



Green housing news

[Improve energy efficiency of social housing stock to boost COVID-19 recovery, says CIH](#)

Making existing social housing stock more energy efficient can be a key aspect of the government's economic recovery the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a briefing from the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH). In a briefing produced in co-ordination with Orbit Group, the CIH argued that boosting investment in decarbonising social housing stock could generate thousands of jobs while achieving the government's aim of reducing carbon emissions.

[How can social landlords walk the sustainability tightrope?](#)

The push to decarbonise by 2050 has major implications for the social housing sector. But the path through involves proactive stakeholder engagement. On 27 June 2019, the United Kingdom became the first major economy in the world to pass a law to bring its greenhouse gas emissions down to net zero by 2050.

[Sector prioritising building safety over decarbonisation, survey finds](#)

Only one in five social landlords say planning for carbon zero is their top long-term priority, with the majority prioritising building safety first, new research by Savills has found. Of the 175 senior executives from housing associations and local authorities who responded to a survey carried out by the consultancy firm in partnership with Social Housing magazine, 22% said planning for net zero was their top long-term priority, while just 7% said it was their top short-term priority.

[From materials innovation to modular construction: The property sector plots its pathway to net zero](#)

As the government prepares to kickstart the economy by loosening planning regulations in the hope of spurring a boom in infrastructure and construction projects, the need to curb the carbon emissions associated with buildings remains as pressing as ever. Developers across the country are facing growing pressure from shareholders, campaigners, and customers to advance a greener, cleaner built environment as construction sites attempt to get back on track post-lockdown, with campaigners warning the government's 'build, build, build' agenda and its plans for a controversial

overhaul of planning regulations to speed up the UK's development pipeline could further exacerbate the climate emergency if green safeguards are not put in place.

[UK's 'inefficient' homes exacerbate zero-carbon challenge](#)

Earlier this summer, the Committee on Climate Change, the government's main advisory body, warned that one in five homes in England (no UK-wide data is available) was in danger of overheating even in a cool summer. The point was used to illustrate that housing represents one of the UK's toughest challenges in meeting its 2050 net zero emissions target. Homes accounted for just under a fifth of total carbon dioxide emissions in 2019, behind energy supply and transport, and that figure has remained stubbornly high in recent years.

[How housing providers can use MMC homes for loan security](#)

The use of modern methods of construction is increasing among housing associations. But using these properties as loan security is not straightforward. There has been significant progress in recent weeks regarding the use of homes built using modern methods of construction (MMC) as loan security. Does this mean greater financial capacity is being unlocked in housing associations?

Our North Net Zero

The next session in the NHC's Our North Net Zero series begins tomorrow, with a two-part retrofitting webinar on 29th September and 7th October, discussing the national, sectoral challenges of scaling up retrofit projects before looking at some good practice case studies from across the NHC membership and the energy systems that will become more and more commonplace in our houses as the decarbonisation of our existing stock progresses.

Book your place [here](#).

Retrofit

[Measure twice, retrofit once: how an experiment in Manchester aims to improve energy efficiency renovations](#)

As social landlords embark on major works to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, how do they know the measures installed are working? Housing is responsible for around a quarter of carbon emissions in the UK. As a result, social landlords will be investing significant sums to decarbonise their stock in the coming years. That means that it is going to be ever more important to know that renovations carried out with the aim of cutting emissions actually do the job. So what did the trial find – and could other associations benefit from the learning?

[Carbon Trust advises retrofit of heat pump systems in existing buildings to lower emissions](#)

Heat pumps will have a critical role in tackling emissions from London's buildings and delivering the London Mayor's 2030 net zero ambitions, says a new report from the Carbon Trust. 'Heat pump retrofit in London', commissioned by the Mayor of London, includes detailed analysis of the potential to retrofit heat pumps across a range of existing buildings in London.

[Social housing decarbonisation held back by lack of funding, survey says](#)

A lack of funding and clarity from the government is preventing housing associations from mounting major retrofitting programmes to improve the energy efficiency of social housing stock, a survey has shown. The National Housing Federation (NHF) found that 74% of its members see funding as the biggest barrier to retrofitting work, while 56% said a lack of clarity in government policy was making it difficult to plan effectively.

Politics and Parliament

[Government action is vital, but net zero cannot be met without individual change](#)

The Climate Assembly's report, 'the path to net-zero', makes it clear that shifts in individual climate action should be led through government information and education. Last week, the Climate Assembly, established by six parliamentary committees, comprising of 108 individuals selected to reflect the public, published their final report of recommendations after months of discussions.

[Minister Kwarteng: decarbonising buildings "absolutely central" to net zero ambitions](#)

Speaking to UK Green Building Council members as part of World Green Building Week, Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Minister for Business, Energy & Clean Growth, set out the importance of decarbonising the built environment in delivering the UK's commitment to achieve net zero by 2050. Through Burges Salmon's membership of UKGBC I was able to watch the speech and participate in the Q&A.

Net Zero movement

[Big investors to trial 'net zero' tools to decarbonise their portfolios](#)

A coalition of more than 70 pension funds and investment managers representing assets of \$16tn have designed a "net zero" framework to help strip out damaging carbon emissions across their portfolios by 2050. Efforts by large investors to tackle climate change have been hampered by a lack

of consensus on the best way to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, a goal agreed at the 2015 Paris conference.

