



**EVENT
REPORT**

Moorlands Climate Action Energy Day

Sunday 5 March The Foxlowe Leek

Highlights of the Day

- Over 185 people through the door on day
- Speakers from Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Cheshire, High Peak...
- First ever Energy Questionnaire in Moorlands
- Trial of community thermal imaging service launched
- Substantial follow-on enquiries on advice from public
- Genuine public engagement from local authorities
- Videos of event launched on YouTube



**Staffordshire
County Council**



LEEK
Building Society

What They Said on Energy Day

Some of the speakers...



ZOE ROBINSON, DIRECTOR KEELE UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

"WE'RE ON THE CUSP OF ANOTHER INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, AN ENERGY REVOLUTION.. ...PLACE-BASED SOLUTIONS WILL MAKE THAT ACCEPTABLE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES."

"WHAT A GREAT DAY - THE PANELS WERE REALLY WELL ATTENDED. I WAS IMPRESSED."

CHARLIE BAKER, RED CO-OP, YOUR HOME BETTER

"THERE WERE A LOT OF PIONEERS IN THE ROOM. IT WOULD BE GREAT IF THEIR SENSE OF AGENCY COULD BE BUILT ON..."



DAN CHAMBERS, MOORLANDS RESIDENT

'UNLESS PEOPLE WHO CAN AFFORD IT, PAY FOR THE NEW TECHNOLOGY IT WILL BE NEVER GET CHEAPER OR MORE ACCESSIBLE BUT WHAT WE NEED IS A SORT OF CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU FOR ENERGY. THAT'S WHY MCA'S ENERGY DAY WAS SO USEFUL."



NICK PARSONS, SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

"WRAP THE HOUSE UP, GET IT SNUG AND KEEP THE BOLT-ON GOODIES FOR LATER (BUT CONSIDER THE EFFECTS OF LATER INCLUSION)



Agenda for the Day

We managed to assemble an unprecedented range of speakers from Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, Nottingham and Cheshire. From the public and private sector and from community groups...

Moorlands Energy Day 2023
Sunday 5 March, The Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek All timings are subject to change. We encourage questions from the audience.

09:30	10:00 - 11:00	10.50 - 11.20	11:20 - 12.20	12:20 - 13.20	13:20 - 14.00	14.00 - 14:50	14.50
<p>Welcome</p> <p>MCA welcome</p> <p>Cllr Joe Porter Cabinet Member SMDC Climate and Biodiversity</p>	<p>Fabric First: basic energy solutions for your home</p> <p>What Fabric first means No regrets approach How to avoid the pitfalls</p> <p>Nick Parsons, Sustainable Building Co</p> <p>Graham Hirst Energy assessor/advisor Sustainable Hayfield (in partnership with Marches Energy Agency)</p> <p>Zee-Zee Heine, Hope Valley Climate Action</p>	<p>How to reduce your energy use in simple steps: a talk and Q+A</p> <p>Mark Thompson, Get Energy Savvy</p>	<p>Domestic energy: the next steps</p> <p>Solar PV Air/ground source heat pumps Home storage</p> <p>Becky Lane, Furbnow and former Net Zero Delivery Manager, West Midlands</p> <p>Charlie Baker, The Red Co-op and Your Home Better Consortium</p> <p>Dan Chambers, Moorlands resident about to embark on domestic low carbon future</p>	<p>Lunch</p> <p>Stalls / Networking</p> <p>Richard Waller, Keele University (video)</p>	<p>Delivering a smart energy transition: a University of Keele workshop</p> <p>Prof. Zoe Robinson Director Keele Institute of Sustainable Futures</p>	<p>An energy future for the Moorlands, Staffordshire and the Region</p> <p>Retrofit at scale Social housing Private Sector Community Projects Planning & strategy Mobilising Skills</p> <p>Serena Bacuzzi, Midlands Net Zero Hub</p> <p>Chris Langdon, Decumans and Net Zero Rugeley</p> <p>Gillian Wright, Climate Change Officer, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council</p>	<p>Closing and Q&A</p> <p>Panellists sum up the day and answer your questions</p> <p>Paul Hopewell, Congleton Hydro</p>



