



The Carbon Co-op
People powered not
fossil fuelled

A Unique Organisation

Carbon Co-op is the first of its kind, a new way for householders to take practical and significant action on climate change and reclaim control of their energy, homes, warmth and power.

Based in Greater Manchester, the co-operative was established to help people transform their draughty old properties into smart, efficient, low-carbon homes of the future. Owned by our members, we work together to pool expertise, reduce costs and access cheaper finance.

Using cutting edge research and technologies, we collaborate with architects, manufacturers and local tradespeople to implement innovative energy efficiency solutions.

By working together as streets, communities and whole neighbourhoods we reduce utility bills, becoming free from ever escalating prices.

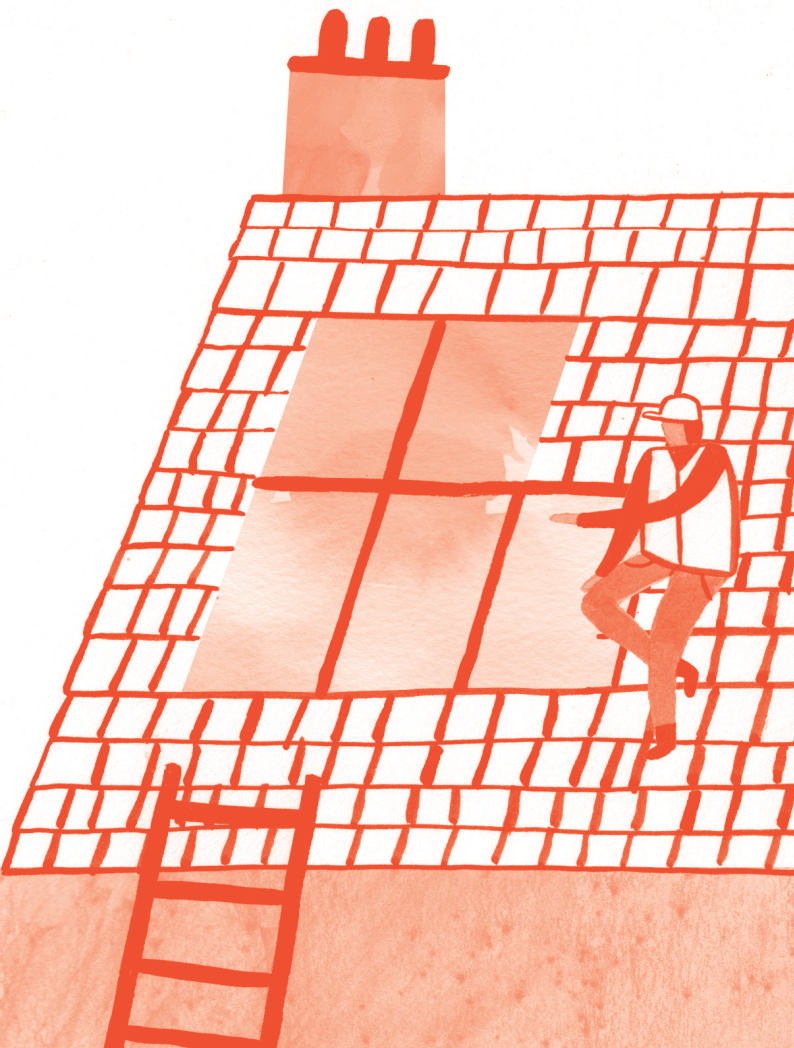
The Ideal Home

As pioneers, we know it's possible to make radical reductions in household energy usage of up to 80% and we want to show others how.

New buildings may be more efficient than old but the majority of homes today will still be here for many years to come. To dramatically reduce our household energy use we need to 'retrofit' our homes, fitting them with more efficient technologies and insulation materials.

Rather than installing piecemeal measures such as loft insulation or wood boilers, we take a 'whole house' approach, a holistic view of the entire property, implementing packages of complimentary improvements to give far greater efficiency savings.

This minimises disturbance and reduces costs, and by taking in to account issues such as dampness and ventilation we can make a real difference to the comfort to our members' homes.





Your unique home

Where do you start? Every house is unique so advice needs to be specific, accurate and relevant to your particular home.

Through a Carbon Co-op whole house assessment, we identify where most energy is being lost, which improvements would have the biggest effect and what do you do first.

