



**Sustainability  
Strategy  
2022-27**

# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Here at Berneslai Homes we recognise that we have a responsibility to protect future generations by reducing carbon emissions and helping to limit the effects of climate change.

Working alongside Barnsley Council, we have developed our ambitious new Sustainability Strategy and Zero Carbon plan for Council homes across Barnsley.

Key pillars of our strategy include:

- Addressing emissions across our organisation, from our operational activities through to the homes we manage.
- A focus on managing better quality, higher performing homes that help our tenants save on fuel costs whilst also reducing their carbon emissions.
- Making sure that our plan feeds into the Council's wider ambition to become net zero carbon by 2045.



# WHO WE ARE

We are Berneslai Homes, working in partnership with Barnsley Council as their local housing company.

**Our values:** everyone who works for Berneslai Homes will embrace these values and make them relevant to their role.

Our vision is clear:

**Creating great homes and communities with the people of Barnsley.**

Our mission supports our vision:

**Great place, great people, great company.**

Creating and developing vibrant neighbourhoods where diverse communities thrive and develop; attracting and retaining talented people, serviced by a diverse organisation.

## Customer first

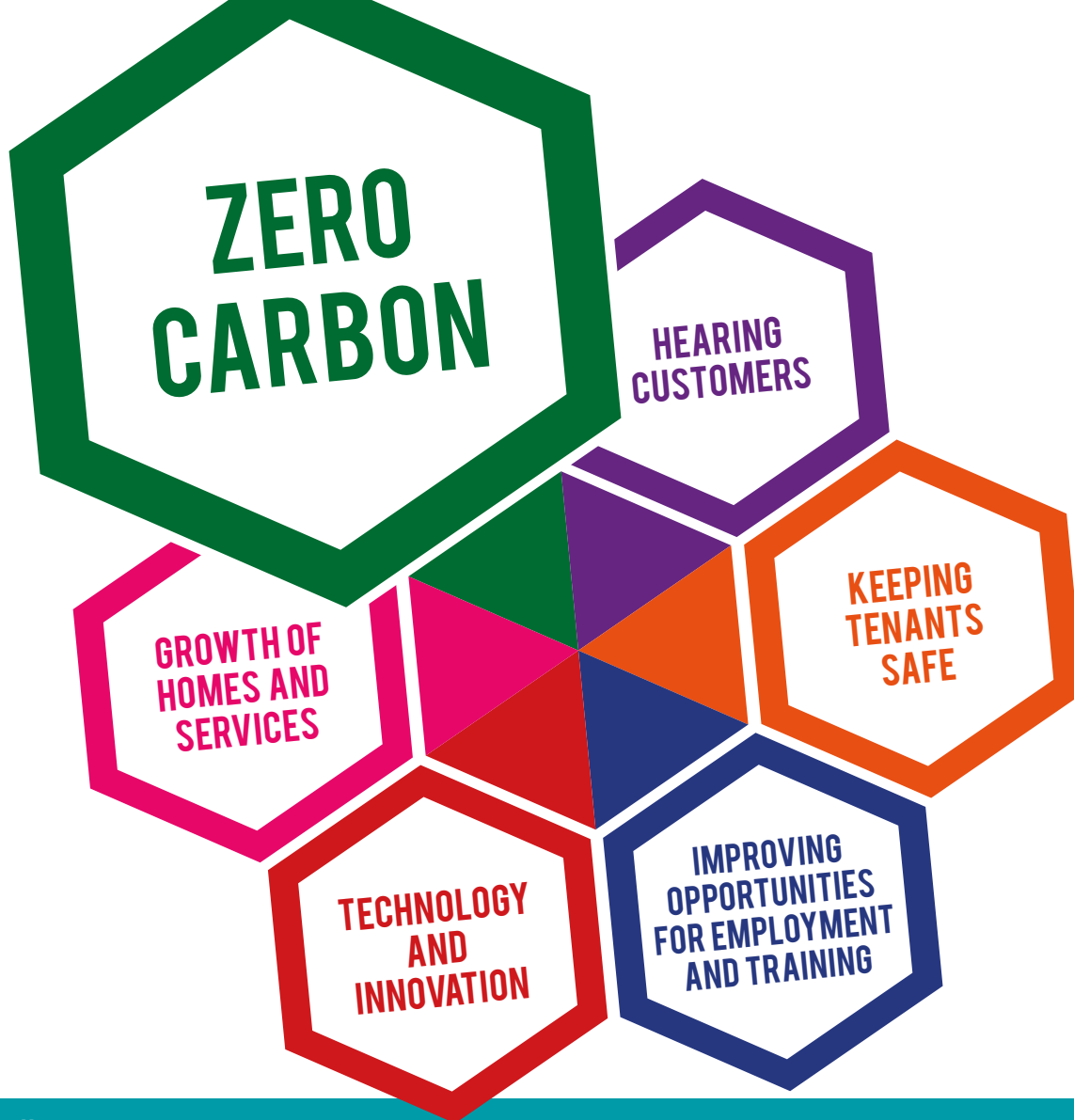
focus on residents being included on the zero-carbon journey.

