



RETROFIT SOUTHAMPTON

“Neighbours helping neighbours”



THE PROBLEM

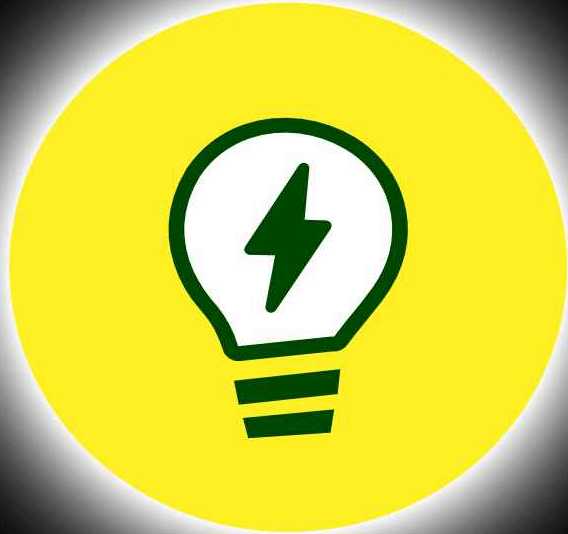
The background of the slide is a composite image of space. On the right, a large, vibrant Earth is visible, showing continents and oceans. To its left, a smaller, grey, cratered Moon is partially visible. In the bottom left corner, a large, textured, brownish-grey rocky celestial body, possibly an asteroid or a small planet, is shown. The entire scene is set against a deep blue space background filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes.

Many of us are aware of the global energy crisis that not only endangers the life and beauty of our planet Earth, but also costs us more and more in energy bills every day,

Even so, we are bombarded with so much information from the media and from advertising, many of us are confused about how to go about trying to make our homes more energy efficient.

The problems are both practical and financial. Can we trust installers to give us honest information about their products? Can we trust the advice of bloggers and social media clickbait?

OUR SOLUTION:



Retrofit Southampton are a team of local volunteers with a range of professional, practical, and creative expertise who are committed to helping neighbours navigate the energy saving minefield.

We aim to give impartial guidance to residents on how they can make their older properties more energy efficient.

Residents will be able to share their own experiences with each other so that they do not need to rely on commercial sales sites for what may not be the most impartial or practical information.

HOW?

We will achieve this by providing a platform for residents to contact each other to discuss or review work they have done to improve the efficiency of their own homes.

They will be able to advise other residents on their own experiences of installing and monitoring - whether professionally installed or DIY.

We can achieve this by keeping database of residents interested in showcasing their own improvements and residents interested in learning from others' experience. We can then put them in touch with each other.

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We can also make available methods and devices for detecting poor performance of properties as well as arranging site visits and/surveys from both professionals and experienced DIYers.

We can give advice based on free informal surveys of your property that do not involve sales pitches or commissions to installers.

We can advise on ways to monitor the effectiveness of any DIY work you do or work you have commissioned by installers.



EXAMPLE 1:

The Smiths live in a 1930s house with drafty doors and windows that need replacing. They found that affordable double glazing units would not be granted planning permission in their conservation area.

But then they found some other residents in the same area who had solved the problem with secondary glazing.

Until then they had no idea that not only was it way cheaper and it could look good, the energy saving benefits were much greater per pound than double

glazed units.

The other residents were able to recommend trusted installers as well as local suppliers for DIY components.

They could also give helpful tips on the DIY installation.

“Why make your own mistakes when you can learn from someone else’s?”

So the Smiths had money left over to invest in solar panels. Overall, for the same outlay, they made a much better investment both financially for themselves and for the planet.

EXAMPLE 2:

The Jones's live in a 1920s house and wanted to get a heat pump.

Unfortunately they did not qualify for a grant as the property did not get a high enough EPC rating (at least D is required). They already had double glazing, loft and cavity wall insulation so they needed something else that would bring it up from E to D.

As the house had suspended floors, underfloor insulation would fit the bill nicely but still quite costly. We were

able to put them in touch with residents who had done some DIY work which involved only raising a few of the floorboards. We recommended a product "Non-Itch" that was ideal for the job and not unpleasant to work with compared to Rockwool.

They took photographs and kept details of the product specifications so that the EPC inspector was able to assess the improvement, award a D rating and the Jones's got their heatpump under the RHI grant scheme.

WHO WE ARE



Roger Munford

Retired electrician and
solar installer...

[More to come]



Pete Thomas

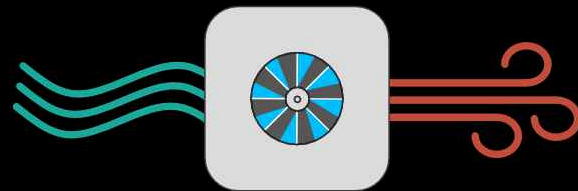
Retired media producer.
Interests include web
development and
conservation of the natural
environment

WHY WE NEED YOUR FUNDING

- Purchasing thermal imaging and wall cavity inspection equipment for home surveys.
- DBS checks for volunteers
- To pay for Retrofit Southampton volunteers to go on training courses.
- To organise and promote neighbourhood green events.
- To hire professionals for lectures and consultancy
- Publicity
- Tech and web development including secure and efficient database handling.



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