



A Community Climate Investment Plan for Easton and Lawrence Hill

March 2026

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Putting local people at the heart of the transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient neighbourhood.



Acknowledgements

The development of this Community Climate Investment Plan for Easton and Lawrence Hill has been a shared endeavour, shaped by the knowledge, commitment, and leadership of a range of local partners and communities.

The plan was produced by CSE in partnership with Eastside Community Trust and Bristol City Council, whose combined expertise in community development, local government, and energy systems has been central to shaping both its ambition and its practical grounding. In particular, the leadership of Eastside Community Trust has ensured that the priorities, concerns, and lived experiences of local residents sit at the heart of this work and that it builds on previous initiatives in the neighbourhood.

We thank the many residents, community organisations, and local stakeholders who contributed time, insight, and experience. Their contributions have helped ensure this plan reflects the realities of life in Easton and Lawrence Hill and the opportunities for community climate action.

This work was funded by Innovate UK through its Net Zero Living Programme, which supports place-based innovation to accelerate progress towards a net-zero future. This funding enabled us to have the time and space to explore and test new approaches to community-led climate investment.



Preface

This plan starts from a simple premise: that putting local people and places at the heart of climate investment is essential to delivering a faster, fairer and more effective transition.

It builds on years of community-led climate action in Easton and Lawrence Hill and across Bristol, translating shared vision, lived experience and learning from previous programmes into a practical framework for investment and delivery.

With diverse communities, strong local organisations, established climate engagement activity and significant opportunities to improve

homes, public spaces and neighbour hood infrastructure, Easton and Lawrence Hill offer a compelling setting for place-based climate investment. This document sets out how targeted finance and funding could support warmer homes, skilled local jobs and scalable retrofit approaches, shaped through engagement carried out via Mission Net Zero and the Transforming Energy Together initiative.

Community Climate Action in Bristol

The **Community Climate Action Project** (CCA), led by Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership and funded by the National Lottery's Climate Action fund, saw the development of Climate Action Plans in neighbourhoods across Bristol¹. These plans, the first of their kind in the country, captured the priorities and ambitions of communities and demonstrated the important role they can play in achieving the city's climate and nature ambitions. Easton and Lawrence Hill's plan, "Healthy Planet, Happy People" captured a bold vision for the future and forms a core foundation for this Community Climate Investment Plan.²

Mission Net Zero and the Net Zero Living Programme

Run by Innovate UK, the **Net Zero Living** Programme looked to build new partnerships between businesses and local authorities to deliver new solutions, improve local services and open markets for economic growth, by optimising opportunities, accelerating adoption and scaling what works. **Mission Net Zero** was an ambitious project focused on delivering a more sustainable and inclusive city, aligned with the **Bristol One City Climate Strategy's** goal of carbon neutrality and climate resilience.³ The project worked to speed up the West of England's transition to net zero by tackling barriers such as limited access to finance, slow take-up of domestic retrofit and a shortage of skilled workers.



Transforming Energy Together

Transforming Energy Together (TET) was a central part of the Mission Net Zero project, led by the Centre for Sustainable Energy, working with local organisations, and supported by Mission Net Zero partners.⁴

Through TET three local organisations, **Eastside Community Trust**, **Knowle West Media Centre** and **Southmead Development Trust** were selected to pilot a new, community-led approach to planning investment in energy projects

Building on the Community Climate Action Plans for their areas, the local organisations worked with the project partners to explore how the needs, priorities and concerns articulated by local people through the CCA process could be met by community-initiated and community-informed solutions in a way that offered value to

'investors' whilst building wider local interest in climate and energy action in the neighbourhood.

Alongside local engagement, the project also assessed how these projects might work in practice, considering both technical factors (such as the feasibility of renewable energy installations and energy efficiency measures) and the social context (including affordability, local demand, and community readiness).

Together, the insights gained helped develop this Community Climate Investment Plan and associated pipeline of investment opportunities (see Section 4 and Appendix B).

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Executive Summary

A neighbourhood ready for climate investment

Easton and Lawrence Hill are distinctive inner-city Bristol wards with diverse communities, strong civic infrastructure and a long history of community action, enterprise and social innovation. Active local organisations, established partnership networks and ongoing climate engagement activity create favourable conditions for neighbourhood-scale climate investment. These neighbourhoods present a significant opportunity to improve homes, public spaces and local infrastructure while reducing carbon emissions. However, climate action must remain grounded in everyday priorities: warmer homes, affordable energy, healthier environments and economic opportunity must sit alongside emissions reduction.

Transforming Energy Together: from community action to citywide opportunity

This Community Climate Investment Plan translates locally identified priorities into a practical investment framework. Building on the neighbourhood’s Community Climate Action Plan and extensive engagement through the Mission Net Zero and Transforming Energy Together programmes, it identifies a pipeline of investable opportunities designed to deliver immediate benefits such as improved comfort, lower costs and enhanced neighbourhood wellbeing, while supporting long-term decarbonisation and resilience.

The plan connects community priorities with emerging national and regional ambitions around home upgrades, decentralised clean energy systems and the growth of green jobs and skills. A clear, locally grounded framework helps ensure these wider ambitions translate into practical neighbourhood delivery while strengthening the city’s ability to coordinate investment and attract resources aligned with community priorities.

Developed through Mission Net Zero, this plan sits alongside similar Community Climate Investment Plans for Knowle West and for Southmead. While each plan can stand alone, together the three neighbourhoods form a strong and complementary portfolio for place-based climate investment across Bristol, creating opportunities to test approaches at scale, share learning and develop delivery models with wider regional and national relevance.

Key lessons for future delivery

Developing this Community Climate Investment Plan has involved sustained engagement with residents, community organisations, delivery partners and technical specialists. This work has provided valuable insight into what could enable neighbourhood climate investment to succeed - not only technically, but socially, economically and organisationally. Key insights include:

- **Start with real lives, not just technical models.** Projects must reflect the lived experience of diverse communities, housing conditions and local economic realities.
- **Work with trusted community organisations as core partners.** Strong local relationships are essential for participation, trust and effective delivery.
- **Take joined-up approaches in mixed-tenure neighbourhoods.** Coordinating action across homeowners, landlords, housing providers and community assets improves fairness and impact.
- **Invest early in skills, engagement and project development.** Building local capacity supports both delivery and long-term economic opportunity.
- **Ensure benefits are retained locally.** Climate investment should strengthen local enterprise, supply chains, employment and community wealth.

Where investment can make a difference

Reflecting these lessons, the investment opportunities identified in this plan are organised around three interconnected themes designed not only to reduce emissions but also to strengthen the local economy and improve everyday quality of life:

- **Homes** – Coordinated retrofit, low-carbon heating, solar deployment and targeted interventions across mixed housing types to improve comfort, reduce bills and cut emissions.
- **Neighbourhood** – Investment in public spaces, community assets, local energy infrastructure and environmental improvements that enhance resilience, air quality, wellbeing and neighbourhood cohesion.
- **Skills** – Training programmes, local enterprise development and delivery partnerships that support green jobs, strengthen supply chains and ensure investment benefits local residents and businesses.

