

# Project case study: Bristol Heat Pump Ready

## Theme: High-density deployment of heat pumps

**Heat Pump Ready:** This project was part of Heat Pump Ready Stream 1, a UK government funded programme designed to test innovative methodologies for achieving high density deployment of heat pumps in homes. Further details on Stream 1, including scope and eligibility are available here: [Heat Pump Ready Programme: Stream 1, Phase 2 - GOV.UK](#)

**Project name:** Bristol Heat Pump Ready

**Location:** Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol

**Lead organisation:** Bristol City Council

**Partner organisations:** Centre for Sustainable Energy, The Green Register

**Key sub-contractors:** Buro Happold, Veritherm, Build Test Solutions, Bristol Energy Network, Sustainable Westbury-on-Trym

### Funding:

Budget: £2,925,450

Amount spent: £1,272,291

### Dates active:

Phase 1 (feasibility): July 2022 - December 2022.

Phase 2 (mobilisation): March 2023 - December 2023. See [feasibility report here](#).



# 1. The project at a glance: Bristol Heat Pump Ready

## Where?

- The Bristol Heat Pump Ready project targeted an area of 802 homes in Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.
- This area was chosen due to its relatively affluent population, electrical demand headroom on the primary substation, multiple electricity transformer feeder substations and a high proportion of buildings with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of C, which were assumed not to require extensive retrofit before installing a heat pump (i.e., not requiring significant upgrades to the heat emitters or building fabric). These factors allowed properties in this area to be considered "ready" for a heat pump

## Who?

- The consortium was led by Bristol City Council in the mobilisation phase, with key roles delivered by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) and The Green Register (TGR). Sub-contractors included Buro Happold, Veritherm and Build Test Solutions, Sustainable Westbury-on-Trym (SusWot) and Bristol Energy Network.

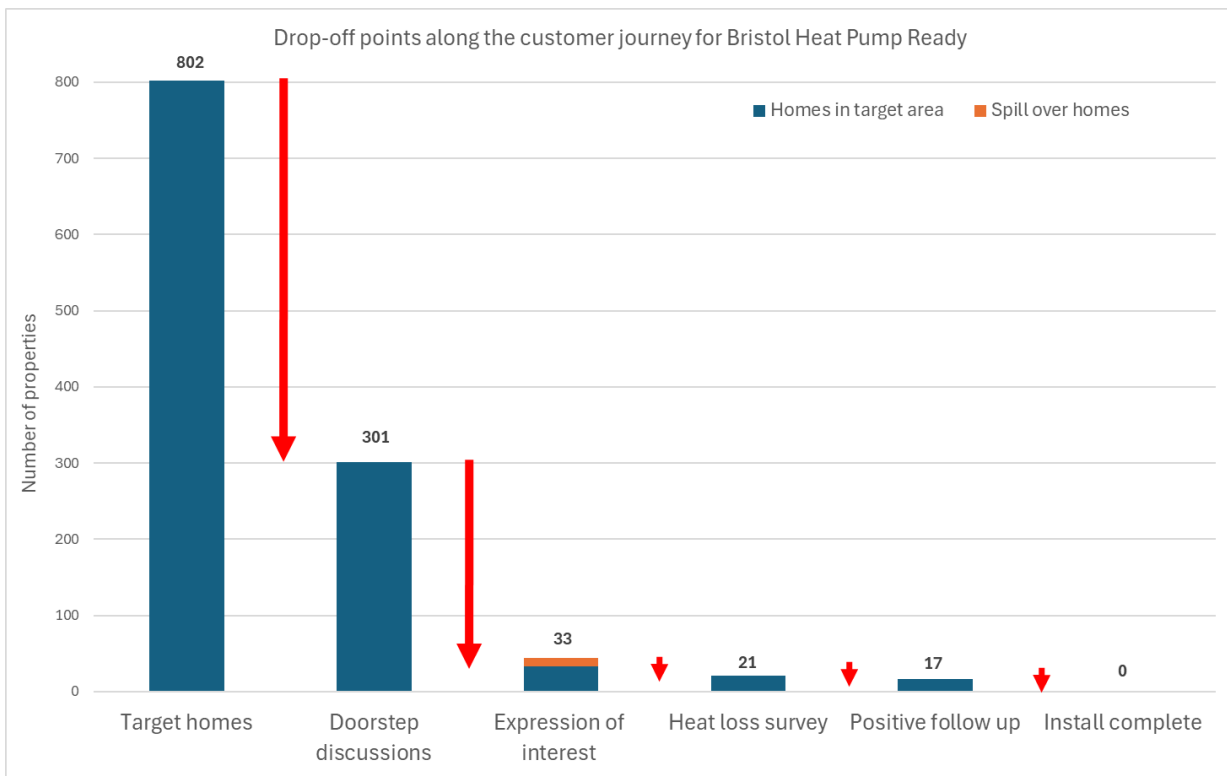
## What?

- The customer value proposition was focused on a high-quality, paid-for home energy survey that cost homeowners £100, establishing their vested interest in the process. By measuring (rather than estimating) heat loss, identifying areas for improvement, and thus correctly sizing the required heat pump system (almost always specifying a smaller unit than may have originally been considered), the aim was to reduce the capital cost of the system and improve running costs.
- A combination of in-person and digital marketing was deployed to engage customers, and a focus on working with and training local installers helped build the supply chain in Bristol.

## Results

- In total, 47 households formally expressed an interest in the project, 21 home surveys were carried out, but no homes proceeded to a heat pump quotation, and no heat pump installations occurred under the project, as shown in Figure 1. The up-front cost of the whole heat pump system was cited as the primary reason homeowners did not progress.
- The project generated substantial learnings, for example on methods for home energy surveys, digital tools, supply chain training and optimising heat pump installations etc. These learnings have been used in the design of subsequent projects by the project partners.

