



Spotlight on NHMF Net Zero Working Group partnership with Transforming Homes Consortium

Transforming Homes is one of four Green Transition Ecosystems (GTEs), which are large-scale projects funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to translate design research into real-world benefits.

The Transforming homes consortium is working with a broad range of stakeholders including residents, supply chains, local government and community groups to co-design existing homes.

Their main objectives are to:

- Use biobased and non-extracted materials in place of traditional fossil fuel based products
- Bring spaces into present for residents
- Reduce energy demand whilst providing renewable energy supply and storage
- Improve quality of homes and therefore health and well being of residents
- Reduce energy bills for residents reducing fuel poverty

This work is carried out by a regional partnership of the GW4 universities (Cardiff, Bath, Bristol, and Exeter) along with partners Swansea Council, Bristol City Council, Woodknowledge Wales, SO Modular, Mikhail Riches, Alliance for Sustainable Building Products and WeCanMake.

Initial focus:

The project focuses on developing processes that provide solutions that can transform the 1.4 million homes built by councils in England and Wales between 1920 and 1940.

Methodology:

Transforming Homes works collaboratively with social housing providers, community groups, and other key stakeholders to design, model, test, implement, and monitor appropriate solutions.

Demonstration homes are located in Townhill in Swansea, collaborating with Swansea Council and in Knowle West in Bristol, in collaboration with WeCanMake.

Links with NHMF

Professor Jo Patterson and Professor Pete Walker were guest speakers at the NHMF Conference 2025. Director Professor Jo Patterson will provide an update at the NHMF Conference 2026 plenary session, 'Keeping Warm Homes Healthy: How to Avoid Unhealthy Retrofit.' and physical outputs from the model will be showcased in the NHMF's Partner Room.

Partnering with NHMF NetZero Working Group

The NHMF NetZero Working Group member Julian Ransom sits on the Transforming Homes Steering Group.

Shared press releases and industry updates are published following joint events.

Regular exchange of speakers at each other's events.

Input from the NHMF members on experiences and opportunities and challenges through workshops.

The NHMF NetZero Working Group will organise tours and share reports of Transforming Homes demonstration projects.

Maintenance is fundamental to successful transformation of homes. It is essential that there is co-design with all stakeholders involved in maintenance of housing. These conversations have to be happening whilst work is being carried out, not after.

Transforming Homes real-world learnings should be brought into best practice promoted by the NHMF. NHMF members will be provided with visibility of Transforming Homes research with shared platforms for both organisations to engage with the sector.

To join the Net Zero Working Group or other NHMF initiatives contact: [Andrew Burke](#) or [Julian Ransom](#)