

Working Group UPDATE : Partnership with Oxford Brookes

Keeping ahead of the latest innovations and initiatives is part of the role of each of our Working Groups, and especially important to us, are collaborations with colleges and Universities, who have the funding, resources and skillsets to deep dive into research projects. Net Zero and Healthy Homes are top of the agenda for both Blue-Sky and granular research.

Universities can explore long term ideas with subject specialists. Oxford Brookes University wanted to partner with NHMF so that its students and researchers could work on real-world problems. NHMF Working Groups can help translate academic research and insight into usable, sustainable technologies and solutions that benefit the whole sector.

This year we launched our partnership with Oxford Brookes University, which has given us access to the latest research, thinking and development including tech, resident engagement and AI and machine learning and its impact.

Specifically we are partnering with Oxford Brookes on:

HEARTH

The University is leading a major £7.4 million Government-funded research initiative to explore the human health impact of the UK's net zero targets in relation to extreme heat. Collaborating with five other universities and four public sector organisations.



HEARTH is examining how the transition to net zero emissions can benefit vulnerable populations by improving health outcomes, such as reducing heat-related illnesses and enhancing living conditions during extreme heat events, with the aim of developing practical solutions that enhance health outcomes while supporting climate goals.

INHABIT

The UK faces the challenge of retrofitting its 29 million homes to reduce carbon emissions and meet its legally binding net zero target by 2050 and we're collaborating with Oxford Brookes and Birmingham University on how we do this. While these upgrades are essential for environmental goals, without proper planning, retrofitting could trap moisture and pollutants, affecting air quality and health. Part of a £7 million research grant, working closely with Professor Rajat Gupta, we're looking at the risks on indoor air quality, especially for vulnerable groups like the elderly and those with respiratory conditions.

OISD

The Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (OISD), founded in 2004, is one of the UK's largest research institutes dedicated to sustainable development research in the built and natural environments. OISD, which consists of six distinct research groups, addresses the multiple dimensions of sustainable development and the synergies and processes that link them, through a multi- and interdisciplinary approach. We are proud to be partnering to contribute to the work, developing concepts, designs, technical and process approaches and Informing policy debates nationally and internationally by developing an empirical evidence base.



Tangible activities of this collaboration are NHMF members setting dissertation topics for Masters students to work on, and the ability to participate in the HEARTH and INHABIT research projects. These projects will help NHMF members avoid unhealthy indoor conditions as a result of retrofit and reduce the risk of overheating from low energy homes.

To join the Healthy Homes Working Group contact: **Tessa Barraclough**
To join the Net Zero Working Group or other NHMF initiatives, contact: **Julian Ransom** or **Andrew Burke**