**Figure 1: Resident drop-off points along the BHPR customer journey**



## 1.1. Overview of mobilisation activities

The key activities funded during the mobilisation phase for the Bristol Heat Pump Ready project included:

- **Identifying households that would not require significant upgrades to heat emitters or the building fabric in order to install a heat pump** e.g., through spatial mapping and data visualisation tools, building performance data and socioeconomic data.
- **Developing a tailored, socio-economically sensitive engagement strategy** that addressed the specific needs and concerns of residents in the area.
- **Raising awareness of the project and heat pumps** through indirect engagement e.g., social media marketing.
- **Customer recruitment via targeted engagement activities**, e.g., door knocking, leaflets, and stalls at community events.
- **In-depth heat measurement surveys in homes** e.g., Veritherm innovative heat measurement survey for property heat loss calculations and heat pump sizing, at £100 cost to consumer
- **Developing a customer relationship management tool** e.g. Veritherm’s HEAT tool
- **Supply chain engagement and training** e.g., social events, WhatsApp group, training sessions
- **Installer recruitment to BHPR Supply Chain** e.g., companies interested in joining the supply chain were quality assessed using set criteria and signing a service level agreement (SLA).

- **Attending collaboration, learning and dissemination events across the Heat Pump Ready programme**, including quarterly learning workshops, the annual Heat Pump Ready conference, and external industry events.
- **Project management**, e.g. consortium engagement, KPI tracking, milestone reporting, monthly reporting meeting with the project monitoring officer and collaboration and learning manager, collating evidence for funding claims, and producing a final project report.

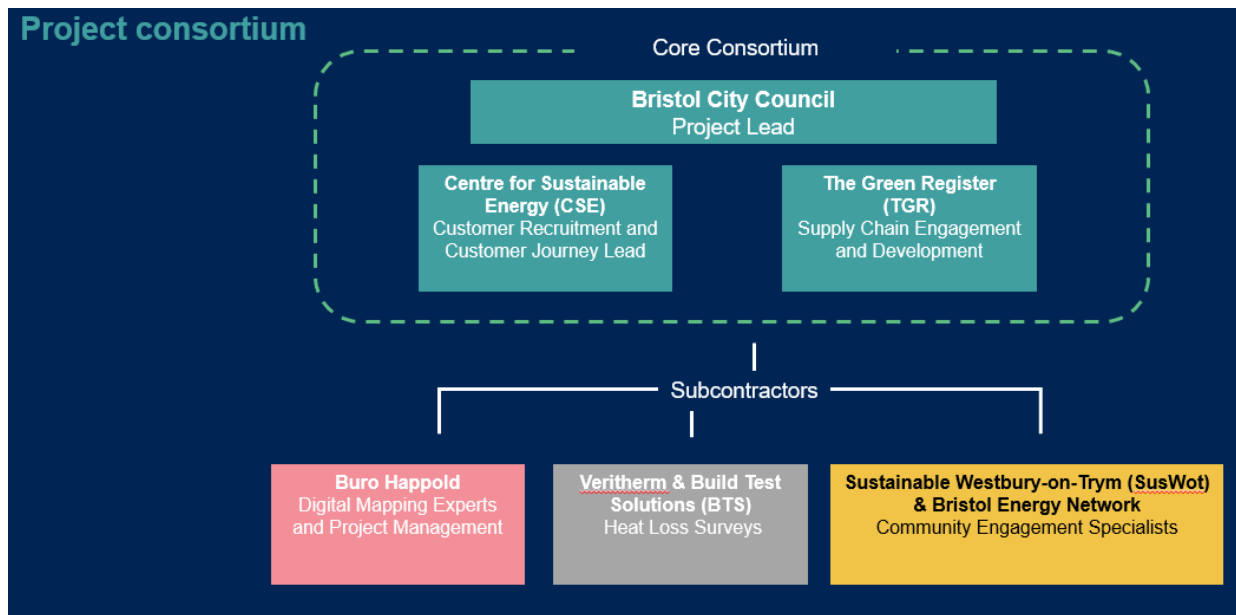
## 1.2. Delivery partners and roles

**Table 1: Summary of delivery partners, key stakeholders and their roles**

Delivery partner	Roles
<b>Bristol City Council (BCC)</b>	<p><b>Project lead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium development and lead partner</li> <li>• Project management and reporting</li> <li>• Local authority with existing governance processes, stakeholder networks, and a trusted, recognisable brand</li> <li>• Proposition development, ensured joined-up thinking with Council aims</li> <li>• Advised on target area selection</li> </ul>
<b>Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)</b>	<p><b>An independent domestic energy and community engagement charity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement officers led awareness-raising in the community, including door-knocking</li> <li>• Contributed to developing the value proposition, recruitment strategy and local project communications</li> <li>• Created videos and articles on a dedicated page on their website</li> <li>• Local insights on communities, housing and energy</li> </ul>
<b>The Green Register (TGR)</b>	<p><b>Local membership organisation for sustainable construction companies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local supply chain development</li> <li>• Training for heat pump installers, retrofit assessors and retailers within Bristol</li> </ul>
<b>Buro Happold (BH)</b>	<p><b>Experts in digital mapping and project management, with a Bristol base</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed a digital twin model for building-level modelling</li> <li>• Digital planning and identified 'heat pump ready' properties and neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Project management and reporting</li> </ul>