Together, these themes provide a practical pathway from community priorities to investable projects and scalable delivery. By aligning carbon reduction with health improvement, economic opportunity and community wellbeing, this approach shows how neighbourhood-scale climate investment can support inclusive growth, healthier communities and long-term resilience. Building on the partnerships, local leadership and momentum established through this work, Easton and Lawrence Hill are well placed to help shape a coordinated, place-based model for climate investment across Bristol, demonstrating how community-led action can translate into practical, lasting change.

1. A vision for the future

Easton and Lawrence Hill are neighbouring inner-city wards just east of Bristol's city centre, shaped by diverse communities, strong local networks and a long tradition of mutual support.⁵

Local people have articulated a shared vision for the neighbourhood: a fairer, greener and healthier place where everyone can thrive, with warm, affordable homes, better job opportunities, clean air and accessible, sustainable local amenities.⁶

This plan builds on that community ambition, showing how climate investment can respond directly to residents' priorities, strengthening wellbeing, opportunity and long-term neighbourhood resilience.



1.1

Where it began: A Climate Action Plan for Easton and Lawrence Hill

Easton and Lawrence Hill’s Community Climate Action Plan “**Healthy Planet, Happy People**” lays the foundation for this Community Climate Investment Plan, capturing the community’s vision for a fairer, greener, and healthier future. It reflects local aspirations for thriving neighbourhoods - where everyone has access to warm, affordable homes, meaningful job opportunities, clean air, and vibrant, sustainable local spaces that support wellbeing for all.

The plan was co-produced by Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership and Eastside Community Trust with local residents in 2021, through workshops, creative activities, and community media. It provides a bold vision for Easton and Lawrence Hill, outlines the priorities and ambitions of the community and demonstrates the important role they can play in achieving the city’s climate and nature ambitions.⁷



A fairer, greener and healthier future:
Key local priorities⁸



Transport

- Cleaner air for all residents
- Easier, cheaper, and more accessible public transport
- Safer, more pleasant walking and cycling routes



Energy

- Upgrade community buildings to showcase energy efficiency and climate resilience
- Grow local renewable generation, ownership, and community benefit



Homes and buildings

- Warm, dry homes and affordable bills for everyone, with extra protections for renters
- Skills, advice, and funding to support sustainable upgrades in homes and community spaces
- Support for households without direct control over their homes (e.g., renters and leaseholders) to make improvements



Nature

- Build local skills and capacity to improve and expand green spaces
- Increase access to nature for children and young people, both within and beyond the city
- Protect and enhance existing green spaces, making streets and connections greener and more welcoming



Business and Education

- Increase access to quality green jobs and training
- Increase opportunities for children and young people to learn about climate action locally



Waste and Resources

- Reduce litter, fly-tipping, and waste locally
- Cut plastic packaging and increase affordable, widely available plastic-free options
- More opportunities to share, reuse, and repair so households rely less on buying new items

1.2

Learnings from engagement: What the community want to see

As part of the Transforming Energy Together (TET) project, Eastside Community Trust re-engaged residents across the neighbourhood to explore these priorities in more depth, identifying barriers to local action and the support needed to progress them into projects. This work was delivered through a wide range of inclusive engagement activities, with barriers such as language, accessibility needs and a lack of time pro-actively addressed.⁹

How we engaged resident in the development of this plan

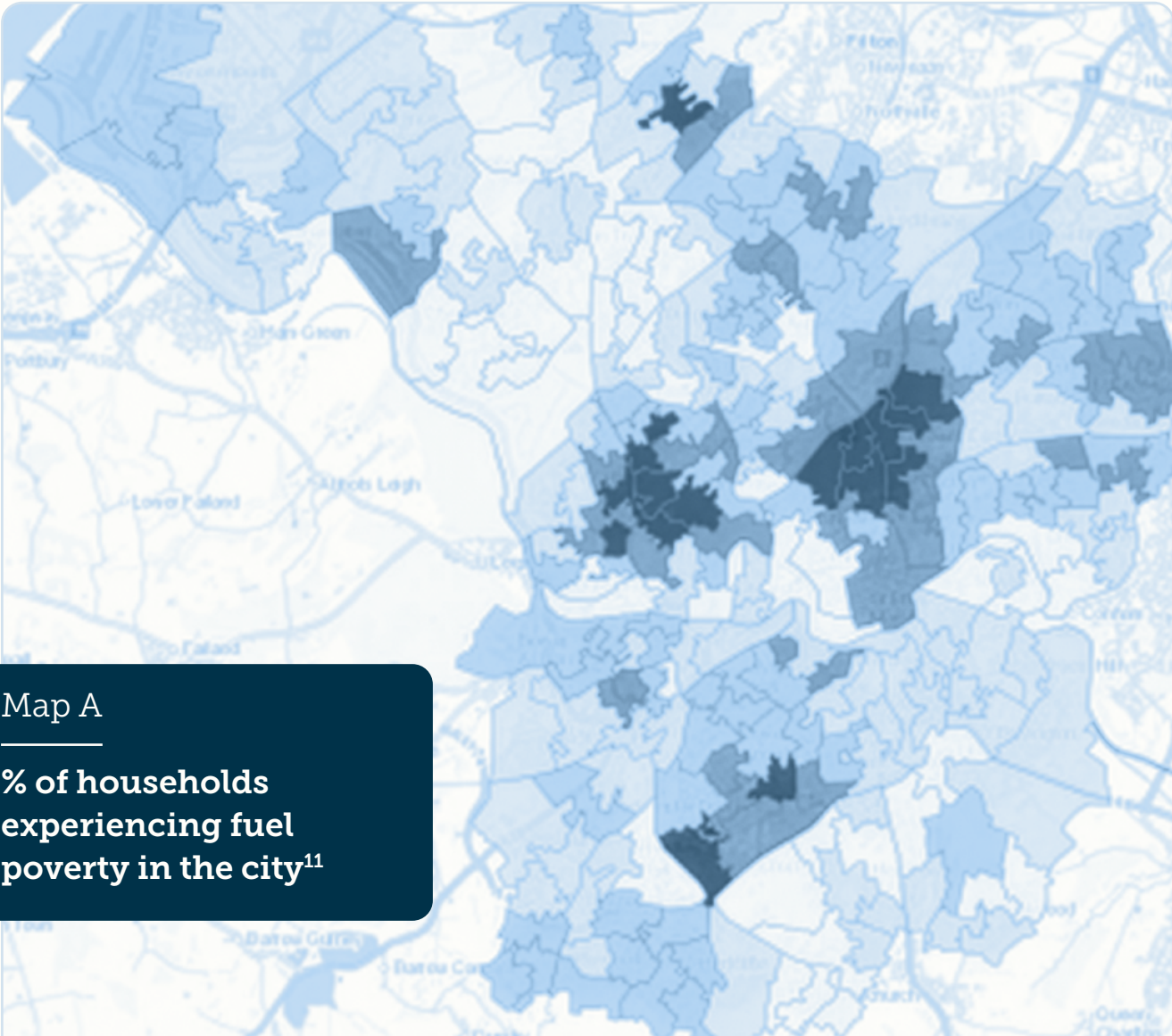
- Ran **3** climate conversation events, with **50** attendees
- Had **8** discussions with the community leadership panel on climate change
- Received **80** responses from local people to a questionnaire about what they want to see in the neighbourhood
- Had **20** discussions with Warm Homes Champions
- Ran **2** Ready for Winter events
- Door knocked **3** streets
- Held **8** interviews with local experts on climate and energy
- Held **5** meetings with other local neighbourhood organisations
- Held **Green Open Homes** events at Easton Community Centre and as part of **BS5 Together** events



1.3

Life in Easton and Lawrence Hill: Lived experience, evidence and implications for climate action and investment

To bring together insights from the Community Climate Action Plan and the Transforming Energy Together programme, an Initial Community Needs Assessment was developed for Easton and Lawrence Hill¹⁰ (see Appendix A). This draws on the engagement activities outlined in Section 1.2, local partner input and a range of supporting data to capture common lived experiences in the neighbourhood. In this section, five main recurring themes identified through this process are outlined. Taken together, they provide important insights for how climate investment should be designed, delivered and communicated in the neighbourhood.