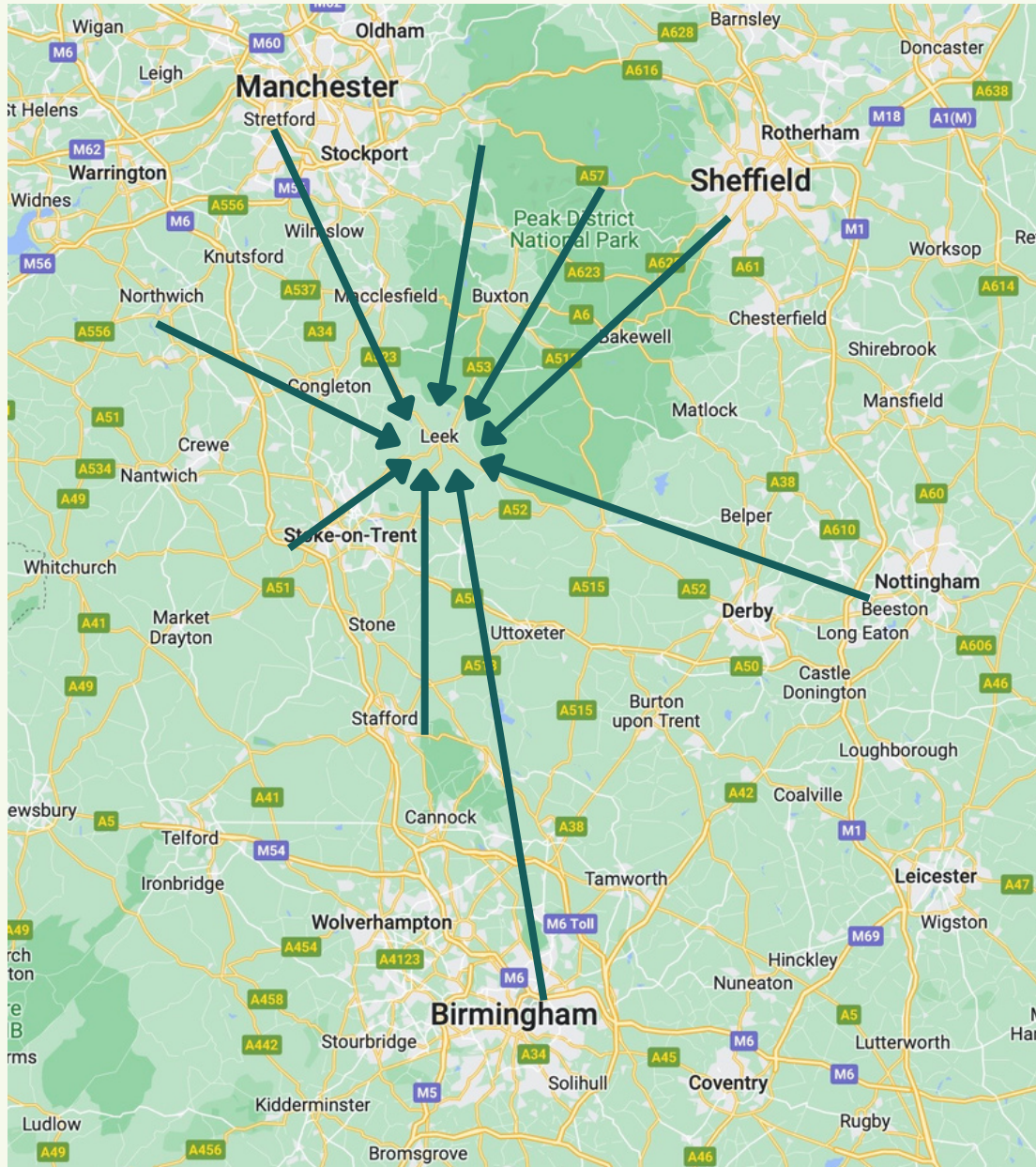
Beat the Cold's Michaela Fyson with SMDC Chair Tony Holmes

To complement the speakers we had a full range of stalls, including:

- Staffordshire Business Environment Network (SBEN)
- Zero Carbon Rugeley
- Beat the Cold
- Keele University's Climate Game
- Furbnow
- RedCo-op/Your HomeBetter

The Day They Came To Leek

Where Energy Day speakers came from...



Main Lessons from the Day

- Many people want to act on improving their domestic energy usage profile - they are just unsure how to start.
- Fabric First - improving insulation - should usually be the first step.
- A one-stop shop for advice on grants could be useful.
- But it can't wholly overcome fundamental national issues such as the stop-start nature of grants and the fragile nature of the supply chain.

