

New energy culture, citizen involvement and energy poverty Seminar, Gloucester - June 2017

Managed in the UK by Severn Wye Energy Agency

Over 60 local and international delegates converged at Gloucester Guildhall for the New energy culture, citizen involvement and energy poverty Seminar on 13th June 2017.

Significant social, economic and health effects can arise from the 30,000+ 'fuel poor' households within Gloucestershire. Therefore, sharing knowledge and understanding about strategies to reduce fuel poverty, and the direct links to health and social care, is particularly important at a time when there are pressures on public funding and increasing financial constraints on citizens.

The event brought together stakeholders who wanted to share knowledge and practical strategies to engage organisations and the public in fuel poverty and retrofit.



Dr Harriet Thompson, from the European Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV), delivered the key note speech. Other key speeches were presented by William Baker, Citizens Advice (*left*); and Barry Wyatt, Stroud District Council.

Mary Morgan, NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and Gloucestershire County Council, explained why preventative measures to reduce the impact on direct NHS services are so important. This highlighted the reason for the match funding support for the project from Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group.

As the event was part of the EU Build to Low Carbon project: representatives from Croatia, Lithuania, Spain, and Sweden shared their strategies to reduce fuel poverty and improve health in their nations.



"The Build2LC project is really important because its fundamental aim is the implementation of policies that seek to resolve fuel poverty issues. The project is interesting because it includes a diverse range of stakeholder requirements and knowledge that represents the full spectrum of what 'sustainability' represents; this includes: physical and mental health; renewable and environmental technology; local business needs and training; financial realities and public/private involvement."

Richard Jessup, Stride Treglown





During the event, delegates had the opportunity to learn more about the following projects at Severn Wye Energy Agency:

Warm & Well - A programme providing advice, support and retrofit to domestic properties across Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire.

Link to Energy - The workshop discussed the establishment, training and co-ordination of an energy and installers network.

Target 2050 - A project which was run in, and funded by, Stroud District to reduce carbon emissions across domestic properties, businesses, and community buildings. The project explored managing different types of buildings; support for those in fuel poverty; and engaging installers.

Delegates shared their own experiences and explored ways to apply learning to their own areas.



Site Visit to SGS Berkeley Green

On Wednesday 14th June, the Build2LC partners and European stakeholders visited the new SGS facility and UTC at Berkeley Green which is situated on the site of a former nuclear facility.

George Ridd, Site Director, explained how the project developed to meet the economic and employment needs of Gloucestershire by providing training and education in engineering and construction for both adults and young people. The key feature of the campus, and the project, is the clear priority to have relevant industries based on site in order to provide opportunities for learners to be at the forefront of innovation with regular access to a range of employers.

Dave Evans (*left*), Schneider, delivered an engaging presentation about the future of battery storage, Schneider's work, and their relationship with Berkeley Green.

Severn Wye would like to offer sincerest thanks to all those who contributed to the event.



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<http://www.interregeurope.eu/build2lc/>

<http://www.severnwyenergy.org.uk/our-work/live-activities/profile/project/show/SWAPProjects/build-to-low-carbon.html>