

LGA: Local Retrofit Action Planning

Lead Organisation

Sustainability West Midlands

Project Manager: Beck Collins, Senior Sustainability Adviser

Customer



WM Sustainability Roadmap themes addressed:



Project Duration

September – December 2022

The Project

This project was a training programme for local authority teams working in retrofit. It sought to support the development of their



work by exploring how to develop effective partnerships locally and nationally. The project focused on three key themes: training providers, communities and the retrofit supply chain. SWM worked with member organisations the [Sustainable Housing Action Partnership](#) who provided technical expertise and retrofit, and [Contented Ltd](#) who provided coaching and mentoring expertise.

Aims

- To run a series of five technical briefings: one on partnership working, three on each of the key themes (training providers, communities and the supply chain) and one on action planning.
- To run coaching sessions following the technical briefings with regional groups of council officers, providing a safe space to work out challenges and share ideas.

- To support the councils to each create an ‘output’ which would form a critical next step in their retrofit action.
- To capture the learning from the programme to host on the LGA website in the form of blogs, videos of the sessions, and the council outputs.

SWM’s role

SWM was responsible for managing the project as a whole, liaising with the LGA, managing the logistics of the technical briefings and coaching sessions and communicating with council officers, and overseeing the delivery of the sessions and outputs, and managing the work of the sub-contractors.

Outputs

- The programme proved to be very popular. The LGA had originally planned for 15 councils to attend however over 50 councils committed to the programme.
- The five technical briefings reviewed best practice across the country, demonstrating how effective engagement with partners and stakeholders can drive forward retrofit. The learning from each technical briefing was summarised in a blog that was published on the LGA website, along with videos of the briefings and the presenters’ slides.
- The coaching sessions provided a real opportunity to share challenges and possible ways forward. Many council officers reported ‘eureka’ moments during these conversations, and others appreciated the safe space to share pain in a cathartic and productive way.
- In response to popular demand, SWM organised a supplementary and voluntary technical briefing looking at innovative ways to fund retrofit.
- With support from SWM, the councils themselves produced outputs that represented important actions in the path to retrofit, that could be shared with others.
- The blogs, technical briefing videos, presentations and council outputs are all available on the [LGA website](#).

In the Future

Retrofit is proving an intractable challenge, but one which is vital to overcome if we are to meet our carbon emission reduction targets and achieve a decent standard of healthy living for people. SWM is keen to continue our relationship with the LGA and to help them to develop their training offer for retrofit. We understand that financing retrofit, and training for Elected Members are important areas where councils need help, and with our expertise and the expertise within our wider membership we can contribute to dealing with this critical challenge.

Contact Details

For further information on the project please contact the SWM team at enquiries@swm.org.uk.