



POWERING DOWN EAST OXFORD



GROUP NAME:

Rose Hill and Iffley Low Carbon,
Low Carbon Headington,
Local Environment Action
Florence Park (LEAF)
Low Carbon East Oxford

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:

£1,215

LOW CARBON HUB GRANT:

£1,215

PARTNER FUNDERS:

CAG Project Oxfordshire

Image: thermal imaging feedback at LEAF event in Florence Park Community Centre



“A great example of community action groups working together to make a difference!”

Alice, The CAG Project

The objective

A thermal imaging project to reduce the carbon emissions of households in the East Oxford area by raising awareness of energy efficiency measures, educating households on behaviour changes to reduce their energy use, and encouraging the installation of energy saving measures.

The aim was also for low carbon groups based around East Oxford to work together to deliver the project, to share resources, and learn from each other.

continued overleaf...

The work

Four groups based around East Oxford joined forces to deliver this energy reduction project to reach as many people as possible. They recruited volunteers, held training sessions on using thermal imaging equipment and interpreting results.

The groups recruited members of the local community by knocking on doors and asking people to take part in a thermal imaging survey to learn about where their houses may be leaking energy, costing them money and increasing their carbon emissions.

The results

- Planet

Thermal imaging surveys took place in 244 households across Florence Park, East Oxford, Headington, Rose Hill and Iffley. Following the surveys, 28 homes said they intended to make improvements such as installing loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and double glazing. 15 households said they would also change their behaviour to further reduce energy consumption and 9 households said they had already implemented some behaviour changes. If carried out, these measures could result in approximately 10.18 tonnes of carbon being saved from being emitted.

- People

The project recruited 26 volunteers from the participating groups and there was really good engagement from the local community. Local Environment Action Florence Park (LEAF), a relatively new group, expanded their skills and capacity to expand their work in the local area.

Participants also reported that following the project they felt they knew their neighbours better and had a better understanding of community involvement and cohesion.

- Prosperity

According to the Resource Community Impact Tool (the CAG Project) the energy saving activities and home improvements could result in potential cost savings to the households of £1,009. The project also referred 105 households to the LEAP scheme which provides support for vulnerable or low-income families to make home improvements.

Learning

Volunteers and participants felt the project was a success with a lot of learning. When surveying a street, they found having a volunteer who was a local resident really helped with getting buy in from the local community. Their advertising methods proved successful using local newsletters, a local fete, school, posters on the street, the online platform Next Door, at the community centre and via word of mouth.

The groups found that of the two feedback methods used, they each had their pros and cons. Whilst sending feedback via email was less resource intensive than discussing the feedback at the events, it didn't have the community feel or cohesion of the well-attended events.

The project continued through the winter of 2017/18.

01865 246099 • info@lowcarbonhub.org • 9 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1HH

www.lowcarbonhub.org