Our assessment is a very detailed examination of your home with an indication of current energy performance and recommendations for packages of measures, such as external wall insulation or solar panels, tailored to your household and lifestyle.

Example figures for an average house

Heating bills = £1,500/year
CO₂ emissions = 11.5 tn/year
Cost of retrofit = £34,500
Potential ECO subsidy = £9,500
Finance repayments = £25,000 over 25 years

Post retrofit heating bills = £450/year
Post retrofit CO₂ emissions = 1.5 tn/year

Why co-operate?

As a member, you stop being just a customer and become a co-owner.

A co-operative is a democratically controlled means for people to work together for mutual benefit. Co-operatives began in Greater Manchester and now operate in every sector of the economy, from banks to supermarkets to farms.

We encourage members of the co-operative to get involved in what ever way they can, contributing just an hour a month. You could go from talking to a neighbour about Carbon Co-op up to transforming your house an eco-showhome, everyone has something to contribute.



Pay as you save

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Home improvements don't come free but the upfront costs of installation can be off-set against future fuel bills savings. We can help signpost you to the best way to finance your retrofit work, including:

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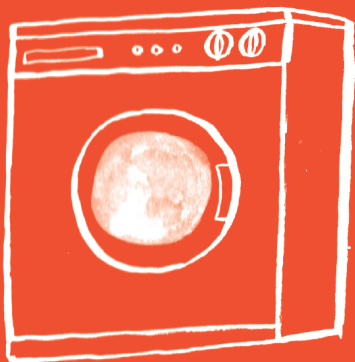
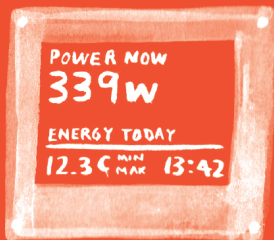
- Mortgage providers that offer reduced rates
- Local authority, low interest home improvement loans
- 'Green Deal' opportunities
- Sources of social finance such as our sister co-operative 'The Carbon Re-investment Society'

Whole house retrofits can save you money and in some circumstances the combined cost of finance repayments and post-retrofit energy bills will come to less than what you were paying for heat and power before the works. For other the extra cost may be worth it for an improved household environment and much reduced carbon emissions.

Find out more **www.carbon.coop/finance**

Did you know

simple display
monitors have
been shown to
reduce energy
usage by 10-15%



Did you know

An 'A' rated
washing machine
will cost half as
much to run as an
'E' rated one

Join today

Become a member of our co-operative to receive specialist help and advice and become part of a community of like-minded energy savers. As a member you'll receive...

Discounted whole house retrofit assessments

Inspiration for action via 'Ask the Expert' seminars, factsheets, events and networking

Access to our procurement and project management processes – taking the hassle out of finding and managing contractors

Advanced home environment monitors to track energy, humidity, temperature and more

The opportunity to access special offers, grant funding and low cost finance

An equal say in how the co-operative is run

Investing in the future

Every pioneering property helps demonstrate best practice, inspires friends and neighbours and grows our numbers.

We will show that doing more is possible, that big changes in our carbon footprint can take place now rather than in 30 years time. No one wants to leave this task to our children.

We've made a commitment to open-sourcing as much of our learning as possible to make an environment for the creation of innovative energy saving technologies and building purchasing power for new products, materials and services.

Business as usual is not an option.
We can live smarter. We can live better.

Find out more www.carbon.coop/join



Useful links

Carbon Calculator: Guardian Quick Carbon Calculator
gu.com/p/2bja8/tw

Open Source Energy Monitors:
carbon.coop/content/open-energy-monitors

Superhomes Network
www.superhomes.org.uk

City-wide plan: Manchester A Certain Future
www.manchesterclimate.com

Transport: Transport for Greater Manchester
www.tfgm.com

Cycling: Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign
www.gmcc.org.uk

Sustainable food: Feeding Manchester
www.feedingmanchester.org.uk

News & information: Manchester Climate Fortnightly
www.manchesterclimatemonthly.net

Communications: Manchester Carbon Literacy
www.manchestercarbonliteracy.com

Low carbon: Manchester is My Planet
www.manchesterismyplanet.com

Contact us

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This booklet was compiled by Carbon Co-op in March 2013

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Sign up to our mailing list: <http://s.coop/z0b5>

Society for the Reduction of Carbon

(Trading as Carbon Co-op)

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Registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act

1965 Registration Number 31342R

