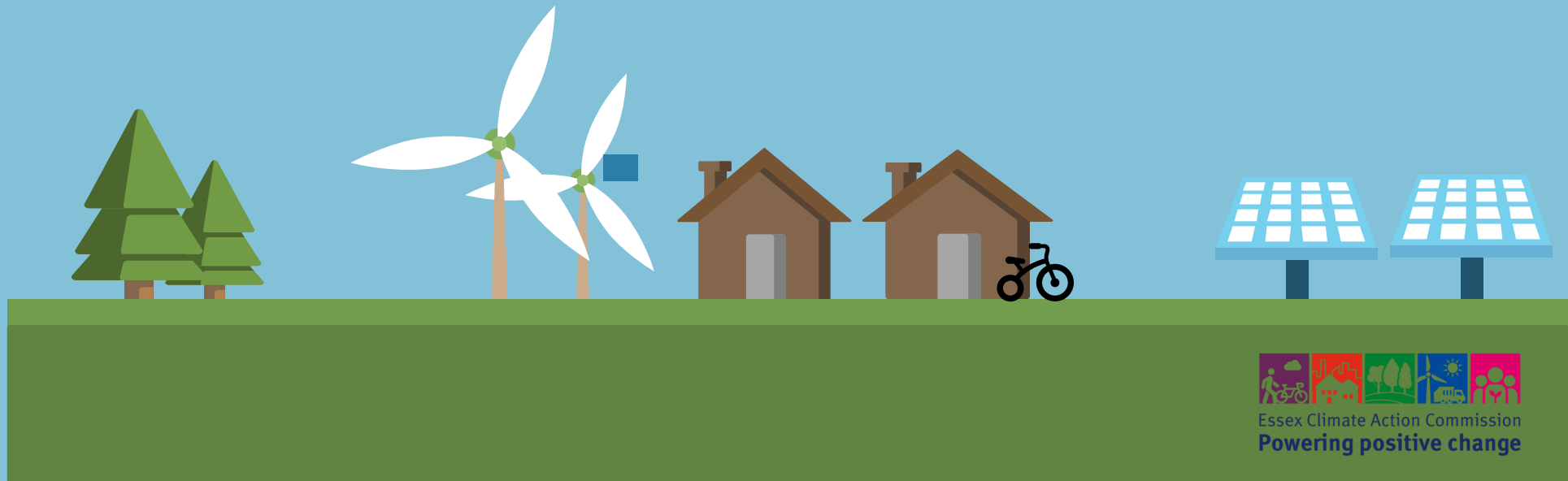


CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER: QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

ESSEX CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION (ECAC)

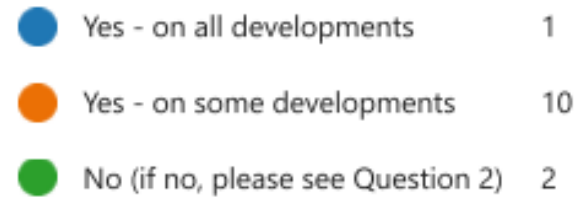


Results – Net-Zero Show Homes

- 13 responses in total received.

- 11 out of 13 who responded indicated they have/will have net-zero show homes on upcoming developments