Key theme 1:
Economic pressure, neighbourhood change and affordability risk

What residents experience

Residents report rising housing costs, financial pressure and changing neighbourhood dynamics affecting affordability. Concerns about fuel poverty, food insecurity and energy costs influence how people view home improvements and their ability to participate.

Key evidence and data

- Average house prices in Easton reached around £368,000 in 2024, more than doubling since 2010¹², while typical household incomes after housing costs largely fall in the £19.9k–£31.8k range.
- Lawrence Hill’s population grew 19% between 2011 and 2021 (16,556 to 19,604), compared with roughly 10% growth across Bristol.¹³
- Around 19% of Lawrence Hill residents report difficulty managing financially, about 8% above the Bristol average, with 54% of children in the neighbourhood living in low-income households.
- Fuel poverty affects 10–18% of households in the neighbourhood, reaching almost 20% in some areas (see Map A), whilst around 21% of households in Lawrence Hill report experiencing moderate–severe food insecurity every year.¹⁴

Delivering the vision: implications for climate action and investment

Climate programmes should prioritise affordability, clear finance options and tenant protections. Approaches that reduce upfront costs and demonstrate tangible household benefits can help support participation and sustain engagement over time.

“We come from many different backgrounds and share common values and a strong sense of community spirit. While the neighborhood has changed a great deal over the past few decades, people continue to lookout for each other.”

Eastside Community Trust

“I am in my 30s so I’ve not had any major health issues from heat yet, but I worry about my elderly neighbours coping. I imagine more trees and better insulated homes would help.”

Local resident ¹⁷

Key theme 2:
Diversity, inclusion and accessible engagement

What residents experience	Residents describe highly diverse communities with a wide range of cultural backgrounds, languages and life circumstances. Clear communication, trusted local organisations and accessible engagement approaches are seen as important for participation.
Key evidence and data	• Easton and Lawrence Hill are two of Bristol’s most diverse wards, with around 57% of residents in Lawrence Hill and 47% across the whole neighbourhood identifying as from minority ethnic groups. • Up to 23% of residents in Lawrence Hill ward report a main language other than English, and around one third of residents across the neighbourhood were born outside the UK, with 9% living in the UK for less than 5 years. • Approximately 17% of households in Lawrence Hill experience over-crowding, one of the highest rates in the city, indicating significant housing pressure in parts of the neighbourhood.¹⁵ • Around 32% of households include someone with a disability or long-term health condition.
Delivering the vision: implications for climate action and investment	Working through trusted community organisations and providing culturally appropriate, accessible engagement can improve participation, reduce delivery risks and help ensure investment reaches a broader range of households.

Key theme 3:
Climate resilience: overheating, flooding and air quality

What residents experience	Residents report increasing overheating in homes, concerns about air quality and local flooding, alongside interest in greener streets, shade and nature-based improvements.
Key evidence and data	• Parts of Easton and Lawrence Hill are among Bristol’s highest heat-vulnerability areas, with some streets up to ~4°C hotter than the city average and large connected areas of high to very high risk across the neighbourhood. Around 31% of residents report homes overheating on an annual basis. • Surface water flood exposure affects up to 50% of Easton ward and up to 60% of Lawrence Hill, particularly the M32 corridor, St. Philips and low-lying central areas in the ward, with risks projected to increase significantly by 2040. • About 83% of residents report concern about local air quality, and both wards fall within Bristol’s Air Quality Management Area. • Some streets in the neighbourhood have as little as 5% tree canopy cover, whilst surveys indicate strong local support for environmental improvements and solutions, with 62% of respondents supporting greener streets and 76% prioritising trees, wildflowers and biodiversity measures.¹⁶
Delivering the vision: implications for climate action and investment	Integrating energy improvements with green infrastructure, shading, drainage and air-quality measures can address multiple climate risks while delivering visible neighbourhood benefits that support ongoing investment.

“Our house has had insulation installed at the back. While it is effective at keeping the house warm, it seems to have been installed cheaply and badly... making our house damp.”

Local Resident¹⁹

Key theme 4:
Cost of retrofit, quality concerns and tenure barriers

What residents experience

Residents want warmer homes and lower energy bills but report uncertainty about costs, landlord permissions and installation quality. Experiences of damp, mixed tenure and financial pressures influence confidence in retrofit.

Key evidence and data

- A 2024 survey found around 59% of homeowners interested in insulation or draughtproofing and around 75% interested in solar panels.
- Housing tenure varies across the neighbourhood, with a significant proportion privately renting (32%), high levels of home ownership in Easton ward and around 44% socially renting in Lawrence Hill.
- Some areas in the neighbourhood have the lowest net household incomes in Bristol after housing costs, and around 12% of residents report financial difficulty, alongside wider affordability pressures affecting home improvements.
- Damp and mould are highlighted as persistent issues locally, with national estimates suggesting related health impacts of poor indoor air quality cost the NHS around £1.4 billion annually.¹⁸

Delivering the vision: implications for climate action and investment

Delivery approaches should emphasise trusted local partners, clear finance pathways, tenant protections and consistent quality assurance. Coordinated neighbourhood programmes can help reduce costs, build confidence and improve uptake.





Key theme 5:
Community capacity, climate concern and readiness for action

What residents experience

Residents express strong concern about climate change and report some behaviour changes around energy use and consumption. Existing community networks and local organisations play an important role in engagement.

Key evidence and data

- Survey data indicates high climate concern locally, with around 94% of Easton residents and 83% of Lawrence Hill residents reporting concern about climate change.
- Evidence from community engagement shows residents reporting behaviour changes around travel, food and consumption linked to climate concerns, and around half of residents report reducing home energy use due to climate concerns.
- Participation indicators show around 45% of people in the neighbourhood engage in cultural or community activity on a monthly basis.
- Around 73% of people report confidence in online learning, alongside established local community organisations and engagement infrastructure.²⁰

Implications for climate action and investment

Early investment in engagement, partnership working and locally rooted delivery can support uptake, reduce risk and strengthen long-term climate outcomes. Climate messaging should reflect the high levels of local concern, connect climate action to everyday priorities such as cost of living, health and comfort, and be delivered through trusted community networks to build confidence and participation.

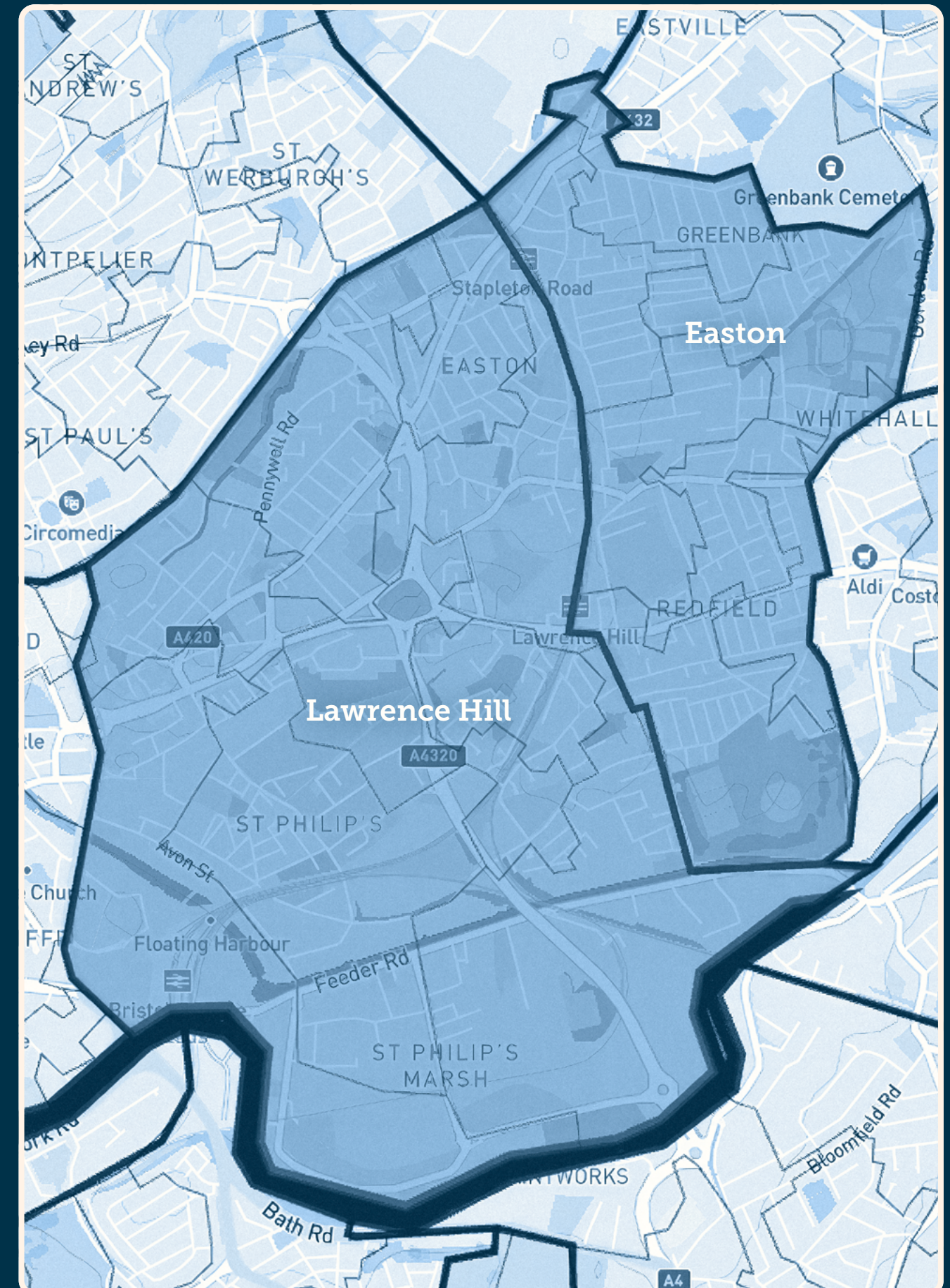
Taken together, these findings indicate that climate action in Easton and Lawrence Hill will be most effective where it reflects local priorities around affordability, housing quality, health and neighbourhood resilience. Strong community networks, high levels of climate concern and clear interest in home improvements provide a foundation for locally rooted delivery models that build trust, increase participation and retain benefits within the neighbourhood. Coordinated, place-based investment offers the greatest potential to deliver lasting climate, social and economic gains.

2. Easton and Lawrence Hill: The neighbourhood

Easton and Lawrence Hill are densely populated inner-city wards just east of Bristol's city centre, bordered by the M32 to the north and the River Avon to the south. They are diverse, vibrant neighbourhoods with strong cultural identity, active community organisations and well-established local networks that support participation and collective action.²¹

Like many inner-city areas, the neighbourhood faces significant challenges. Overcrowded housing, poor housing quality, limited green space and exposure to poor air quality as a result of commercial and industrial activity increase climate risks while affecting everyday health, comfort and affordability.²²

However, these headline indicators do not tell the whole story. Easton and Lawrence Hill are also neighbourhoods of resilience and opportunity, shaped by active community groups, trusted local organisations and residents committed to improving their homes, streets and shared spaces. Concern about climate change and a desire for collective action provide a strong foundation for a just transition that strengthens wellbeing and long-term climate resilience.²³



2.1

The carbon emissions baseline

The estimated average annual consumption-based carbon footprint for a household in Easton and Lawrence Hill is 11.7tCO₂e, compared to a Bristol average of 12.7tCO₂e.

This includes emissions linked to housing energy, transport, food, goods and services, reflecting the wider impacts of everyday consumption rather than direct household emissions alone. A breakdown of these by sector is shown in Chart A.

The total annual emissions associated with all activity across the neighbourhood, Easton and Lawrence Hills ‘territorial emissions’, are approximately 186,000 tCO₂e. This is driven largely by major transport routes, commercial centres, and industrial areas such as the M32 corridor, Cabot Circus, and parts of St Philips, which together account for around 62% of the neighbourhood’s territorial footprint.²⁵

Climate justice

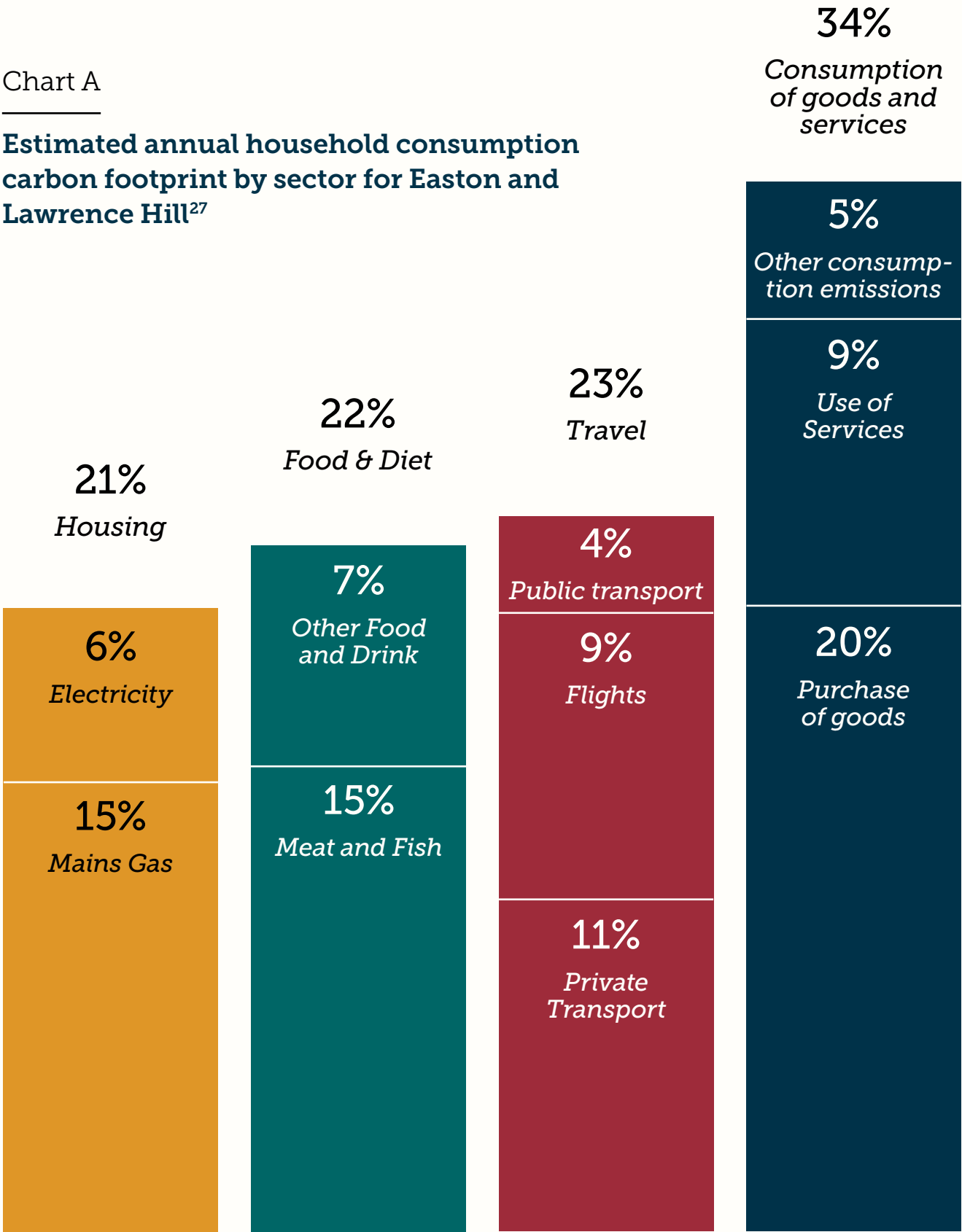
As outlined in Section 1.3, residents in Easton and Lawrence Hill experience a combination of affordability pressures, environmental burdens and housing challenges that shape how climate action is perceived locally. While consumption-based emissions are slightly below the Bristol average, households often face limited control over housing conditions, exposure to poor air quality and increased household pressures and financial constraints.

This means decarbonisation efforts need to prioritise improvements that reduce costs, improve comfort and address environmental inequalities alongside emissions reduction. Neighbourhood-scale approaches delivered through trusted local partners can help ensure climate investment supports a just and inclusive transition while also delivering measurable carbon savings.²⁶



Chart A

Estimated annual household consumption carbon footprint by sector for Easton and Lawrence Hill²⁷



Household waste is also a source of carbon emissions tracked by the Impact tool, however this contributes to less than 1% of a household’s emissions in Easton and Lawrence Hill

2.2

Housing stock and tenure

Approximately 20% of the neighbourhood’s territorial carbon emissions come from the buildings that people live in: their homes.²⁸

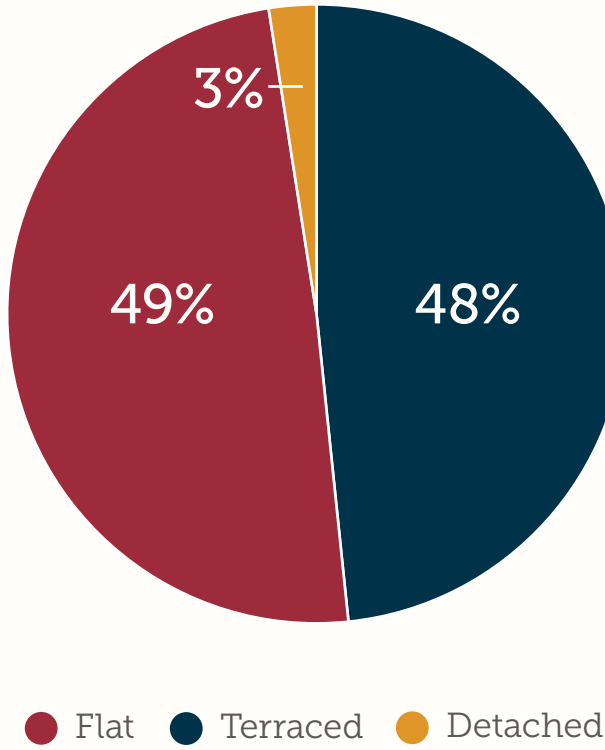
This represents a significant share of local emissions, and with approximately 15,200 households in Easton and Lawrence Hill across a diverse mix of housing types and tenures, a coordinated approach is needed to decarbonise at the scale required.

Victorian and late-Victorian terraces are widespread in Easton, while Lawrence Hill includes more purpose-built flats and post-war blocks such as Croydon House and Twinnell House. The split across these property types is relatively even at 48% and 49% respectively (see Chart B), with other property types making up the remaining 3% of homes.²⁹

To reflect the diversity of local housing, this Community Climate Investment Plan takes an archetype-based approach, using common building types to illustrate how retrofit can be delivered across the neighbourhood’s full housing stock.

Chart B

Property type distribution in Easton and Lawrence Hill³⁰



Tenure matters

Alongside property type, tenure is a key factor shaping how retrofit can be delivered locally and the Easton and Lawrence Hill neighbourhood has higher proportions of private and socially rented homes than the Bristol average, with fewer owner-occupied properties. Tenure also varies by housing type, with terraces typically more often owner-occupied and flats more likely to be socially or privately rented.

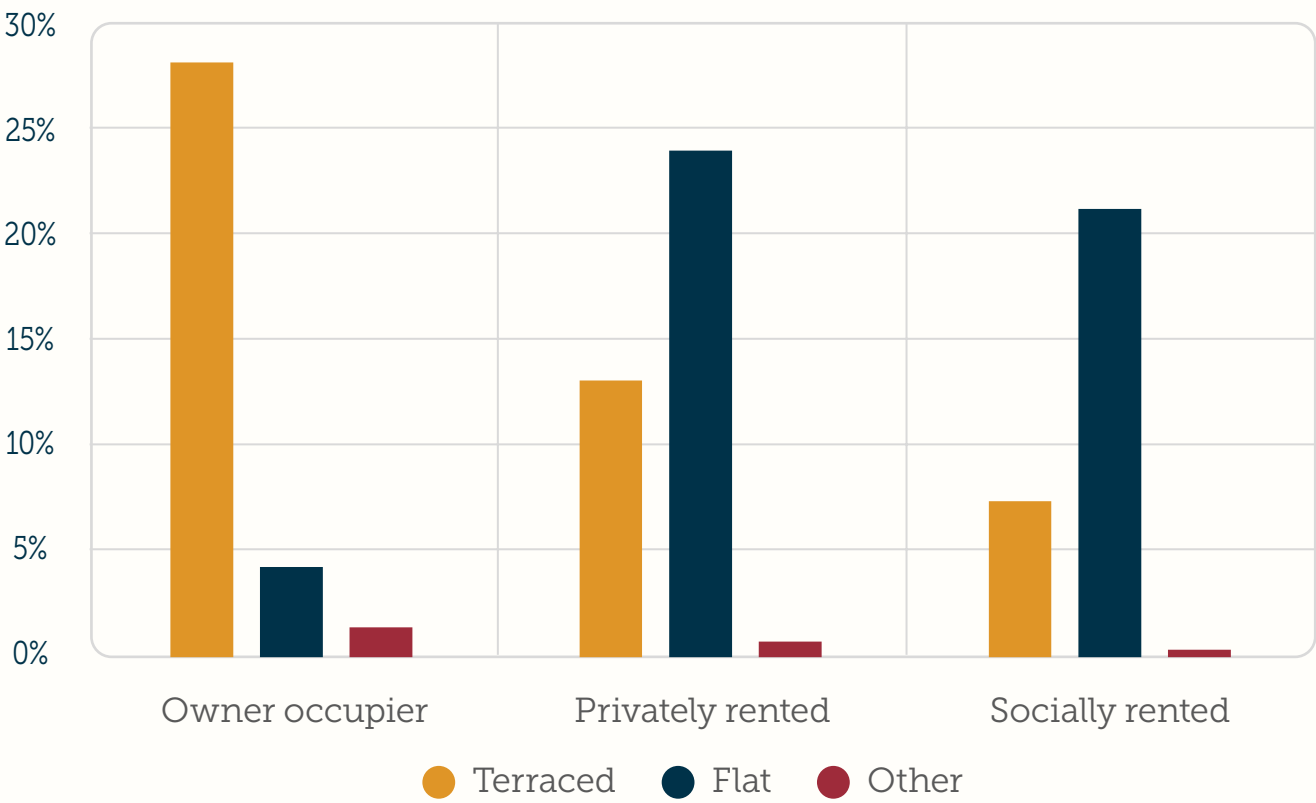
Bristol City Council owns and manages a substantial proportion of homes in the neighbourhood and has published a Housing Heat Decarbonisation Strategy to guide upgrades across its housing stock³¹. With 29% of homes socially

rented, the Council and registered providers are key partners in delivering retrofit at scale. Social housing is distributed across the area, reinforcing the importance of tenure-blind approaches that ensure all households can benefit, whilst private renters also remain an important focus locally, where coordinated support is often needed to overcome landlord-tenant barriers and enable upgrades.³²

Taken together, these conditions provide a strong foundation for neighbourhood-wide retrofit that is capable of delivering lasting benefits across all tenures.

Chart C

Tenure by property type in Easton and Lawrence Hill³³



Typology in focus: The Victorian terrace

Victorian terraces are one common local typology where a street-by-street approach to retrofit can be practical, and where learning can help inform delivery across other housing types and tenures³⁴. While this archetype illustrates shared challenges and solutions, similar whole-house approaches will also be needed for flats and council-owned homes.

Victorian terraces in the neighbourhood are characterised by features such as bay windows, chimneys, high ceilings, pitched roofs and, most notably, solid walls, requiring careful design, trusted advice and phased investment.³⁵

Since these homes were built, the way householders use indoor and outdoor space has changed significantly, and this should be considered when planning improvements to comfort and energy

performance. As the area shifts toward low-carbon heating, a well-sequenced, fabric-first approach combining insulation, good ventilation and carefully designed systems can help homes become warmer, healthier and cheaper to run.

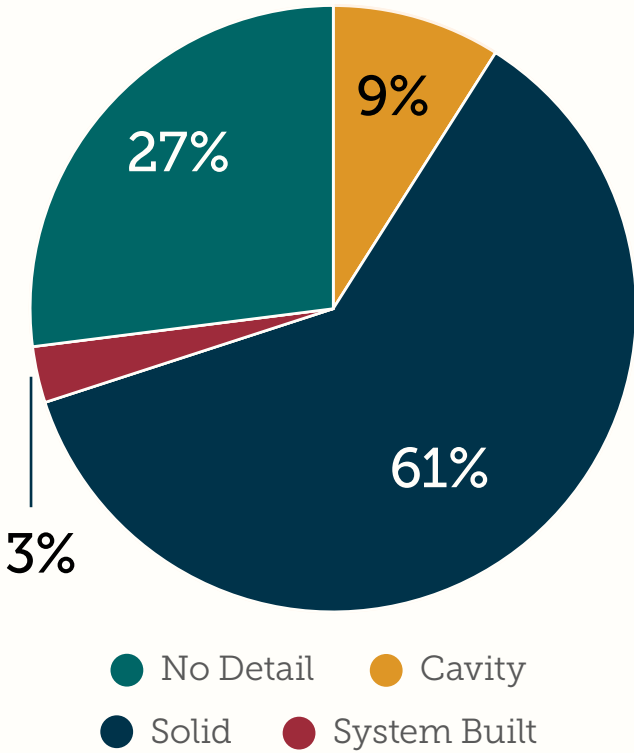
Over the same period, many front gardens have been replaced by hard surfaces, reducing permeability and increasing local flood risk. This creates opportunities to integrate greener streets and rainwater management alongside retrofit, strengthening both climate resilience and neighbourhood liveability.³⁶

Taken together, this highlights the value of a joined-up approach that delivers long-term benefits while avoiding unintended costs for residents.

A blueprint for improving these homes

For householders able to take action now, the National Retrofit Hub’s “Retrofit Pattern Book: Flat Fronted Victorian Terraced House”³⁷ provides a useful resource for improving energy efficiency while retaining heritage value. With the right support, upgrading these homes can improve everyday comfort, cut bills and create healthier streets, forming a foundation for wider climate action across the neighbourhood.

Chart D
Wall construction types in Easton and Lawrence Hill³⁸



An Easton street in 1880
(Bristol City Council, 2025)



An Easton street today
(BIB Photography, 2025)

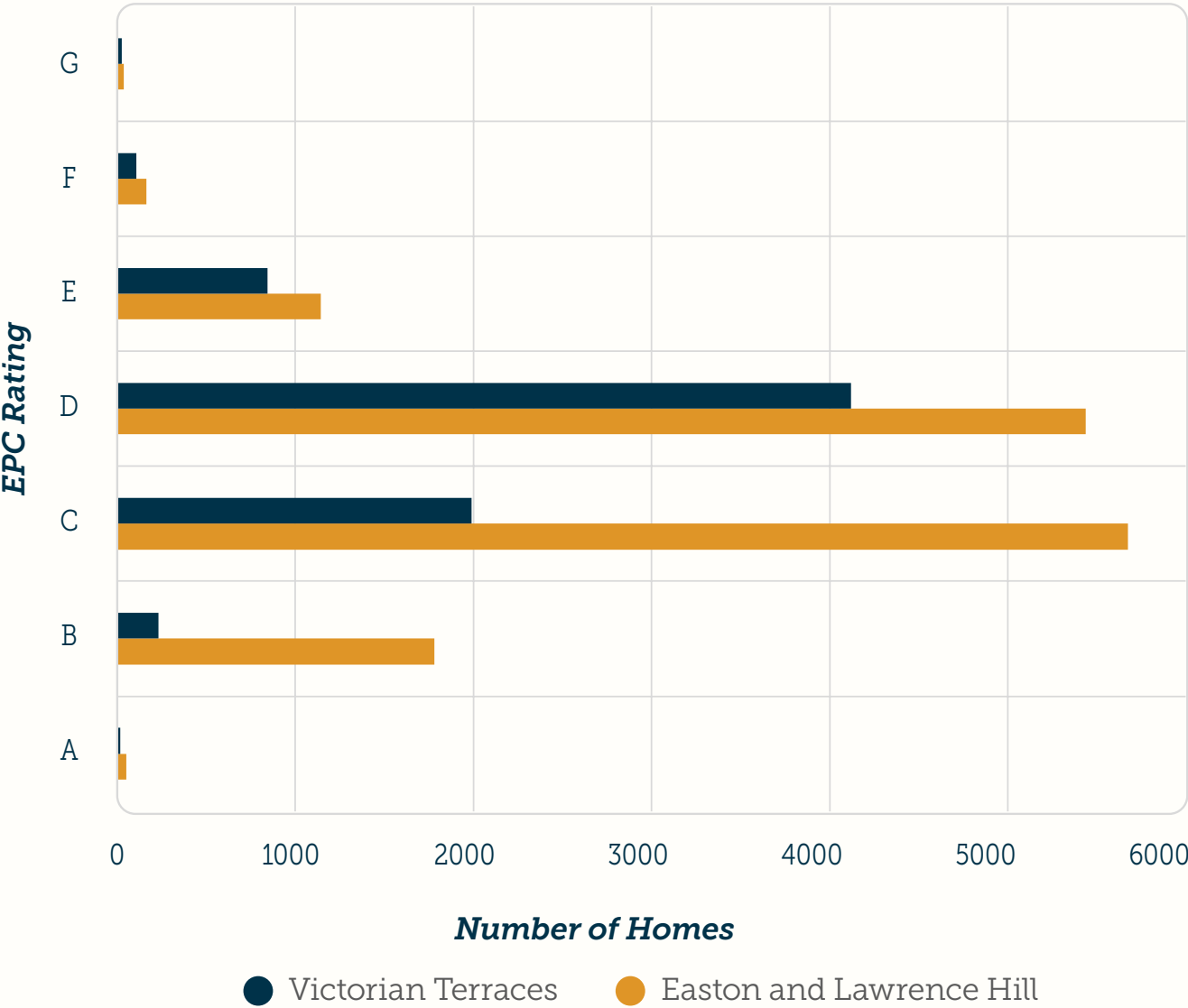
Energy Performance Certificate insights

Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) insights can help highlight typical upgrade needs for one common archetype and how these patterns may differ across the neighbourhood’s wider housing stock, providing an early indication of what measures may be required, while recognising that more detailed, home-specific assessment will be needed going forwards.³⁹

EPC data suggests Victorian terraces often perform below the neighbourhood average, reflecting solid wall construction and higher heat loss than many flats and newer homes (see Chart E).

Chart E

EPC rating distribution for Victorian terraces compared to neighbourhood average⁴⁰



Next steps and implications

In terms of next step action highlighted in EPCs to improve the energy efficiency of Victorian terraces, solid wall insulation has been recommended for over 50% of homes, with floor insulation the second most recommended measure at 35%.

However, whilst loft insulation is low, at 8%, if the number of EPCs that state there is less than 300mm present, or don’t specify at all, are factored in, the number of homes that may potentially need either new loft insulation or a top up of the existing amount rises to 65%. For terraced housing, loft insulation is a low cost, low disruption measure with quick payback periods.

EPCs highlight common measures, but they cannot capture the full picture of how individual homes lose heat. Householders and delivery partners often need better in-home assessment such as measured heat loss and detailed surveys to choose the right sequence of upgrades, reduce risk and build confidence.

Together, these patterns reinforce the case for coordinated, tenure-blind retrofit investment, supported by better in-home assessment, that can scale across all housing types in Easton and Lawrence Hill.

Table A

EPC recommended measures for Victorian terrace properties⁴¹

Recommended Measures	% of homes requiring measure
Solid wall insulation	51%
Floor insulation	35%
Upgrade to windows	10%
Roof insulation	9%
Loft insulation	8%
Cavity wall insulation	6%

2.3

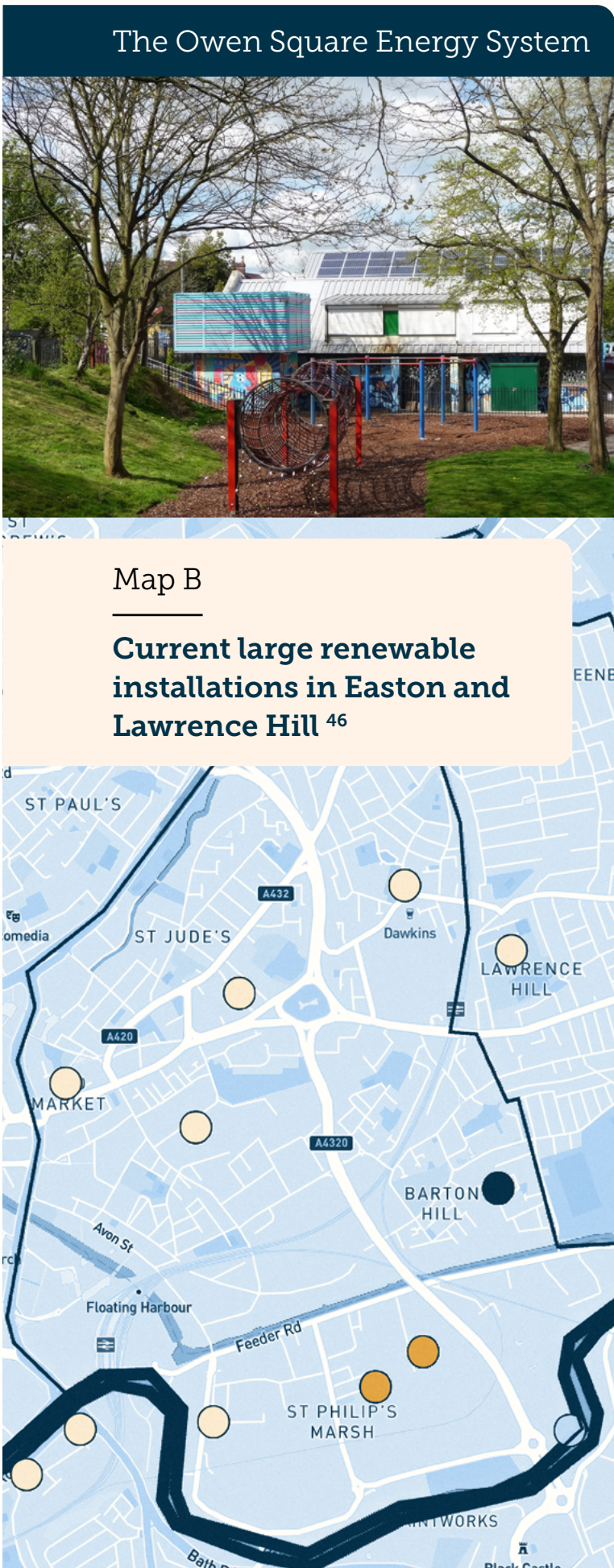
Local energy generation

Easton and Lawrence Hill are dense, urban neighbourhoods with limited space for purpose-built standalone energy sites such as solar farms. With a large number of homes, community buildings and commercial properties, the strongest opportunities for local energy generation come from using existing buildings and infrastructure. While clean energy deployment is still at an early stage, the neighbourhood already hosts several pioneering initiatives that provide a strong platform for future investment. Over time, there is significant potential to expand rooftop solar, storage and shared energy systems and develop a coordinated, neighbourhood-scale approach to delivery. This existing infrastructure is highlighted in table B.⁴²

