

Briefing Note

Improving Your Property for Sustainable Living Event – June/July 2023

Background:

Medway Council declared a climate emergency in April 2019 and committed to a Net Zero emissions target by 2050 in Medway. The Cabinet formally adopted the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy in January 2021 and this informed the Council's [Climate Change Action Plan](#). The Action Plan was approved by the Cabinet in June 2021 and a refreshed version approved by the Cabinet in July 2022. The Action Plan sets out the strategic need to encourage retrofit of existing homes and the actions under Priority Area 5 – Building Retrofit Programme, support this further.

Retrofitting existing homes across Medway will ensure that households consume less energy.

This has the following advantages:

- Saving energy reduces Medway's carbon footprint and accelerates the transition to net zero carbon to avert the worst consequences of climate change. This is important because Medway's homes account for over 40%* of Medway's carbon emissions.
- Saving energy saves households money which is important at a time of increasing energy prices.

Retrofitting measures can include loft insulation, double glazing, heat pumps or other similar low carbon technologies to reduce reliance on gas boilers. Each homeowners retrofitting needs will be unique based on the age, quality and existing insulation of their homes.

* <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2020>

The Project:

Medway Council's Climate Response team are supporting a series of in-person events in partnership with University of Greenwich, Gravesham Borough Council, Swale Borough Council, Faversham Town Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Kent County Council.

Independent experts from the University of Greenwich (Faculty of Engineering and Science) will provide an information session followed by an audience Q&A.

Objectives and desired outcomes:

- Provide attendees with practical ideas on how to reduce their energy bills.
- Provide impartial information relating to home sustainability including insulation, building fabric, heating systems, smart buildings, self-generation and much more from trusted sources.
- Give attendees an opportunity to ask experts questions relating to their individual property.
- Empower people to invest in the changes that make the most sense for their lifestyle and property.
- Through the presentation of accurate information, dispel myths and misinformation relating to systems and technology.
- Produce media which can be hosted on the Council website to inform others.

Eligibility and registration:

There is a series of events taking place across Kent which are free and open to all.

(All events take place from 18:00-20:00hrs)

Monday 12th June - The Corn Exchange, Rochester

Thursday 29th June - University of Greenwich, Chatham campus

Monday 3rd July - St Margarets Millennium Centre, Rainham

Thursday 6th July - Angel Centre, Tonbridge

Thursday 13th July - The Guildhall, Faversham

Wednesday 19th July - The Woodville Theatre, Gravesend

Places can be booked for free on Eventbrite at the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/improving-your-property-for-sustainable-living-2213229>