Home energy saving tips
A quick guide to lower cost ways of cutting carbon and bills.

Reduce your heating needs

- If you have a combi boiler, reduce the flow and hot water temperatures and turn off hot water pre-heat.
- If you have a system boiler, insulate your hot water cylinder and pipes, check the cylinder thermostat is at no more than 60°C and look into options for reducing flow temperatures.
- To insulate a loft and keep storage space, look for low-cost loft legs/stilts.
- If you're on a below average income you should be able to get a grant for adding insulation, including for solid walls.
- Fit a water efficient shower head and hot tap aerators (both can be on offer or free from your water company).
- Shower rather than bath - and try to keep below 5 minutes!
- Draught-proof windows and doors and other gaps (but check you still have enough ventilation).
- Use thick, well-fitting curtains and ensure these finish on a shelf or sill above any radiator.
- Secondary glazing panels will improve old windows when it's not feasible to replace them.

Lower your electricity use

- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Replace old bulbs with LEDs and get the right design and placement of fittings.
- Only boil what you need in...

FINANCIAL TIMES
Retrofit roadblocks: the struggle to make England's older homes energy efficient
Efforts to upgrade protected properties are being thwarted by an overstretched planning system, fraught with delays and confusion
Hugo Cox APRIL 21 2023

The Whole House Approach - Fabric First

Why?

- More effective building services
- Lower maintenance
- No unnecessary 'eco-bling'
- Reduced ongoing costs
- Better living conditions
- Reduces fuel poverty
- Future-proof homes
- Easier approach to meeting target CO2 savings

Beyond these lower cost measures, CAT can also give further advice for those able to invest more. A heat pump will greatly reduce carbon emissions - to about 70-80% less than from gas or oil. With good design it should also reduce bills, but will need a bigger upfront investment. Grant funding is available for most. See www.cat.org.uk/info for advice on home retrofit plans, heat pumps, solid wall insulation, upgrading windows, ventilation systems, and more.

On the day...

THE LION LIES DOWN WITH THE LAMB...
...A day politics was put to one side



SMDC Cabinet Member Joe Porter talks to Press



What were they saying..? Cabinet Member James Aberley with MCA chair Mike Jones



Visitors from Biddulph...

SMDC Cabinet Members and Councillors (of all colours) in conversation with the public...

And a few more...



Fresh from Manchester...



Keele University's Climate Game



On a cold day, one of our warmer visitors...



A packed, rapt and wrapped audience...



Activities for the Family



Patricia Hill of Leek Building Society



Stalls in Exhibition Hall



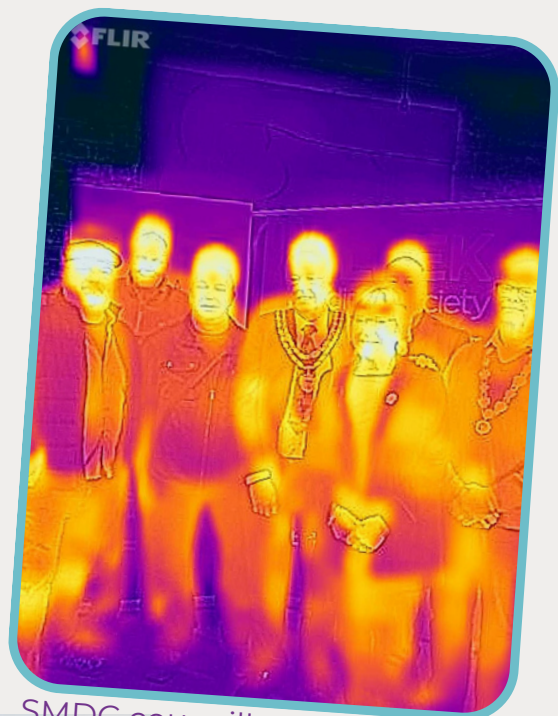
Live streaming enabled all to keep up

Thermal Imaging Camera Service

Thermal imaging cameras use infra-red technology to give a view of a building's heat profile - where heat and energy is being lost. They are a very useful tool for any householder looking to improve the energy performance of their house. Commercial surveys can be expensive - ranging from £300 to over £1,000. In conjunction with Energy Day, MCA bought a camera which can potentially be used by MCA members and the public for free – or a small donation.