[We must act now to reach net zero by 2050](#)

The UK Green Building Council attributes 40% of the UK's total carbon emissions to the built environment. It is therefore imperative – pandemic or no pandemic – that we continue to take steps to achieve the government's ambition of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The problem is not that we are unable to build new, energy-efficient homes and commercial spaces; it is that 80% of the building stock that will exist by 2050 has already been built

[To deliver homes fit for the future, we may have to redefine 'zero-carbon'](#)

Demands to address climate issues must be based on strong factual foundations. One current flaw is the way that 'zero-carbon building' is used to mean whatever a developer, politician or lobbyist wishes. In the absence of government clarity, the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Framework published by the UK Green Building Council sets out the best definition.

[Why achieving net zero will be a tricky balancing act for housing associations](#)

In his Summer Statement, chancellor Rishi Sunak revealed details of a £2bn Green Homes Grant to help decarbonise housing. Ben Stansfield examines the context of the announcement and what it means for landlords.

[The Long Game](#)

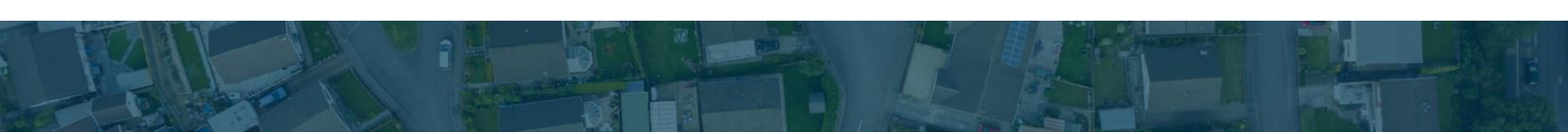
Mark Siddall is principal of Low Energy Architectural Practice (LEAP). His practice and consultancy has been operating for nine years and helps people create buildings that support their forever home lifestyle

[Climate action fund bid success for Middlesbrough Environment City](#)

A major grant to drive environmental change in Middlesbrough has been hailed as a 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity'. The town's bid to the national Climate Action Fund - led by Middlesbrough Environment City - has secured £1.6m in National Lottery funding to work across sustainable food, transport, domestic energy use, waste and natural environment.

[Green Finance Institute launches Zero Carbon Heating Taskforce](#)

The Green Finance Institute has launched a new taskforce to help unlock the investment needed for the rapid adoption of zero carbon heating technologies in the UK. The Zero Carbon Heating Taskforce consists of a focused group of members from the Green Finance Institute's Coalition for



the Energy Efficiency of Buildings (CEEB) from financial services, local and national government, energy and construction industries, academia and civil society, along with experts from the heating sector.

Green COVID Recovery

[Social housing must be 'centrepiece' of Scottish government's COVID-19 recovery plan, says sector](#)

Investing in social housing must be the “centrepiece” of the Scottish government’s COVID-19 recovery plan, a new sector-backed report has said. Published to mark Scottish Housing Day, the paper calls on ministers to commit to funding at least 53,000 social and affordable homes in the next parliamentary term running from 2021 to 2026.

[Britain's COVID-19 housing crisis](#)

Britain is currently facing its worst housing crisis in living memory, and with virtually no new social housing being built, those reliant on private accommodation are facing an insecure future without the right kind of government intervention. In response to COVID-19 Boris Johnson’s hard-right Brexiteers have been forced to implement stimulus packages totalling billions of pounds, in stark contrast to the previous decade of austerity. The “magic money tree” has well and truly been found, and housing policy has become a central issue in recent months, with a planning regulations bonfire looming on the agenda this summer, alongside Robert Jenrick’s ongoing Printworks scandal embodying the inherent corruption of British neoliberal politics.

Global good practice

[Ultra-modern 'green' housing estate which 'puts people before cars' planned for Derbyshire](#)

An ultra-modern “green” housing estate where residents would be encouraged to make friends with neighbours and “people would come before cars” is being proposed for Derbyshire. The plans are for a “customisable” communal housing project including 36 homes in Belper – aimed at promoting low carbon and shared living. The application, from Hothouse Cohousing, Futures Housing Group, Angela Clayton and Philip Waterfall, would see 25 houses and 11 flats built on disused allotments off Holbrook Road.

[Low-carbon housing pilot, Kirklees](#)



Kirklees Council is seeking a consultant for an ambitious programme to deliver 100 new low-carbon dwellings. The team selected for the estimated £250,000 contract will create 100 new low carbon homes for rent of which at least 20 will conform to a certified Passivhaus standard. The remaining units will harness modular construction to target a 31 per cent reduction in carbon emissions compared to the current Building Regulations.

Reports

[Making Housing Affordable After Covid-19: A follow up report from the Affordable Housing Commission](#)

A policy change in favour of social and affordable housing will be key to a post Covid-19 recovery. Besides providing more – much needed - genuinely affordable homes, increasing investment in social housing offers the opportunity to support jobs and local growth, improve the nation's ageing housing stock, reduce carbon emissions, and combat poverty

[Rescue, recovery and reform: Housebuilding and the pandemic](#)

The housebuilding sector will be badly hit by worsening economic conditions. We cannot afford a collapse. The industry supports millions of jobs, is made up mainly of small businesses and builds the homes we need to live in. The Government must invest now in social housing to protect jobs and businesses.

Campaign Partners:

