

MECC-ZERO

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Working together to make healthier,
safer and fairer communities

Welcome to Our Very First Issue!

We are thrilled to launch our first newsletter a space dedicated to sharing exciting news, valuable updates, and practical guidance on creating warmer homes, saving energy, and embarking on a journey towards a greener, fairer future together.

For over **50 years**, we have proudly stood shoulder to shoulder with our communities, listening, supporting, and navigating challenges together. Whether it's providing essential information on maximising your income, offering a warm refuge during the winter months, or delivering housing and debt advice, our commitment to your well-being has always been rooted in trust and finding the best outcomes.

In the past few years, we have embarked on an exciting new chapter, championing community-led decarbonisation and energy-saving home retrofits for families who have often been overlooked. These initiatives are designed not only to make your homes warmer, and reduce bills but also to create cleaner, safer neighbourhoods where we can all thrive together.

We believe that climate action should uplift everyone not just the privileged. That's why we are dedicated to ensuring that households in our neighbourhoods and across our city have access to grants, retrofitting services, and new opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed in a greener economy.

Together, let's build a future that is sustainable, equitable, and inclusive for all.



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SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIPTION BY EMAILING US AND YOU'LL
RECEIVE OUR NEWEST EDITIONS EVERY
MONTH**

email: info@mecctrust.com

DISCLAIMER: This newsletter is for informational purposes only and does not constitute professional advice. Opinions are our own.

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Contact Us



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From Crisis to Confidence: How MECC's Energy Cafes Are Changing Lives

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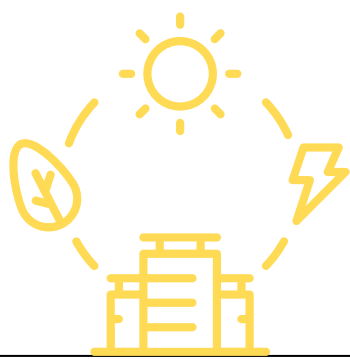
Pioneering Energy Advice with Heather & Farheen

At MECC Trust, we understand that soaring energy bills have become worryingly stressful for households across Birmingham. We're proud to be leading the way with our **Energy Advice Cafes**, your go-to, free drop-in spaces for friendly, practical help with everything from confusing bills to faulty meters! For over 2 years, our incredible advisors **Heather James** and **Farheen Hussain** have been at the heart of our Energy Advice Cafes supporting our residents to cut their energy bills, make sense of confusing charges and feel more in control of their finances.

"I recently helped a client who believed she owed £11,000 due to a faulty meter reading. A simple meter photo and a call to the supplier, it was resolved"

--- Farheen Hussain - MECC Advisor

Every week, we **respond to as many as 200 individual queries**, addressing concerns about energy, housing, and finances. We know that behind every "bill problem" lies a real story of a family trying to stay warm, a pensioner caught in the dilemma of choosing between food and heating, or a tenant worried about mould creeping into their home. **Our Energy Cafes are here to listen, lend a hand, and ensure that no one faces this crisis alone!**



"It shows what's possible when you take a community-led, area-based approach. We need to build on that momentum and make it the norm not the exception."

Mazar Dad - Manager



TOP TIP

Replacing just one traditional 60W bulb with an energy-saving 10W LED in your home can save around £16.50 a year.

Get Your **FREE** money saving **Lightbulb!** We're giving away **FREE** energy saving lightbulbs. This offer is part of a limited supply, so don't wait! Just send us your email address, and we'll keep you updated with this offer and any future offers.

info@mecctrust.com

Thanks to MECC and its partner organisations, nearly **650 homes** across Birmingham have already **benefited from energy efficiency upgrades**, part of a coordinated effort to reduce fuel poverty and improve household conditions.

If you think MECC Trust can help you, get in touch with us!

Join us at an Energy Advice Cafe (details on where and when these are held can be found on our website) **or reach out. We can help you understand your bills, give you energy saving tips and even offer FREE HOME VISITS**
email us at info@mecctrust.com

Contact Us



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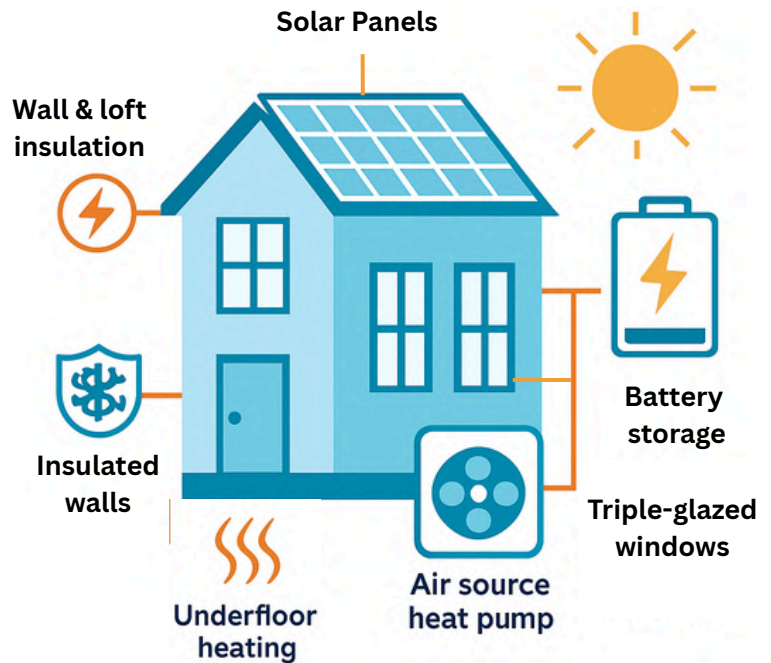
MECC'S RETROFIT:

Birmingham's First Community-Based Retrofit Demonstrator Hub



A Living Example: Our Retrofit Demonstrator Hub

Since March 2025 our building has been undergoing a retrofit to showcase one of our very own retrofitted demonstrator buildings! Retrofit can be confusing, full of jargon and often difficult to visualise. That's why we've transformed our own building into a fully retrofitted **"demonstrator building"** a living, working example of what's possible. With **solar panels, battery storage, wall and loft insulation, triple-glazed windows, an air source heat pump, and underfloor heating**, the building shows how energy-efficient design can create comfort, cut costs, and support cleaner air.



"Even after two years of working on retrofit, we were still confused by a lot of it. We realised that if we're struggling, residents will be too. That's when the idea of a demonstrator building came to life."

Tas, project lead

Once reopened, the space will operate as both a community advice and hub where every wall, ceiling, and panel tells the story of how green technology can work for everyday people. **"Everything will be on show, like an exoskeleton,"** says Tas. **"People can come in, walk around, and see how it all works. This isn't about abstract ideas, it's about real savings, real warmth, and real skills that stay in the community."**

As we put the finishing touches on this extraordinary project, we're gearing up for a special launch event in early September. This celebration will mark the dedication and skills of everyone involved and provide a first look into how this building will inspire and educate others about effective decarbonisation strategies.

Stay tuned for more details about the launch event we can't wait for you to join us in celebrating this incredible milestone! Let's build a greener, safer and fairer future together!

This transformation isn't just technical, it's deeply local. All work was carried out by local contractors, several of whom gained nationally recognised qualifications through the project. **"One of the promises often made in retrofit is local jobs,"** Tas explains. **"But it doesn't always happen. We wanted to change that by training local contractors so they can lead future projects themselves."** MECC is proud to help our local people and open new job opportunities.

How Retrofitting makes a real difference



Warm homes



Lower bills



Better health



Clean Air

Contact Us

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FAQs, Community Voices & Getting Involved



Community Voices: Farida's Story



"I didn't know how to reduce my high heating bills until MECC visited me. My bills are lower after the helpful advice from Farheen from MECC. I'm now looking into retrofitting, I never thought this was for people like me."

Farida, mother and community member

FAQS – Your questions answered: Decarbonisation Edition

Q: What does "decarbonisation" mean?

A: Decarbonisation means cutting down the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other harmful gases we release into the air. These gases mostly come from things like cars, gas boilers, and factories — and they cause climate change.

Q: Why does it matter?

A: Too much carbon in the air is warming up our city, country and the planet. This leads to flooding, heatwaves, and dirty air. Decarbonisation helps makes our city and the planet healthier and safer for everyone.

Q: How do we do it?

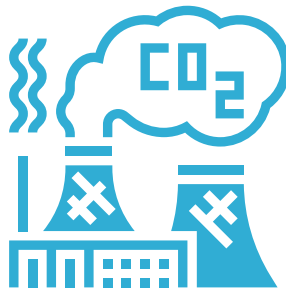
A: We reduce carbon by:

- Using clean energy like wind and solar
- Making homes warmer and more efficient (this is called retrofit)
- Driving less and using buses, bikes or walking when we can
- Wasting less and reusing more

Q: What does this mean for me?

A: Decarbonisation can help:

- Lower your energy bills
- Make your home warmer and drier
- Improve air quality
- Create local jobs in green industries
- Improve health



Have a question for MECC?

Send us a message on our social media or email us and we'll answer it in our next issue!

 @mecctrust

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 info@mecctrust.com

Plastic Free July Is Over, But the Mission Continues

July was Plastic-Free Month, but let's be clear, keeping our homes and neighbourhoods free of plastic litter isn't just a July thing. It's every day, all year round. Let's do our bit, the right way, the traditional way, no shortcuts, no excuses.

Easy Ways to Make Small Changes:

- Bring your own bags, water bottles, or coffee cups
- Try bar soap or refillable cleaning products
- Shop at local markets
- Join or organise a local litter pick
- Talk to neighbours and local shops about reducing plastic

If you forget your bag or grab a plastic bottle now and then that's OK. What matters is starting where you are. Let's take action together.

Get Involved!

Want your home assessed?


Would you like a free energy survey? — find out how your home could be warmer and more efficient. Let us know if this is something you'd be interested in by emailing us!

Come to our Community Energy Cafe!

Join us each month for chai, biscuits, and real talk about how we can cut **energy bills, warm up our homes, and live healthier lives** together.

Find out when these are taking place on our website or social media!

Contact Us

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