We will be trialling it as a pilot very soon - before the spring truly sets in. The aim of the trial will be for volunteers to get used to handling the camera in other people's houses, to learn just how to interpret the images, and how best to help householders to take action on their properties after the thermal survey is done.

MCA's Nigel Williams trials our new thermal camera...

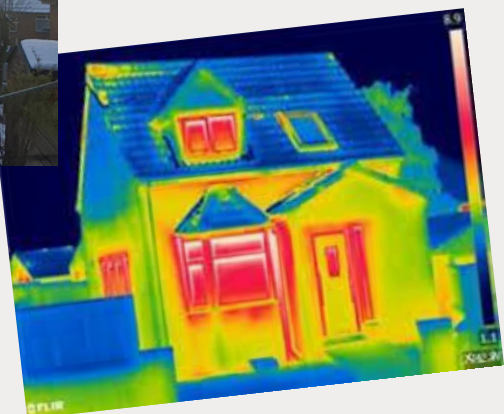


SMDC councillors in infra-red, image taken at Energy Day



Houses in Haregate, Leek, February 2023

A modern house showing external heat loss areas with infra red camera



Moorlands Energy Questionnaire

What we did, how and why...

In association with Energy Day, Moorlands Climate Action members devised a short Energy Questionnaire for residents of the district. This was primarily conducted face-to-face in the centre of Leek but was also available online. There were two main aims: to gauge public attitudes towards domestic energy use, including the level of knowledge people felt they already had and what they felt they lacked; and to gain experience in designing and conducting public surveys for the future. (We intend to use similar exercises at an appropriate time, both for MCA's own purposes, and where it works, in support of other initiatives, such as those from the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Climate Commission.)

Over a very short period of time, we gathered 80 detailed responses. Around a fifth were from MCA members; the majority were from other members of the public. We do not claim this to be a scientific survey but some clear patterns emerged from just this short exercise.



MCA's regular market stalls provided the ideal platform for the Energy Questionnaire



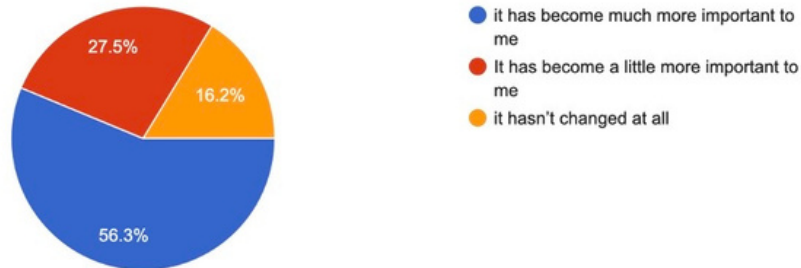
Highlights of the survey:

- Respondents were overwhelmingly more concerned with their energy use than they were before the energy crisis (84%).
- Almost all respondents were already making changes in the way they use energy in the home.
- Cost was the biggest obstacle to making further improvements (90%), followed by lack of information (45%).
- Most were considering simpler changes first (eg draught-proofing and perhaps insulation).
- Only one third of respondents (34%) knew their own home's Energy Performance Rating.

Summary of survey results

How has your attitude to the Energy you use in your home changed over the last six months?
(choose one)

80 responses



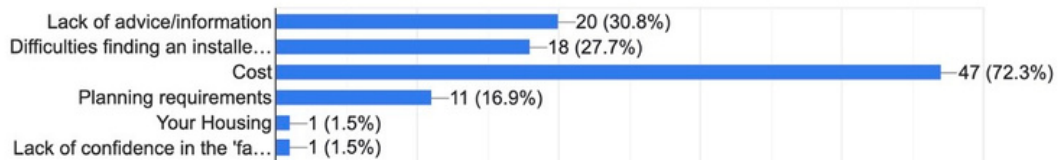
Have you, or are you considering any of the following? (answer all that apply)

78 responses



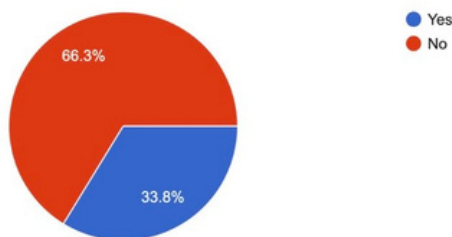
If you have considered any of these, what have you found the main obstacle? (answer all that apply)

65 responses



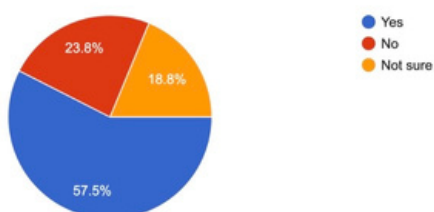
Do you know your home's Energy Performance Certificate rating?