<b>Veritherm &amp; Build Test Solutions (BTS)</b>	<b>SME specialists in the thermal performance of buildings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carried out heat loss surveys</li> <li>• Developed a Home Energy Advice Tool (HEAT)</li> <li>• Trained surveyors</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable Westbury-on-Trym (SusWoT) &amp; Bristol Energy Network (BEN)</b>	<b>Local, established community energy groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carried out community engagement, energy awareness and training for households</li> <li>• Gave local insights on communities and energy use</li> </ul>
<b>Key stakeholders</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>National Grid Energy Distribution (NGED)</b>	<b>Local distribution network operator (DNO)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided data on substation connections</li> <li>• Provided local knowledge of the energy system</li> </ul>
<b>Heat pump installers</b>	<b>Local supply chain, including PHC Parts as a key contributor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided heat pump knowledge and programme co-design</li> <li>• Local knowledge of communities, housing and heating systems, representing a trusted group of locally used tradespeople</li> </ul>
<b>Project board</b>	<b>Senior representatives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior representatives from BCC, BH, CSE and TGR sat on the board and met to provide oversight and quality assurance</li> </ul>

**Figure 1: Consortium organisation chart**



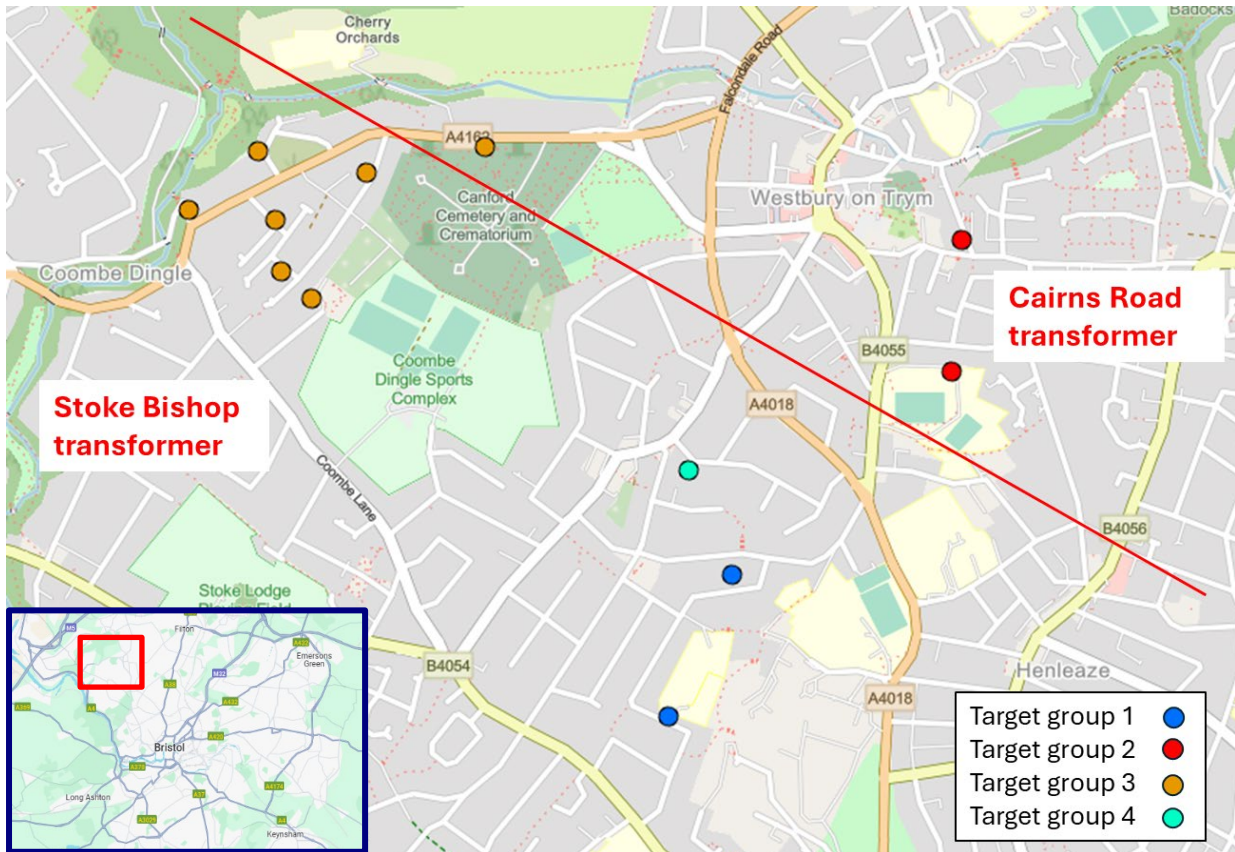
### 1.3. Location and target homes

Buro Happold conducted housing stock modelling and analysis across the west of Bristol during the feasibility stage, compiling the results into a digital twin platform. This analysis identified seven target areas within Westbury-on-Trym in Bristol as the most suitable for high-density heat pump deployment. The consortium ultimately selected target areas of 802 homes (with a target of 208 installs) in three discrete clusters around the University of Bristol. These were chosen because:

- The EPCs and other data sources for houses in the areas suggested that most homes did not require significant improvements to their thermal fabric, with a high proportion of C ratings.
- Initial data from National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED, previously Western Power Distribution at the start of the project) suggested sufficient headroom on the network to accommodate heat pumps at high density.
- Garden size and floor area of properties were suitable for an external heat pump.
- Existing solar PV installations in the area indicated awareness and support for low-carbon technologies.
- Socioeconomic data from MOSAIC Public Sector Consumer Profiling analysis showed a high proportion of residents in the area were identified as 'able to pay', with a high level of education and high densities of engineers, finance professionals, academics and University staff. This initial profiling was supplemented by further consumer segmentation analysis, building on the innovative work undertaken in developing the [Britain Talks Climate Toolkit](#) (a collaboration between CSE and Climate Outreach).
- Over 90% of properties were heated by gas at the time of the analysis (this was a pre-requisite for progression to the delivery phase of the programme).

The project area was divided into four target groups (see Figure 2, Table 2)<sup>1</sup>. The three main groups contained 11 substations and numerous roads. BHPR continued targeting all homes fed by the 11 substations throughout the project, later incorporating a fourth group around one substation (Downscore) to increase the number of households included in the target area.

**Figure 2: Map of the target area in Westbury-on-Trym showing LV substations in the four target groups**



**Table 2: Target group summary table**

Target group	Total number of homes in target group	Number of homes targeted (25%)	Total number of homes with doorstep discussions	% of homes with doorstep discussions	Surveys completed	Surveys as % of total
1	140	36	99	71%	8	6%
2	216	56	98	45%	4	2%
3	313	82	104	33%	7	2%

<sup>1</sup> Refer to <INSERT DOCUMENT TITLE> for a definition of the target groups and more details on eligibility criteria.

4	133	34	0	0%	2	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3%</b>

## 1.4. The value proposition for customers

The project planned to deliver its objectives through two means:

- Streamlining an 'end-to-end offering', improving relationships across the supply chain and the customer journey
- Partnering with local community representatives to create a consumer-centred offering.

The key value propositions for customers were:

### 1. Consumer-centred approach

Providing a personalised and tailored heat pump journey by having a strong understanding of household needs and using this as a basis for designing and developing heat pump systems. By increasing householders' knowledge and understanding of their property and heat systems and providing direct access to support, the approach directly targeted pre-existing demand-side barriers to heat pump uptake around awareness and information access. A skilled home retrofit assessor provided post-survey advice and guidance, acting as a constant contact for the homeowner throughout the survey and installation stages.

### 2. High-quality home survey

BHPR's proposition was based on a comprehensive, high-quality home survey to understand the property, find the right sized air source heat pump, and suggest other energy-efficient improvements to lower energy bills. The cost to consumers was £100, with an estimated value of £1,000, and included either an overnight heat loss test using heaters and sensors or installing sensors to record heat loss over three weeks. The comprehensive nature of the survey aimed to correctly size the heat pump for the property, reducing both the upfront capital cost and ongoing running costs. A leaflet explaining the survey process from Veritherm, in conjunction with BTS and Elmhurst Energy, was sent to homeowners, see Figure 3.

### 3. Improving lifetime value for money of heat pumps

Engaging with the supply chain to match high-quality installers to consumers aimed to reduce the length of the process and deliver improved running costs. BHPR also intended to use the latest techniques in surveying and monitoring heat transfer to optimise system designs, intending to ensure value for money for customers. Financial support in the form of a low-interest loan could be accessed from Lendology, subject to criteria. BCC had an existing relationship with Lendology and arranged to offer a low-interest loan of up to £20,000 to homeowners planning to install a heat pump through BHPR, with a fixed 4% interest rate (representative 4.2% APR). If a loan was not required, homeowners could pay outright with funding equivalent to the BUS grant, £7500, available from Heat Pump Ready.

### 4. Pre-vetted installers were ready to carry out the survey, design and heat pump install

A pre-vetted installer from TGR's Supplier Hub then provided an outline quotation and system design based on the household information pack received, with a discount of up to 30% from leading heat

pump manufacturers. BHPR is supplier-agnostic, so the choice of the heat pump was up to the installer and the customer.

**Figure 2: Leaflet for the Measured building heat loss measurement survey**

**MEASURED**  
BUILDING HEAT LOSS  
MEASUREMENT  
IN HEAT PUMP DESIGN

- ✓ More accurate sizing
- ✓ Less waste
- ✓ Improved customer trust and satisfaction

**MORE ACCURATE HEAT PUMP SIZING**

Measurement provides accurate heat loss assessments, bespoke to individual houses. Traditional heat loss calculations based on visual surveys are prone to inaccuracy as critical factors are hard or impossible to see:

- How much insulation in a cavity and how well installed?
- How airtight is the building?
- How much thermal bridging?

In a field trial of 69 houses, the **BS EN12831** calculated heat loss was only correct for **21%** of houses. For **57%**, the heat loss was overestimated and there would be a risk of an oversized and expensive heat pump, or even of the house being thought unsuitable to be heated by a heat pump. While for **21%** the heat loss was underestimated and there would be a risk of insufficient heating.

Category	Percentage
Overestimated	57%
Underestimated	21%
Correct	21%

**THE PROCESS**

MEASURE	INFORMED DESIGN	INSTALL
Measure the heat loss of your building either by monitoring for 3 weeks during normal occupancy (BTS' SmartHTC) or with an overnight test in a vacated home (Veritherm).	Use the measurement to inform heat pump design. The measurement may mean a smaller (and cheaper) heat pump can be used and removes the risk of undersizing.	Elmhurst's MCS compliant heat loss calculator directly incorporates measurements, outputting required system sizing documentation and allowing engineers to focus on detailed design.

Veritherm | BUILD TEST SOLUTIONS | elmhurst energy

[www.buildtestsolutions.com/projects/heat-pump-ready](http://www.buildtestsolutions.com/projects/heat-pump-ready)

## 1.5. Approach to customer engagement and recruitment

The CSE worked with local community partners to run an extensive programme of engagement activities, tailored to the local community of Westbury-on-Trym. From initial discussions with homeowners and the demographic profiling through MOSAIC, it was known that the residents included a higher proportion of early retirees and those who work/worked in technical employment. Coupled with the presence of the Bristol Energy Network and SusWOT, and visibility of PV arrays on local houses, a high base level of knowledge on sustainable technologies was assumed. The engagement activities helped to increase knowledge about low-carbon heating solutions and heat pump technology, raise awareness of the project and gather interested homeowners.

### Targeted face-to-face engagement

A minimum of three points of contact were made with households deemed eligible. This included an initial mailout of hand-delivered letters, a five-week engagement push with overlapping two-week cycles of pre-leafletting and one round of door-knocking, and a follow-up round of door-knocking to revisit households not engaged in the first round. To summarise:

- Leaflets or letters were addressed to all 802 eligible households within Westbury-on-Trym, see Figure 4.
- The initial hand-delivered letter explained the proposition, provided links to further information, and clearly displayed all partners involved in BHPR.
- SusWoT and CSE knocked on doors from house to house, speaking to residents about heat pumps and Bristol Heat Pump Ready's offer, and answering any questions. The first stage of door-knocking took place immediately following the targeted mailout and as part of the two-week cycle of pre-leafletting and door-knocking. This stage focused on weekdays between 10:00 and 17:00.
- The project team participated in external events within the community, including workshops led by Bristol Energy Network (BEN) and Sustainable Westbury-on-Trym (SusWoT), drop-ins at the local pub and community events including the Westbury-on-Trym Community Fair and the Village Show, see Figure 5.

**Indirect digital engagement included:**

- Promoting relevant information through CSE's website, see Figure 6.
- Developing and publishing a range of open-access home energy resources, including videos on CSE's website.
- Social media adverts and sponsored online advertising directed to those in the local area.

**Figure 3: Hand-delivered letter to all residents in the target area**

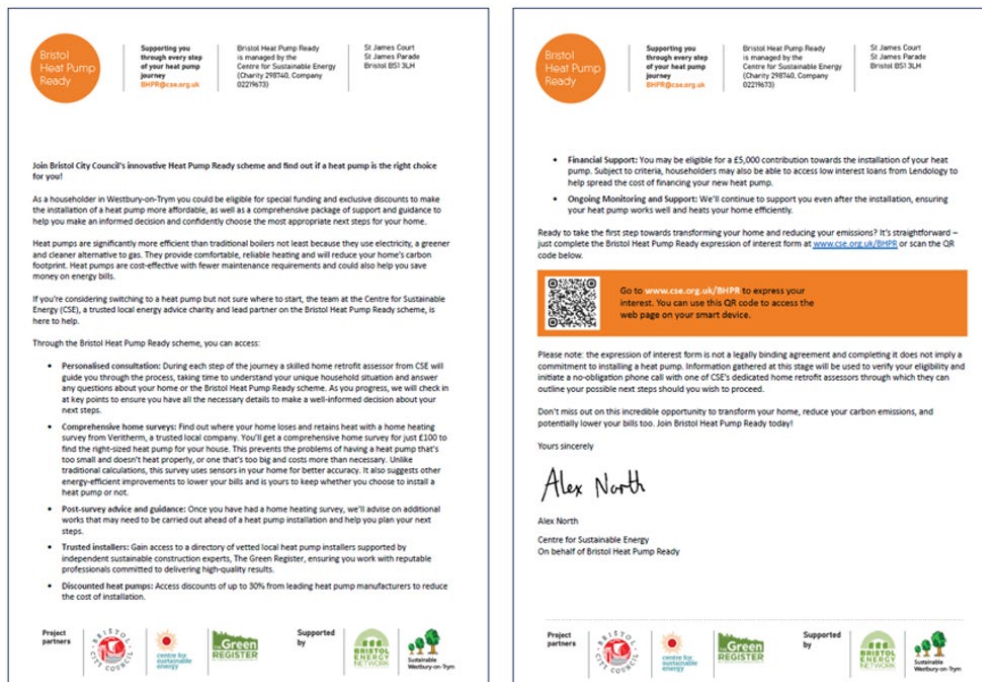



Figure 5: Posters advertising drop-in sessions and opportunities for face-to-face engagement



## Bristol Heat Pump Ready



**Drop-in**  
**An opportunity to find out more at the Post Office Tavern**  
 top of Westbury Hill  
 Between 6.00pm and 8.00pm  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September**  
 or  
**at Hunters Cafe**  
 135 Stoke Lane  
 Between 2.00pm and 4.00pm  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

**Drop-in sessions**

We are able to provide you with further information about the Bristol Heat Pump Ready journey. This includes the various steps needed, such as insulation, before installing the new system.

At the Drop-in session, you'll be able to find out more about the programme from SusWoT volunteers and ask any questions you have about Air Source Heat Pumps.

**Alternatively, feel free to Email**  
[suswot2050@gmail.com](mailto:suswot2050@gmail.com)

**Centre for Sustainable Energy staff will be visiting your street**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 10.00 -13.00**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 10.00 -13.00**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 10.00 -13.00**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 10.00 -13.00**

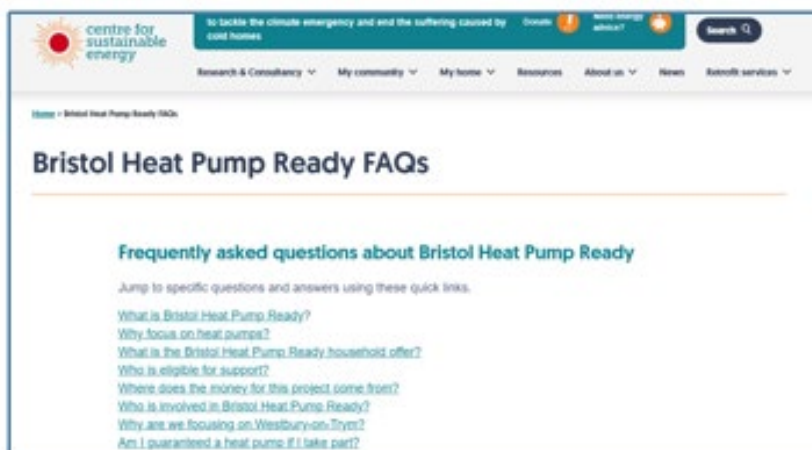
If you are interested in having a chat but are unavailable at these times, please contact [bhpr@cse.org.uk](mailto:bhpr@cse.org.uk) and let us know when will work for you.

This will be an opportunity for you to find out more about the project, what we are trying to achieve and what will happen once you have expressed interest.

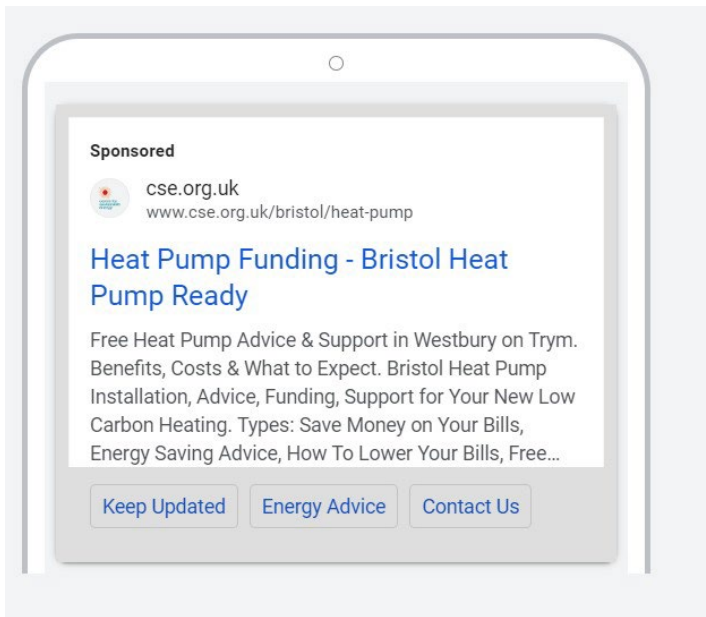
If you have any concerns and want to verify identities, you can contact CSE on 0117 934 1400.

**The grant of £5,000 towards Bristol Heat Pump Ready**  
*A UK Government grant of £5,000 is available to property owners to install a low carbon heating system. This grant can help owners overcome the up-front cost of low carbon heating.*  
*The grant will be applied for by the installer.*

Figure 6: Project page on CSE's website and social media adverts



The screenshot shows the website header for the Centre for Sustainable Energy, with a navigation menu including 'Research & Consultancy', 'My community', 'My home', 'Resources', 'About us', 'News', and 'Retrofit services'. The main content area is titled 'Bristol Heat Pump Ready FAQs' and features a section for 'Frequently asked questions about Bristol Heat Pump Ready'. Below this, there is a list of quick links for various questions such as 'What is Bristol Heat Pump Ready?', 'Why focus on heat pumps?', and 'What is the Bristol Heat Pump Ready household offer?'. A search bar is visible in the top right corner of the page.




**Centre For Sustainable Energy**  
Sponsored · Paid for by Centre for Sustainable ...

Did you know over a quarter of carbon emissions in Bristol come from using gas boilers to heat homes and hot water? 🔥

Heat pumps are significantly more efficient and use cleaner electricity to reduce your home's carbon footprint.

Bristol Heat Pump Ready is delivering low-carbon heat to homes across Bristol. If you're thinking about installing one, we can offer free and impartial support. Take a look at our information and resources 📄



**Is your home ready for a heat pump?**

**Start your heat pump journey today.**

[About this ad](#)

[Learn more](#)

cse.org.uk  
Bristol Heat Pump Ready

**Centre For Sustainable Energy**  
Sponsored · Paid for by Centre for Sustainable ...


Have you received a letter from Bristol Heat Pump Ready? Your home could be part of a new initiative to increase heat pumps in Bristol 🌱

Heat pumps are significantly more efficient than gas boilers and use cleaner electricity to reduce your home's carbon footprint.

We'll guide you through every step of the heat pump journey, from initial consultation to installation. You can make informed decisions about your home at every stage, as you'll have access to experts who can answer your questions and give tailored advice. You could also receive £5000 contribution to the installation of your heat pump 💰

Simply fill in an expression of interest form and we'll be in touch!

**Bespoke heat pump installation & support is available for eligible homes in Bristol.**



[About this ad](#)

**Centre For Sustainable Energy**  
Sponsored · Paid for by Centre for Sustainable ...


🔥 Interested in making your home more energy efficient? Join free retrofit workshops in Westbury on Trym.

You can save money and energy by making home improvements. While 'retrofit' can sound daunting, all it means is making changes to your home to reduce wasted energy and move to low carbon heating options.

Changes you make will depend on your unique home and your budget. Luckily, there are many options for most situations. To find out what your home needs, join the free workshops run by Bristol Energy Network.

Each workshop tackles different topics including insulation, damp, draughtproofing and renewable energy. You'll hear impartial, expert advice and insights to adapt to your home. Register 📄

**Free efficiency workshops at Westbury on Trym Library.**



[About this ad](#)

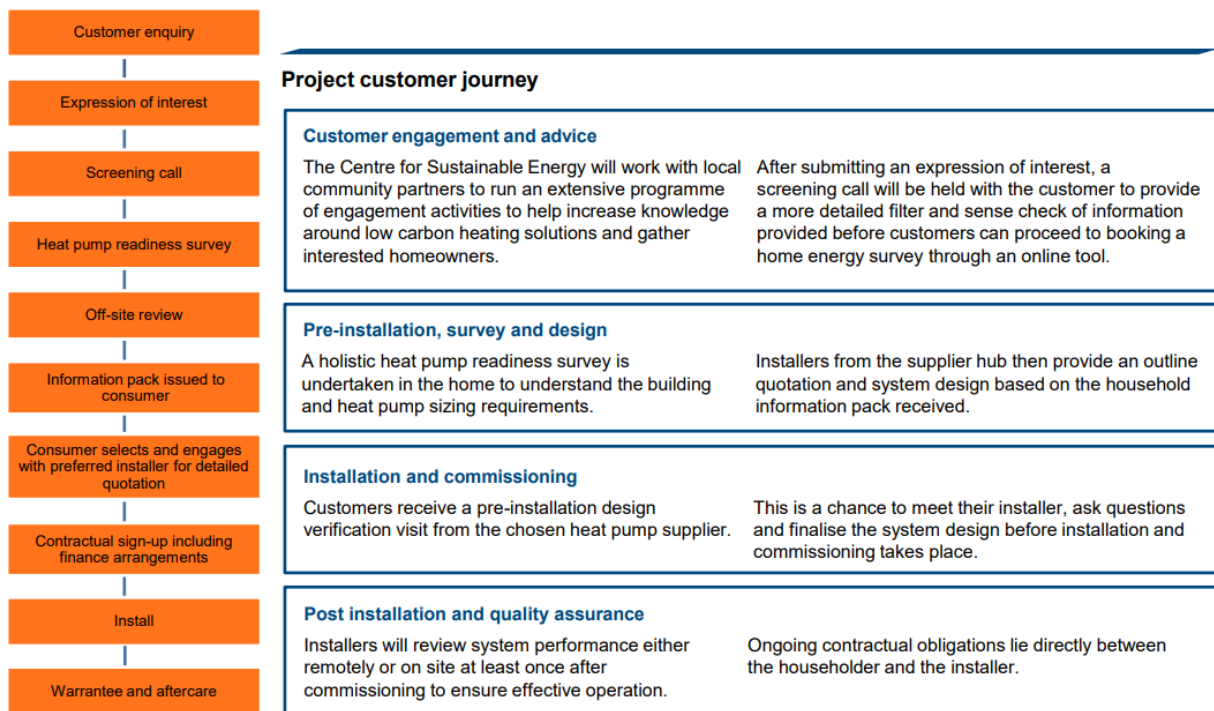
cse.org.uk  
Free home improvement workshops

[Sign Up](#)

## 1.6. Proposed customer journey

The BHPR consortium developed a detailed customer journey to guide customers from enquiring about heat pumps through to installation and receiving aftercare support, as shown in Figure 7.

**Figure 7: Project customer journey**



### Customer engagement and advice

The in-person engagement activities raised awareness for the project and provided the pathway for initial expressions of interest and sign-ups for the home surveys. This stage was planned to start at the end of summer, with leaflets, letters and door knocking taking place over a period of 10 weeks.

### Pre-installation, survey and design

CSE collected customer contact information and held a screening call with customers to ensure all necessary information was provided before customers booked a home energy survey.

Veritherm and BTS then conducted the home energy survey, with customers choosing the overnight over-heating test or using data loggers to monitor their property for three weeks. Survey results were collated into a report and sent to the homeowner, with CSE providing a call to discuss the home survey.

If the homeowner requested, installers from the supplier hub would provide an outline quotation and system design based on the home survey information pack. Time from booking in the initial screening call, booking in and undertaking the survey, and the customer receiving an initial quote was anticipated to take 6 weeks.

### Installation and commissioning

If agreed, the homeowner arranged a date for a pre-installation design verification visit with their chosen supplier. Heat pump installation and any associated works were then carried out. The time for this stage varied by works required, but would be estimated to take one week to complete.

### Post-installation and quality assurance

After installation, ongoing monitoring and support were planned for the first year, using smart meters to verify and check the heat pump's performance. An MCS audit was also available through the project.

## 2. Project outcomes

### 2.1. Awareness of the project, surveys completed and heat pumps installed

Expressions of interest were received from 33 homeowners in the target area, see Table 3. In total, 21 home surveys were carried out, but no homes proceeded to a formal heat pump quotation, and no heat pump installations occurred under the project.

The total expressions of interest across the four target groups were as follows:

**Table 3: Expressions of interest across target group areas**

Target group	Number of connected properties	Total number of EOIs received	EOIs received as % of total properties
1	140	14	10%
2	216	8	4%
3	313	11	4%
4	133	2	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4%</b>

Another 14 expressions of interest were also received for properties outside of the target groups.

### 2.2. Barriers faced through consumer recruitment

Interviews with the project partners and key stakeholders suggested that the following themes could have contributed to the lack of uptake of the BHPR proposition, alongside factors outside the control of the project, such as energy prices and costs of heat pump installations:

- **Customers were confused by the initial offer:** there was too much information for households in promotional materials. Keeping the offer simple and clearly explaining the costs for the survey and the install up front would have been more useful. There was a lack of clarity on how much householders would have to pay for the survey, which was advertised as worth £1,000 but only charging £100.
- The **home survey methodology was very complex** and one method involved homeowners moving out overnight (for the full Veritherm heat loss test). Although it was accurate and provided benefits and cost savings for the installation, it was difficult to get homeowners to sign up, and had to be undertaken from October onwards when the weather was cooler. There were also internal admin delays in actioning the surveys due to a change in the CRM system. Of the 21 homes that had surveys, 8 had an overnight survey, with 13 homes having the three week survey.
- **Households who had heat pumps installed privately prior to the BHPR project, and those who had signed up early to the survey didn't have a good experience of the heat pump journey, so they weren't comfortable being used as examples or champions to encourage others.**

- There was a reference to **homeowners assuming the leaflets were spam**. Mail addressed to homeowners from the Council would be seen as more legitimate.
- Because of the Stream 1 timescales, initial customer engagement and **awareness-raising took place over the summer**, when households were not thinking about their heating.
- **The decision-making process for customers was found to take longer than the timescale originally envisaged by the project at the start of the project**, with additional time required at each stage (expressing an interest, having a survey and accepting a quote for a heat pump installation).

### 2.3. What other challenges did the project encounter?

The project partners noted that there were additional challenges in the following areas:

- **Data from the DNO:** a database showing which houses are connected to which transformer was unavailable from NGED when the planning team required it. The lack of accurate data from the DNO delayed targeting homes with additional network capacity. This turned out to be less important where there was known headroom in the area, at the substation level. If the project partners were to do a similar project again, they wouldn't spend so long obtaining data from the DNO for the wider area when this can be carried out house by house later for those interested in a heat pump.
- **Aligning customer relationship management systems** across project partners: the project planned for customer relationships to be managed through Veritherm's Home Energy Advice Tool (HEAT), which was eventually used to upgrade CSE's CRM system. HEAT was intended to provide a comprehensive solution for managing client relationships, allowing businesses to have a centralised repository for all client-related data. It was to incorporate booking functionalities within the CRM to provide a more convenient way for clients to schedule appointments than on CSE's CRM alone. This would eliminate the need for third-party booking systems to simplify the overall customer experience. In practice, data-sharing arrangements and system interoperability challenges hindered progress.

### 2.4. Which aspects of the project worked well?

Interviews with the project partners suggest several project elements worked well despite the lack of progress toward heat pump installations:

- **A detailed heat loss survey provided accurate calculations**, enabling the sizing of a smaller heat pump rather than standard assessments that use generic heat loss values. A smaller heat pump is likely to have been cheaper to buy and to run. The more accurate survey came at the expense of disruption to the customer.
- **The creation of an installer network** which facilitated training and provided a joined-up approach to working together and sharing teachings. Installers could be chosen from a curated supplier hub, reassuring homeowners that they had competent, quality installers. It also built the supply chain and brought installers together for training, sharing experience, upskilling, and using bulk purchasing.

- **Separating the survey from the installation** reduced the pressure on some installers to quote for works that were not certain to go ahead. Other installers indicated they would still want to visit the site to inform their quotes.
- **Using digital planning tools** to identify heat pump ready homes and **proactively targeting consumers** with focused community engagement alongside local community groups.

## 2.5. What lessons would the project partners pass on to other organisations looking to deliver neighbourhood-based approaches to high-density heat pump deployment?

- **Ensure that data-sharing agreements are in place** with all key project partners and contractors in good time to allow them to contribute fully to all aspects of the planning and implementation.
- **Network data from the DNO** can be requested on an individual property as and when required for those interested in a heat pump; it is not necessary to request data for the whole area prior to starting a whole area implementation.
- **Raise awareness within the local community early on** to increase knowledge of the benefits of heat pumps and build interest in the proposition.
- **Target engagement activity** specifically to the defined audience segment.
- **Keep the offer simple and consistent.** Clearly explain the offer and the process, tailor the information to the audience.
- **Simplify the survey methodology,** to make the process as easy as possible for consumers.
- **Engage with an electricity supplier** to link to a heat pump-specific tariff to lower running costs.
- **Use one key point of contact for households** to streamline the customer journey.
- **Work with local organisations with local knowledge,** including the local authority, a customer engagement coordinator, a local supply chain and an existing local environmental group.

## 3. Next steps

Since finishing their Heat Pump Ready (HPR) project, consortium members have progressed various strands of the HPR project.

**Bristol City Council (BCC)** have continued to work on projects to install heat pumps across the city:

- The Optiheat project reviewed existing heat pump installations around Bristol, working with the University of Bristol and the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). MCS and BCC aimed to carry out 100 energy audits in homes with heat pumps, to highlight improvements and resolve poor-quality installations. This work was originally scheduled to review the heat pump installations planned under HPR.

- BCC have kicked off their Innovate UK [Net Zero Living Thriving Places](#) programme as a pathfinder project, based around the digital tools used in HPR and other project learnings. This is a programme of engagement with citizens in three neighbourhoods to identify net zero projects, infrastructure and data requirements and financing mechanisms, and to develop local supply chain skills to meet local net zero needs.
- A project with the University of Bristol on monitoring heat pump performance, looking at the difference between onboard heat pump unit monitoring and separate metering and monitoring. This work was originally planned for the heat pumps installed under HPR.
- BCC presented to the West of England Combined Authorities (WECA) group to share learnings from the HPR project with other local authorities in the region. WECA would be interested in a group purchasing scheme and sharing learnings from HPR. BCC has disseminated what works and what doesn't to those groups. BCC are pleased that there is recognition of the work of HPR.

Retrofit West, run by the **Centre for Sustainable Energy** (CSE), took over the management of households interested in a heat pump installation through Bristol HPR, ensuring clients had the option to receive ongoing support.

- Having learnt from the Bristol HPR approach, Retrofit West is now changing its existing support offer to provide a wider home energy survey in addition to advising specifically on heat pumps. CSE has adopted the Build Test Solutions heat loss survey approach<sup>2</sup>, which was used in the HPR project, and carried out testing over winter. Data loggers are installed in homes for 3 weeks and are then collected, so this task can be conducted by CSE surveyors instead of specialist surveyors.
- Bath & West Community Energy are in talks with Retrofit West to use the same heat loss survey method.
- Retrofit West is using the supply chain onboarding process with The Green Register, which was developed through the HPR project.

**The Green Register** (TGR) has continued to build on its Installer Hub idea from the HPR project, to bring heat pump installers together and support each other through mentoring.

- Ongoing training for the supply chain, including on heat loss calculations and TGR's scheduled training to suit the individual heat pump installer's learning pathway.
- TGR has worked to integrate Bristol HPR supply chain members into other local retrofit schemes.
- TGR is interested in providing a pathway into delivery for smaller installation companies and sole traders, as they can miss out on the larger programmes run by councils and larger landlords or property developers.
- Useful learnings about building a community and mentoring have enabled TGR to upskill more junior members.

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<sup>2</sup> In their own Heat Pump Ready Stream 2 project, Build Test Solutions proved that using measured heat loss was more accurate than traditional surveys that rely on estimations.