1. Do you/will you have net zero show homes on all/some of your upcoming developments?



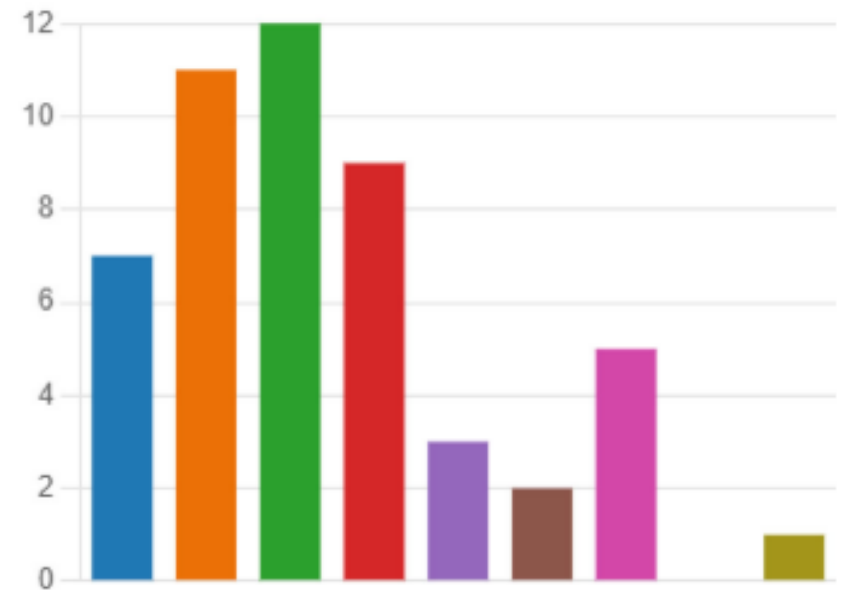
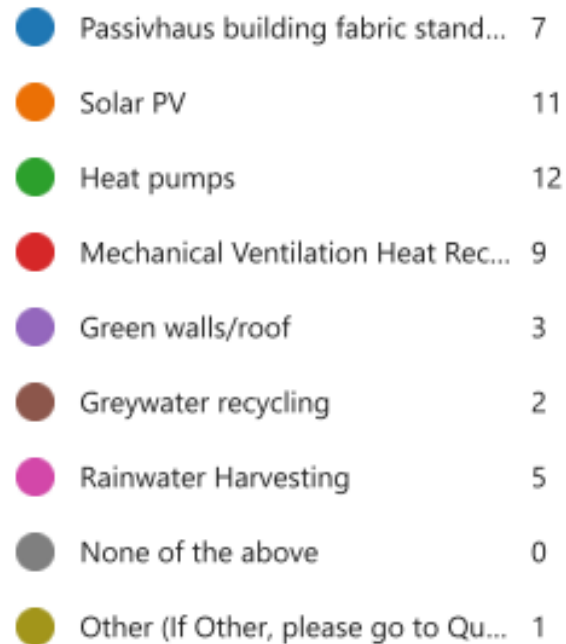
- Some reasons given for **not** including net-zero show homes:

- *“Not generally as this is not required under planning/B Regs.”*
- *“We are looking at sustainable development such as PV cells and Heat pumps but not looking to go as far as Net zero”*
- *“The term Net Zero is not yet defined sufficiently to answer yes”*

Results - Technologies

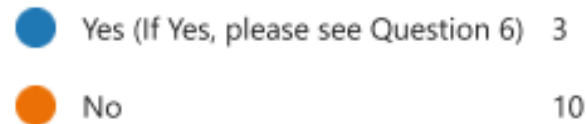
3. What types of technologies have you/will you look to demonstrate as part of a net-zero show home?

- Other technologies referenced include: Solar Thermal Hot Water, Building Batteries, EV Charging points.



Results – Built out Net-zero case studies

5. Are you able to share any net-zero development case studies which could be uploaded into a directory of best practice to be featured on the Essex Design Guide?



- *Show homes at BRE in Watford. Completed in Summer 2022. Passivhaus Plus semi detached homes. Zero carbon emissions in operation and lower embodied carbon footprint*

Results – Future Net-zero developments

- 6 out of 13 respondents have net-zero developments coming forward in Essex
- *Colchester Tendring project of 7,500 homes will work towards net-zero carbon by 2030.*
- *Brookfield Close, Hutton, Brentwood - 62 Zero Carbon Dwellings.*
- *Harewood Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood - 40 Zero Carbon Dwellings.*
- *Phase of Beaulieu, Chelmsford (66 homes) - working in partnership with Chelmsford City Council and Homes England to investigate the design and specification needed to achieve the Future Homes Standard (FHS), set to be implemented in 2025.*

7. Do you have any net-zero developments coming forward in Essex?



Results

Is there anything that would assist you in bringing forward net-zero development?

1. Planning Policy

“National policy bringing consistency across the country”

“Planning policy requirements which mean that such standards need to be complied with”

“A firmer commitment from all district, borough and unitaries in Essex to put net zero planning conditions in place by end of 2023”

Actions

- Continue the support to Local Planning Authorities by the newly established Climate and Planning Unit (CaPU) and recruit into the vacant posts to provide more resource to local districts to help deliver net-zero policies
- Continue to work with Government to help to standardize net-zero ambitions across the country

Results

Is there anything that would assist you in bringing forward net-zero development?

2. Evidence of benefits of net-zero

“Evidence based stats confirming tangible benefits to end users”

Actions

To share with Essex Developer’s Group any up-to-date documents/reports that provide data on tangible benefits for end users

To keep a central resource of any up-to-date documents on the Essex Design Guide

Results

Is there anything that would assist you in bringing forward net-zero development?

3. Forum for best practice and performance data

“Specific forums for sharing best practice and performance data”

Actions

Net-Zero Innovation Network - [Essex Net Zero Innovation Network | Carbon Copy](#)

To keep a central resource of any up-to-date documents on the Essex Design Guide

Results *Is there anything that would assist you in bringing forward net-zero development?*

4. Increased Grant Funding/decrease costs associated with net-zero

“Grant funding for this type of development to be able to be used with other funding sources such as Right to Buy receipts”

“A greater level of funding support or CIL / S106 exemption noting that the wider benefits of Zero Carbon will ultimately have a positive impact on people, their reliance on the health service etc, but that to achieve these it currently requires greater capital investment up front which strains viability.

