

Dudley MBC & WMCA

Working Towards Net Zero



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(DEAL)

Net Zero Neighbourhood Demonstrator Programme

The West Midlands Combined Authority as part of its strategy to cut regional carbon emissions to net zero by 2041 has awarded Dudley MBC £1.65M of funding to create a low carbon community.

This programme aims to take a different approach by trialling an area-based scheme. In addition to retrofitting houses, it aims to achieve wider impacts such as making green spaces, public buildings and transport links more sustainable.

Area Selection Considerations

Neighbourhood up to 300 houses

Mixed tenure – primarily owner occupied

High levels of fuel poverty and EPC s below C

Good transport links and potential to improve

Adjacent to current or planned regeneration projects.

Nearby Industrial area

Nearby retail area

Access to green spaces

Strong community links

The Vision

A green and
thriving
neighbourhood
that:

is planned and designed by its residents to not only minimise emissions but also improve quality of life.

provides a highly desirable place for residents, workers and visitors to live, work and socialise

educates and empowers individuals, to make long-term behaviour changes through effective and sustained awareness-raising & education.

stands out as a front-runner for other neighbourhoods to follow.

The Vision

A green and thriving neighbourhood should not only address the causes and impacts of climate change, but also:

improve living standards and provide homes that are warm and affordable to heat

connect neighbourhoods, by providing quality public transport, improved cycling infrastructure and create people centred streets

promote healthy living and a sense of community by creating spaces such as community gardens

create and support green jobs contributing to long-term prosperity. Provide training and upskilling opportunities, especially for young people and under-represented groups.

Why Brierley Hill / Brockmoor?

Good community engagement,
Community Centre.

Good representative mix
of housing tenure and
EPC ratings
307 homes

Has some of the
highest levels of fuel
poverty in the
borough

Proximity to new
metro link

Close to Brierley Hill High
Street - area of
regeneration and
investment

Small industrial estate
solar pv / green roof/ waste
heat recovery
Merry Hill Shopping Centre
(work employment)

Primary School
(Education and
engagement)

Green spaces
park; sports club
Disused railway

Canal
Cycling - leisure and
commuting



Phase 1

Two years

Community Engagement – Generate positive interest and develop positive relationships between project and the community.

Buildings – retrofit of 57 homes

Transport / Mobility - feasibility study - improve cycle network; mobility hub

Community spaces - community garden, wildlife areas

Energy system - scope potential large scale solutions

Finance & Investment – develop new and innovative commercial solutions that can be replicated at scale

Measures being considered

The renovation and retrofitting of existing homes and buildings. ASHP, shared loop ground source heat pumps, radiant heating, solar pv, monitoring solutions

Low carbon transport measures such as mobility hubs; cycle paths; EV street charging and EV car clubs.

Green neighbourhood measures such as LED street lighting; parks, playgrounds and communal food growing initiatives; nature-based solutions such as green roofs

Finance Model

Phase 1 -- £1.65M - WMCA
£500k for LA stock
£500k for private properties

De- carbonisation grants:
SHDF; ECO ; BUS ; PSDS;

Phase 2 –blended finance model
investment from a range of potential
sources: financial organisations; utility
companies, developers, green
community investment projects, digital
investment infrastructure etc

Phase 2

3- 5 years

Transport / Mobility - review cycling and car club options; EV charging;

Finance & Investment – outline and trial of new business models for financing of future solutions

Buildings – retrofit of remaining 250 homes, school, industrial unit

Community Engagement – Educational activities. Support community to take ownership of longer-term initiatives that support low-carbon lifestyles.

What will the programme demonstrate?

Low carbon communities offer residents an attractive, sustainable place to live, work and socialise. Improve quality of life & health outcomes

Tailored approaches to community engagement to co-design a range of improvements and benefits for households and communities across all tenure types

Replicable blended finance models that generate long-term returns through energy savings and wider socio-economic benefits

Scalable approaches to delivery which stimulate local supply chains, generate economies of scale, and unlock local employment opportunities