## Can do attitude

work purposefully to achieve zero-carbon objectives.

## Curious

explore zero-carbon innovative solutions.



# OUR AMBITIONS

## Strategic Plan 2021-31

How will we measure our success?



Use of own vehicles to travel to work and mileage claims reduced by **50%**.



Fleet **100%** electric.



**100%** success rate in obtaining Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding up to 2030.



**100%** EPC 'C' for all properties.



HRA business plan **100%** funded with additional income for zero carbon work.



**25%** tenant heating replaced with green alternatives – air/ground sourced or hydrogen.



# ZERO CARBON OUR AMBITION



## Zero carbon - our ten year ambition

Meeting the targets locally and nationally by changing the way we work and investing in homes.

We will:

- Replace all Construction Services fleet to electronic vehicles (EV) by 2030.
- Increase staff expertise to deliver zero carbon measures throughout the borough.
- Work closely with the council to maximise the success of the decarbonisation and future zero carbon initiatives.
- Align with the councils, active travel, transport and, climate change strategies and the targets within these.
- Procure green energy for our operations.
- Fit solar panels to our properties.
- Have a modern and effective energy performance certificate process in place.
- Introduce new heating systems with green alternatives for our customers.

## What we are doing now

- Utilising different funding mechanisms and opportunities available to deliver "retrofit" energy efficiency measures to homes.
- Supporting Construction Services route to PAS2030 accreditation.
- Collaborating with the Council on tree planting initiatives.
- Increasing our stock condition and energy performance data.
- Partnering with the Council and Energise Barnsley to install new renewable technology to homes.
- Networking with sector peers on decarbonisation through various forums.

# OUR AMBITION FOR COUNCIL HOMES

## **Our aim:** we will:

- Work with the Council to achieve EPC C by 2030 and net zero carbon by 2045.
- Use information on the stock to develop improvement programmes.
- Evaluate asset performance (financial and social) and undertake options appraisals where necessary.
- Engage with our customers on how to get maximum benefit from the investment we make.
- Reduce energy consumption to homes to minimise energy costs to customers.

## **Planning:** we will...

- Engage and consult with our customers as part of our plans.
- Enhance data we hold to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions.
- Target homes in fuel poverty and with lowest EPC bandings first where we can .
- Align to existing investment plans to achieve value for money and minimise disruption.

## **Fabric first:** we will...

- Improve the building fabric to reduce heat loss and demand for heat.
- Focus on “quick wins” measures , which when actioned are cost effective and provide relatively large benefits.
- Consider renewable technology solutions when fabric improvements aren’t possible.

## **Low-carbon heating:** we will:

- Monitor and trial new heating technologies as we move towards no new gas boilers from 2035.
- Work with our customers to understand new technologies.
- Select technologies offering affordable warmth, carbon reduction, suitability and affordability.
- Prioritise investment according to energy performance subject to cost benefit analysis.

# BERNESLAI HOMES' CARBON FOOTPRINT

## What is a carbon footprint?

A carbon footprint is a measure of the total greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) generated both directly and indirectly by an organisation:



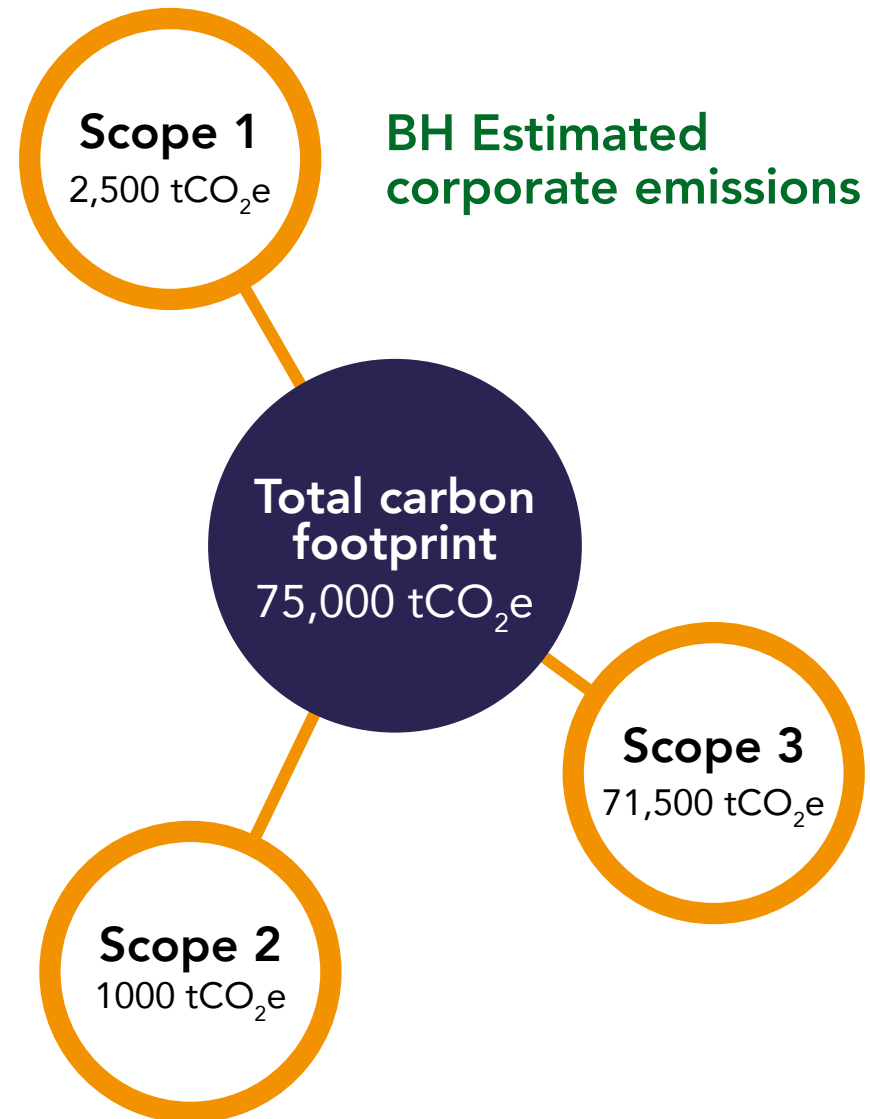
**Scope 1:** Emissions associated with fuels.



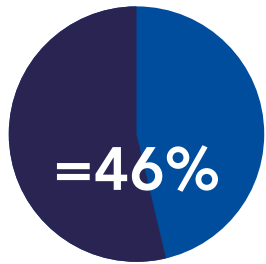
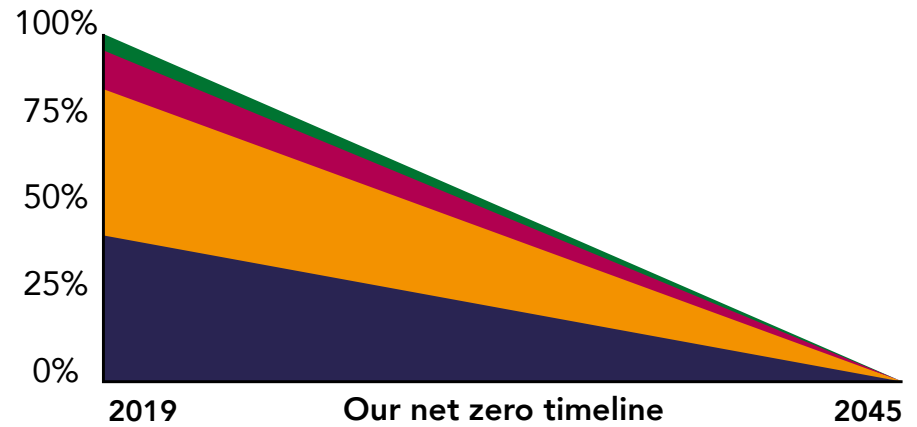
**Scope 2:** Emissions associated with fuels that are consumed indirectly, such as heating and cooling.



**Scope 3:** Emissions associated with activity in your value chain.

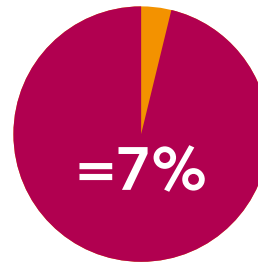


# BERNESLAI HOMES MOVING TO NET ZERO



## Procurement and capital expenditure

- Continue engaging with our most significant suppliers.
- Ensure more proactive net zero procurement initiatives.
- Review minimum environmental standards for all our contractors to meet.

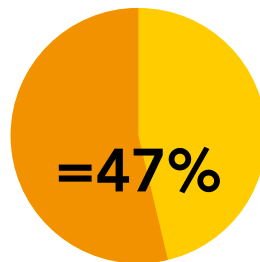


## Business travel and commuting

- Introduce a staff sacrifice scheme for electric vehicles.
- Introduction of electric vehicles for fleet use.
- Work with the Council on the installation of EV charging infrastructure to buildings.

## Corporate building energy

- Align with the Council on energy reduction plans for buildings.
- Continue educating all officers, customers and other stakeholders on climate change through carbon literacy training.
- Continue fitting solar panels and green heating to our properties.



## Waste and water

- Review waste and water contracts and consolidate them.
- Review zero waste to landfill targets.
- Review waste minimisation strategy.





# OUR PLANS FOR MOVING TO NET ZERO

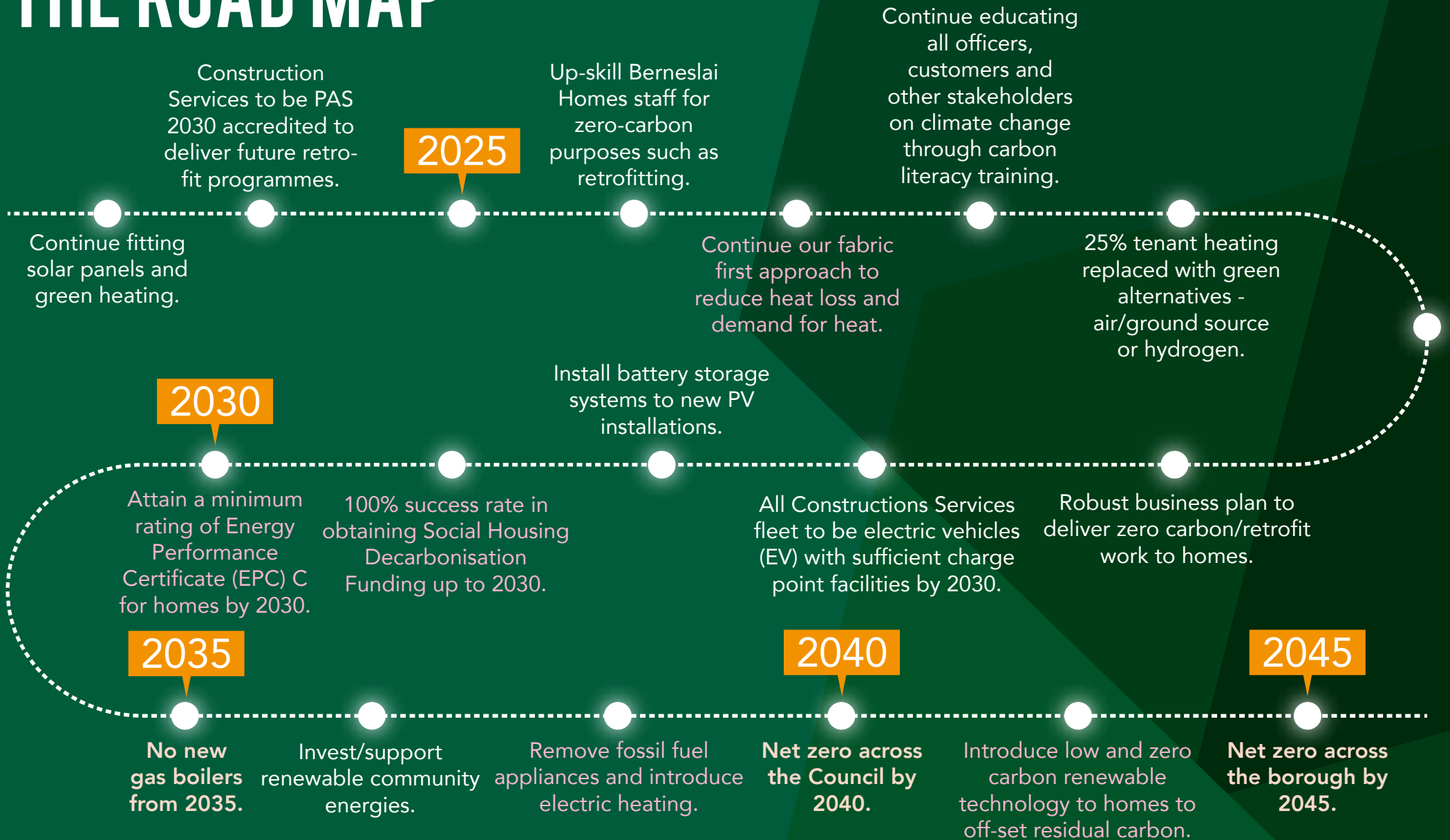
## Our other plans

We will:

- review our policies to ensure support for cycling and walking.
- continue working to identify other ways that emissions can be reduced through effective management of the fleet.
- look to widen our search for sustainable suppliers. We will find the correct balance between supporting local business and procuring sustainably for our homes to meet our customers needs.
- reduce waste disposal and water consumption at our buildings to increase efficiency.



# THE ROAD MAP



# SUCCESS MEASURES 2027

- 100% Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) in place for all Council Homes.
- Successful with 100% funding through SHDF.
- HRA funded programme to retrofit/decarbonise homes.
- No homes with an EPC lower than 'D' rated.
- Customer behavioural change to the use of low carbon heating technologies.
- Measured reduction of BH corporate green house gas emissions.
- Continued partnership working with Council and Energise Barnsley to deliver sustainability initiatives to homes.
- Use of own vehicles to travel to work and mileage claims is reduced by 50%.
- On track for 25% of heating through renewable sources in homes.
- Construction Services fleet 65% electric vehicles (EV).



# ANNUAL PLAN 2022/23

- Deliver LAD2 and SHDF Wave 1 “Retrofit” programmes to approx. 250 Council Homes.
- Work with the Council on SHDF Wave 2 bid submission for funding for further retrofit programmes.
- Berneslai Homes sign up to the Councils Affordable Warmth Charter.
- Consult with our Tenants Voice Panel to understand the approach to future decarbonisation.
- Complete Retrofit Pilot with Construction Services and Wates.
- Construction Services to be accredited to PAS2030.
- Carbon Literacy eLearning to be completed by staff.
- Green upskilling of staff.
- Review Voids Standard to increase energy efficiency of homes through suitable measures.
- Collaborate with Council in its Tiny Forests Tree planting initiatives.
- Liaise with Wates to plant 500 trees.
- Partner with the Council and Energise Barnsley to install 1000 Solar PV systems to Council Homes.
- Continue to network and share best practice.





# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Carbon Footprint** – the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of a particular individual, organisation, or community.

**Carbon Literacy** – an awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.

**Climate Change** – significant changes in global temperature, precipitation, wind patterns and other measures of climate that occur over several decades or longer.

**Decarbonisation** – the process of stopping or reducing of carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, being released into the atmosphere.

**Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)** – are a ratings scheme to measure the energy efficiency of buildings.

**Electric Vehicles (EV)** – mode of transport which powered by electricity.

**Fabric First** – an approach to building design that involves maximising the performance of the components and material that make up the building fabric itself, before considering additional systems.

**Fuel Poverty** – is the condition by which a household is unable to afford to heat or cool their homes to an adequate temperature.

**Green House Gas Emissions (GHG)** – the emission into the earth’s atmosphere of any gases, especially carbon dioxide, that contribute to the greenhouse effect.

**Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LAD2)** – Government funding for local authorities to improve the energy efficiency of domestic properties in England.

**Low Carbon Heating** – systems that release little to no carbon into the atmosphere as it works to heat a building.

**Net-Zero Carbon** – achieving a balance between the carbon emissions emitted into the atmosphere, and the carbon removed from it.

**PAS 2030** – is the industry specification for which all energy efficiency installers must be certified to, and compliant with, when carrying out energy efficiency measures under government initiatives.

**Retrofit** – the process of making changes to existing buildings so that energy consumption and emissions are reduced. Changes should provide the benefit of a more comfortable and healthier home with lower fuel bills.

**Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF)** – Government funding that will support the installation of energy performance measures in social homes in England.

**tCO<sub>2</sub>e** – the amount of greenhouse gas emitted during a given period, measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.





[www.berneslaihomes.co.uk](http://www.berneslaihomes.co.uk)

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