**  
(e.g. A++ and A+++ rating)
- 6** **Highly water-efficient devices**  
with low-flow showers and taps, insulated tanks and hot water thermostats
- 7** **Green space** (e.g. gardens and trees)  
to help reduce the risks and impacts of flooding and overheating
- 8** **Flood resilience and resistance**  
with removable air brick covers, relocated appliances (e.g. installing washing machines upstairs), treated wooden floors



**24%**  
REDUCTION  
NEEDED  
IN DIRECT CO<sub>2</sub>  
FROM HOMES  
BY 2030, FROM  
1990 LEVELS

**15%**  
REDUCTION  
REQUIRED IN ENERGY  
USED FOR HEATING  
EXISTING BUILDINGS  
BY 2030 THROUGH  
EFFICIENCY  
IMPROVEMENTS\*

## New build homes

New build homes can and should meet even more ambitious standards in some areas

- A** **High levels of airtightness**
- B** **More fresh air**  
with mechanical ventilation and heat recovery, and passive cooling measures such as operable windows
- C** **Triple glazed windows and external shading**  
especially on south and west faces
- D** **Low-carbon heating and no new homes on the gas grid by 2025 at the latest**
- E** **Water management and cooling**  
more ambitious water efficiency standards, green roofs and reflective walls
- F** **Flood resilience and resistance**  
e.g. raised electricals, concrete floors and greening your garden
- G** **Construction and site planning**  
timber frames, sustainable transport options (such as cycling)

# What are Government's targets for housing?

- New builds at net zero
- Retrofitting existing stock
- Decarbonisation of other operations



## In the interim...

- As a stepping stone to 2050: all fuel poor homes to be upgraded to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C by 2030
- As many homes as possible to be EPC Band C by 2035 where practical, cost-effective and affordable.



# Hurdles

- High costs
- Skills uncertainty
- Policy uncertainty
- Different for every organisation



# Policy asks and the DHR

Government to work with landlords and councils to establish a national policy framework.



# Recommendations for now

- Start making a cultural and strategic shift
- Innovation
- Monitor
- Work together with tenants

CIH and Orbit are working on a second report this time building on some of the recent work TPAS have released on residents views on the net zero journey. It will be part of a wider piece that ensures that individual needs of people and their homes are adequately considered by policymakers and landlords on the net zero journey, so do keep an eye out for that a bit later in the year.