Recognition of the associated significant increase in building costs, in the context of broader expected developer contributions

Actions

- Share the full [Three Dragons report on net-zero viability](#) in Essex
- Develop and provide an easy to read summary of Three Dragons Report

Results *Is there anything that would assist you in bringing forward net-zero development?*

5. Skilled Workforce/supply chain understanding in delivering net-zero

“Increased knowledge/experience of the supply chain in delivering net-zero”

“Skilled workforce”

Actions

-Provide links to relevant Skills information documents - The Essex Skills Plan, Local Skills Improvement Plan and Essex Green Skills Plan are responding to the requirements of a skilled workforce. Likewise, are national Skills Bootcamps providers who are delivering training in Retrofit, project management, CAD, Construction etc. Links provided below:

Green Skills Infrastructure review [Essex Green Skills Infrastructure review 2022 \(ctfassets.net\)](https://ctfassets.net)

Skills bootcamps - [Skills Bootcamps \(education.gov.uk\)](https://education.gov.uk)

The Essex Opportunities portal- [Essex Opportunities](https://essexopportunities.com)

Results *Is there anything that would assist you in bringing forward net-zero development?*

6. Definition of Net-zero

“A clear and defined meaning of Net Zero”

Actions

- Climate and Planning Unit to work with Local Authorities to develop a model net-zero policy to be taken forward by Essex Local Planning Authorities for refinement and consulted on as part of Local Plan adoption to help provide consistency across Essex.
- Climate and Planning Unit currently working with Local Authorities to push for a best practice ‘net zero’ definition (which reflects LETI standards) to be aimed for on large, strategic developments in negotiation with the developer.
- Ongoing work with Government pursued to ensure consistency nationally in net-zero policies

Results – Sponsorship of Apprenticeships

- *“We are currently supporting a senior asset person to complete an MA in Sustainability at Cranfield University”*
- *“Retrofit skills”*
- *“in-house training with all our trainees including zero carbon design, operational emissions, embodied carbon and waste hierarchy”*
- *“Vistry Group runs Construction Skills Academies which are an innovative programme designed to combat the nationwide skills shortage affecting the construction industry. These academes teach a broad range of construction skills include 'green' skills”*

10. Are you sponsoring or planning to sponsor any apprenticeships in Design and Green Construction skills related training?

- Yes (If Yes, please see Question ... 7
- No (If no, please see Question 12) 6



Results *What would help you to sponsor an Apprentice in the green skills/construction area?*

Responses received

“A greater understanding of schemes available will help”

“Better understanding of what is required and how it could be delivered”

“Finance”

“We would not look to directly sponsor, but would encourage this as part of procurement of developments”

Actions

- Signpost IFATE (the Institute of Apprenticeships and Technical education) - IFATE have already identified over 40 apprenticeships that support green careers - ranging from environmental practitioners, to countryside rangers, and Retrofit technicians. The Institute has also launched a sustainability framework. More info on IFATE is here -

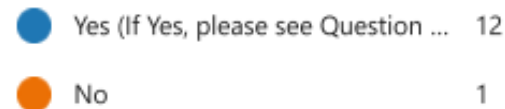
[Institute leading way with green skills in drive to net zero / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](#)

-Ongoing work with Government pursued to ensure upskilling of certain skill sets – e.g. Air Source heat Pump installation

Results – Supply chain, recruitment and materials

- *“Recruitment to technical roles is challenging. Particularly project management and quality assurance”*
- *“Skilled labour able to deliver the stringent fabric first requirements on site”*
- *“Information from contractors would indicate there are significant issues”*
- *“Labour shortages and continued longer lead-in times for all materials since COVID”*
- *“Shortage of heat pump installers”*

15. Are you experiencing any difficulties in supply chain in obtaining goods, recruitment and materials ?



Results – Essex Housing awards and Sustainability Checklist

13. Are you planning to submit any schemes in the Climate Change category at the Essex Housing Awards in 2023?



14. Would you find it helpful if a Climate Change Sustainability Checklist was included on the Essex Design Guide website which could be used to inform the early design of your scheme?



Results – Climate Action Packs

17. Are you aware of the Climate Action Packs for residents, businesses and schools?



18. Would you be willing to promote these packs as part of your marketing and sales strategy?



POTENTIAL NEXT STEPS

- **FURTHER ANALYSIS OF RESULTS**
- **RANGE OF THEMED WORKSHOPS**
 - **ENERGY REDUCTION**
 - **SKILLS**
 - **ADVICE PACKS**
 - **SUPPLY CHAINS**
 - **NET ZERO INNOVATION NETWORK**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

ANY QUESTIONS