

People Powered Retrofit: the economic perspective

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About CLEES



Community wealth building

Five principles

Fair employment and just labour markets

Anchor institutions have a defining impact on the prospects of local people. Recruitment from lower incomes areas, paying the living wage and building progression routes all improve local economies.

Progressive procurement of goods and services

Developing dense local supply chains of businesses likely to support local employment and retain wealth locally: SMEs; employee-owned businesses; social enterprises, cooperatives and community business.

Plural ownership of the economy

Developing and growing small enterprises, community organisations, cooperatives and municipal ownership is important because they are more financially generative for the local economy – locking wealth in place.

Socially just use of land and property

Deepening the function and ownership of local assets held by anchor institutions, so that financial and social gain is harnessed by citizens. Develop and extend community use – public sector land and facilities as part of ‘the commons’.

Making financial power work for local places

Increase flows of investment within local economies by harnessing and recirculating the wealth that exists, as opposed to attracting capital. This includes redirecting local authority pension funds, supporting mutually owned banks.





Retrofit is community wealth building in action!

- Good jobs in green sectors
- Business opportunities for local SMEs
- Reductions in households energy costs
- Community development
- Building a democratic energy economy

It must form the basis of post-covid green recovery strategies



An economic strategy for retrofit

- Retrofit is currently taking place in ‘infertile soil’
 - Hard to raise supply and demand together; lack of financial support; hostile planning system
- **We need an economic strategy for retrofit:**
 - To scale up at pace
 - To increase supply and demand at the same time
 - To empower the experts
 - To expand this into social housing and PRS
- We also need to learn from past mistakes!



Policy for Local/ Combined Authorities

- **Procurement-** anchors leading by example (e.g. social housing retrofit); open up contracts to SMEs
- **Skills-** retrofit apprenticeships; 'on the job' training programmes
- **Business support-** animating new forms of supply
- **Planning-** embed retrofit in regen and development: Energy Neighbourhood Masterplans
- **Financing models-** community financing; mutual credit; municipal vehicles; zero interest lending; council tax credits?



Policy for national government

- **Retrofit as a national industrial strategy priority:**
 - National reskilling programme.
 - Sector Deal to animate new forms of supply.
 - Rewrite National Planning Policy Framework.
 - A national financing programme.
 - Commit to energy market reform.
 - Retrofitting in the PRS



People Powered Retrofit

- People Powered Retrofit is CWB in action.
- It should be at the heart of green recovery strategies
- CLES and Carbon Coop are working together- join us!

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