



Introduction to the EDRC

Tuesday 1st October 2024

Fuel Poverty Research
Conference

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University of Manchester



About us



- Established in July 2023
- Funded by Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).
- Undertake research for an affordable and secure low energy future
- Interdisciplinary and evidence-based research
- Led by Universities of Sussex and Birmingham
- Consortia is made up of 75 members in 14 universities across the UK
- Work closely with partners from policy, industry, civil society and academia

Overview of Research Themes

- Focused on energy demand reductions in buildings, transport and industry
- 5 main interdisciplinary research themes:
 - Futures
 - Flexibility
 - Governance
 - Equity
 - Place

Connect via challenges

- engineering an integrated net zero transition
- delivery models
- energy security
- green jobs and skills

Place Theme

- See places as active participants in the energy transition
- Energy demand and carbon consumption is unevenly distributed across economy, therefore it will be different across communities
- Use a ‘place-based’ approach

“How can place-based characteristics be used to accelerate the design and delivery of low energy demand futures?”

PEER Projects

1



Challenges associated with the **integrated delivery of energy advice**

(led by the University of Manchester)

2



Undertake 3 **Place Focused Retrofit Case Studies**

(Led by the University of Sussex)

3



Understand how **focal community members** could play a role in supporting place-based retrofit and regeneration

(Led by the University of Edinburgh)

4



Unpack the **Equity Dimensions** of these challenges for marginalised groups

(led by the University of Manchester)




Energy Advice Provision in the UK

Research Questions:

- Who is providing energy advice across the UK?
- What does 'energy advice' involve?
- Where is energy advice being provided?
- Who is receiving it?

~60 in-depth interviews with a range of stakeholders: VCSEs, government (local & national), private sector

1



Challenges associated with the **integrated delivery of energy advice**
(led by the University of Manchester)

Emerging findings

- **Un-coordinated, messy, fragmented** landscape of energy and retrofit advice provision.
- **Wide variety of organisational actors**, dominated by partnerships, including growing numbers of social enterprises and even the private sector (e.g. Local Energy Advice Demonstrators).
- Various forms of **short-term, piecemeal funding**
- **Declining local authority capacity (overall)** to support diverse/innovative energy advice and energy retrofit models
- **Places are more than ‘locations’** – lack of policy and conceptual linkages between place-based regeneration and retrofit despite numerous opportunities.
- **Retrofit justice** – some places and groups benefit more from the current distribution, clear lack of provision, skills and training in some domains

PEER links to related work in Manchester



Relevant 'People and energy' projects:

- Living labs to study energy advice provision (Simcock, Bouzarovski, team)
- Retrofit delivery in social housing (Hannah Charles, team)
- Energy justice issues faced by refugees in the UK (Manon Burbidge, team)
- Risk and resilience in relation to fire prevention (Aisling O'Rourke, team)

Thank you!



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Also available on LinkedIn

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