LowCarb4Real; Workshop collection: Methods; Converting Inputs into Outcomes

UrbanBuzz
Building sustainable communities

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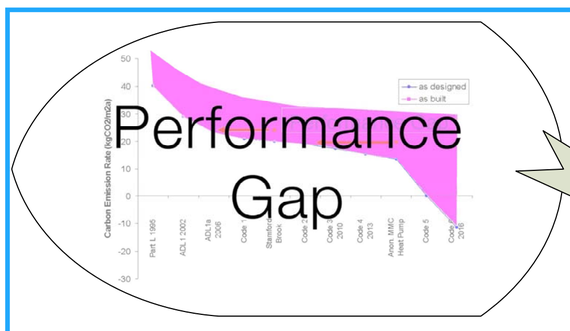


STAMFORD BROOK

Developer Input
Good Homes Alliance

LowCarb4Real Workshops

Mind the Gap:
As performance targets get increasingly more stringent, the potential for the gap between predicted and measured energy performance of dwellings is likely to increase proportionally - unless action is taken immediately.LowCarb4Real sought to increase awareness of this concern and gain feedback from workshop participants on how best to develop solutions.

Breakout Sessions:
The workshop breakout sessions took the format of a '*Technical Issues*' session, where aspects of potential underperformance were highlighted to participants, actual details re-designed and potential solutions discussed, and a '*Needs*' breakout session which used brainstorming to focus on the requirements of both designers and constructors to build low carbon dwellings that would reliably work in practice..
The issues raised from the '*Technical Issues*' breakout sessions and the participants own broad spectrum of professional experiences resulted in nearly 800 ideas being written on cards during the '*Needs*' breakout sessions. Participants in each '*Needs*' session were then asked to decide upon their top 5 Key Imperatives from issues raised from the brainstorming to feedback to the Plenary Discussion.
The index cards resulting from the 'Needs' session were collated and classified into Change Categories for discussion at the Closing the Gap: Strategic Forum.

Workshop Presentations:
The LowCarb4Real workshop presentations centred around the "Developing Low Carbon Housing: Lessons from the Field" context, using real experiences, data and observations to highlight the issues needing consideration.

Stamford Brook
The Leeds Met research team presented material to the workshops based on the Stamford Brook field trial; specifically looking at thermal performance, airtightness, thermal bypassing and the construction process, but also approaching the more general issue of the gap between 'as-designed' and realised energy performance.

Good Homes Alliance
Presentations from GHA members illustrated that some developers are already building to higher standards. Their presentations gave insight not only into their achievements, but also to the pitfalls and barriers they encountered on their journey and how these might be overcome.

'*Technical Issues*' Breakout Sessions

'*Needs*' Breakout Sessions

Plenary Discussions

Top 5 Key Imperatives

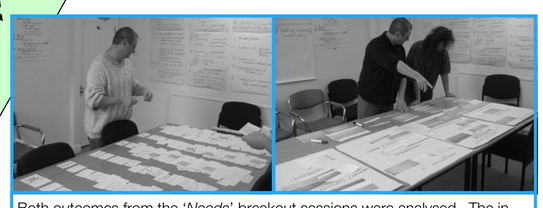
Workshop participants present their Top 5 Key Imperatives from '*Needs*' Session to the audience at the Plenary Discussion.

Plenary Sessions:
As a culmination of each workshop, all participants took part in the final plenary session. Designed to build upon the day's activities, this took the format of 2 lead questions:

What do we need to make the changes?
Breakout Session 2 groups presented the outcomes of their brainstorming sessions on the "needs" of designers and constructors to produce low carbon housing to the plenary session audience for general discussion and comment.

How do we improve performance and close the gap?
The discussion was then opened up to the floor, and the topic of discussion moved to more general policy issues of developing a road map to the Government's broad aims of meeting the zero carbon target for new build housing by 2016 and how to address the issue of the gap between theoretical "as designed" performance and what is achieved "as built" in reality.

Index Cards



Both outcomes from the '*Needs*' breakout sessions were analysed. The index cards produced 8 Change Categories, the 'Top 5's produced 13 Key Imperatives; these will form the basis of discussion for the Strategic Forum.

Change Categories	Key Imperatives
Process	Process Change
Culture & Environment	Cultural Change
Knowledge, Skills, Education & Training	Education & Training
Communication	Understanding
Resources	Guidance
Tools & Methods	Simplicity/Clarity
Supply Chain	Timescales & Resources
Design/Technology Solutions	Expectations
	Sharing & Partnerships
	Ownership
	Relationships
	Incentives
	Consequences

Change Categories

Closing the Gap: Strategic Forum

Strategic Forum:
The purpose of the Strategic Forum is to inform, and influence where possible, key stakeholders in Government, throughout the industry, and in other areas (i.e. education). As with the previous LowCarb4Real workshops, the event will centre around knowledge sharing. Presentations from the project team and previous workshop participants will lead to breakout sessions:

What is required in order to initiate and embed the required change?
Breakout Session groups will brainstorm 2 of the Change Categories, discuss the issues arising and report back to the Forum (as done in previous workshops). For the Strategic Forum, the report back will identify the policy and strategic responses required for action by; Government, Industry and Other Stakeholders.

Plenary Discussion
A plenary discussion will provide participants with an opportunity to respond to issues raised from the breakout sessions, identify the roles and possible actions that the organisations represented at the forum could take to influence change and identify what resources are needed to facilitate this change: from whom, when and how much? .

Policy & Action Response

Government · Industry · Other Stakeholders

Analysis of the Outcomes:
The data received from the workshop participants has been collated, entered into databases and is in the process of analysis, the results from which will appear in the project final report.

Workshop Evaluation & Prior-Knowledge Questionnaires
All workshop participants completed a prior-knowledge questionnaire on arrival which was handed back to them to re-enter their responses after the plenary session. The responses received from this and the workshop evaluation questionnaires showed that the LowCarb4Real project had succeeded as a dissemination project, with participants knowledge and awareness of the issues presented increasing markedly in the vast majority of cases.

Change Categories
The 771 individual index cards which emanated from the '*Needs*' session, have been classified into 8 Change Categories, which in turn fall into 30 sub-categories. A tertiary division (and 4° for 2 larger sub-divisions) indicated even further just how inter-related many of the areas of concern are and how often similar issues arose within differing categories.
With all the cards now entered into a database, and appropriate keywords identified and assigned, a statistical analysis of these inputs from the workshop participants is underway.

Key Imperatives
Whereas the change categories indicated the thoughts and concern of the workshop participants, asking them to draw up lists of their Top 5 Key Imperatives added a degree of prioritisation. When posed with the question of which were the most important area discussed in the 'Needs' session the answers received did not always tally directly with the numbers of index cards received in the related change category. Additional analysis of all the responses may illuminate the matter

The analysis of all the workshop outcomes should assist in highlighting the areas where changes are considered most necessary, most urgently are what actions are needed to successfully facilitate the required changes .

UrbanBuzz Project - Developing Low Carbon Housing: Lessons from the Field - LowCarb4Real
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