80 responses



Would more information and advice about energy from your local council be useful to you?

80 responses



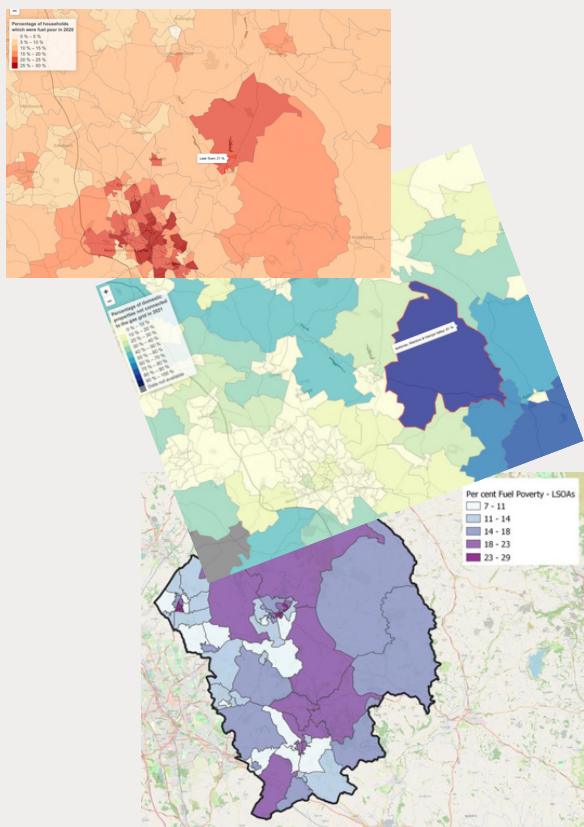
MCA in action at Biddulph Town Hall Energy Day

Councils and Energy Efficiency

With a heavy concentration of old terraced houses in the main towns, and old off-gas grid housing in the rural areas, the Staffordshire Moorlands consistently ranks near the bottom of national energy efficiency rankings. Energy Day formed the centrepiece of a concerted push by MCA to put this topic at the top of the climate agenda in the district.

Until recently the council adopted a mostly hands-off approach to the topic.

MCA believes strongly that the council can and should move faster than they currently feel prepared or able to go but welcomed their help and full participation in Energy Day.



Concentrations of fuel poverty and solid fuel dependence in Moorlands

MCA continues to push for:

- Better local implementation of national programmes by SMDC
- Action from Your Housing
- Planning to be more energy sensitive
- Energy to be at the top of the County Climate Agenda, particularly retrofit skills
- Energy to be top of the Staffs and Stoke Climate Commission agenda
- Trial retrofit 'One-Stop-Shop'



SMDC's Gillian Wright takes questions

SMDC agreed this year to make domestic energy use one of the three key areas of focus under the Climate Plan. This is what they have committed to do in the near future:

- Map the pathways to retrofit for housing and ownership types and assess monitoring methodologies to explore means to stimulate upscaling activity.
- Publicise energy saving schemes, advice. e.g. Beat the Cold and Staffordshire Warmer Homes
- Target households where our data may indicate eligibility for funding.
- Ensure website signposts to advice for energy saving and links to information.
- Publicise Retrofit Academy training offer for West Midlands residents for PAS2035
- Publicise opportunities for local businesses to expand services to support the retrofit and renewable supply and skills
- Engage with businesses to explore opportunities for self-funding retrofit service for private owners.
- Engage with Your Housing to implement their energy targets of EPC C by 2030 for the social housing stock.
- Engage with photovoltaic (solar panels) providers to scope the potential for a bulk buying programme in partnership with other local authorities.



Moorlands Climate Action would like to thank the following, without whom Energy Day would not have been possible:



Leek Building Society for their support, once again, for Energy Day. The model of a responsible, community focused company.



Staffordshire County Council, in particular, Councillors Charlotte Atkins, Mark Deaville and Ross Ward, for their support through the Climate Action Fund

The individual sessions were fully recorded and are available for viewing on YouTube:

<https://moorlandsclimateaction.org.uk/index.php/energy/230-energy-day-2024>