Table B

Current deployment of local energy generation infrastructure.⁴³

Category	Current deployment
Homes (domestic)	EPC data indicates that approximately 0.63% of homes across the neighbourhood have solar PV. This is slightly lower than Bristol as a whole (0.67%), highlighting substantial scope to grow rooftop solar across the neighbourhood.
Community, commercial and other buildings (non-domestic)	There are currently seven large solar installations, two battery storage sites, and one combined heat and power plant in the neighbourhood. These systems export up to 1.14 MW of electricity. Community organisations contribute a further 100-200 kW, with a solar installation on Easton Community Centre, an integrated system at Owen Square and a solar thermal system on Easton Leisure Centre.



Community-led energy foundations

Easton and Lawrence Hill already host pioneering examples of community-led clean energy infrastructure, with two notable examples:

The Owen Square Community Energy Project

Located at Easton Community Centre, the Owen Square scheme was an early demonstrator of community-scale low-carbon heat and power, combining rooftop solar PV with seasonal bore-hole thermal energy storage (BTES). Like many first-of-a-kind projects, it has faced operational challenges, providing important lessons about the technical, governance and long-term stewardship needed for shared systems to succeed.⁴⁴

The St Philips Marsh Community Battery

At St Philips Marsh, a community-led battery storage project has explored how renewable energy can be stored and used more effectively, generating community value through local ownership and benefit-sharing. It highlights the role storage can play alongside solar in building resilient local energy infrastructure.⁴⁵

Together, these initiatives provide a strong foundation for future investment in community-led solar, storage and shared energy systems, demonstrating both the opportunities and the practical learning needed to deliver resilient local infrastructure while keeping benefits within the neighbourhood.

Solar power

Solar PV offers a practical, scalable opportunity for Easton and Lawrence Hill, delivering affordable low-carbon electricity and direct benefits for households, businesses and community organisations.

There is significant potential to expand solar across both homes and non-domestic buildings in the neighbourhood. Around 7,500 domestic properties are estimated to have suitable roof conditions, alongside strong opportunities

across schools, community centres and public buildings - The potential for energy generation is also considerable across the neighbourhood, with community buildings providing a potential 7,000m2 of useable roof space and a potential solar yield of 1200 MWh per year.

Together, rooftop solar could support up to 72 MW of capacity, generating around 210 GWh each year - enough to power approximately 70,000 homes.⁴⁷

With coordinated delivery and support, solar could become an early and visible foundation for community-led clean energy in the neighbourhood.

Key systemic challenges preventing uptake and potential solutions for exploration are summarised in Table C.

Table C

Practical challenges limiting solar uptake in the neighbourhood⁴⁸

Challenge	What this means locally		Potential solutions
Tenure and leases	A large proportion of households do not own their homes (45%) limiting their ability to install solar. Similarly, many non-domestic buildings are leased, meaning users may not have authority to invest in and install solar installations.		- Develop clear guidance for funding and support for privately rented properties. - Engage private landlords through aligned incentive models, for example by enabling landlords to retain export tariff income and increased property value, while ensuring tenants benefit from daytime bill savings through on-site use. - Develop tailored guidance for businesses and community organisations operating from leased buildings. - Work with social housing providers to support solar installations for social rented homes.
Upfront cost	Solar requires upfront investment, which can be a barrier for households, businesses and community groups, despite long-term savings.		- Reduce costs through bulk procurement and community energy delivery models. - Signpost people and groups to grants and support schemes (e.g. the Bristol City Leap Community Energy Fund, ECO, Solar Together, Retrofit West). - Develop a simple directory of finance options, including low-interest loans.
Grid connectivity	Increasing solar capacity places additional pressure on the local electricity network, which needs careful management to avoid delays or constraints.		- Engage early with the Distribution Network Operator for larger schemes. - Promote awareness that smaller installations may not require grid approval. - Support local flexibility and storage to manage demand and generation.

2.4
Heating

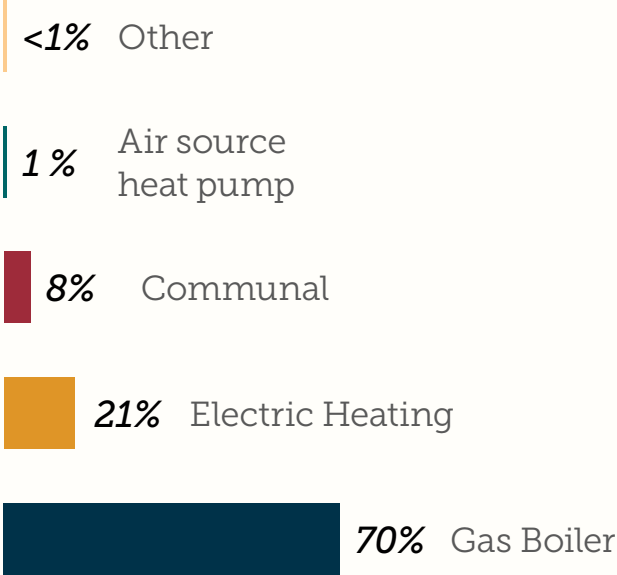
The heating source used by homes in the neighbourhood is predominantly mains gas, with 70% of homes powered by gas boilers. Electric heating is the second most common heating source, with 21% of homes heated by room and storage heaters. Communal heating accounts for 8% of all heating and largely relates to shared systems in the neighbourhood’s tower blocks. Heat pumps account for less than 1% of homes, with 94 installed across the neighbourhood.⁴⁹

The total estimated annual heating spend in the neighbourhood is approximately £11 million, indicating that a 1% heating bill reduction across the neighbourhood could result in up to a combined £110,000 a year of savings.⁵⁰ Typically, householders in flats pay less for their heating, with the average resident paying half that of a householder in a terraced home.

A shift away from gas towards electric heating could offer multiple local benefits, including lower carbon emissions, cleaner air, and reduced energy bills. With the cost of gas directly linked to global energy markets, widespread gas dependency also creates high vulnerability to fuel price shocks, as demonstrated during the 2021–2023 energy crisis, when households across the UK faced sudden, unaffordable price increases, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable in society.⁵¹

While moving away from carbon-intensive gas heating is essential, households must not be left worse off through higher bills or complex installation processes. Because electricity currently

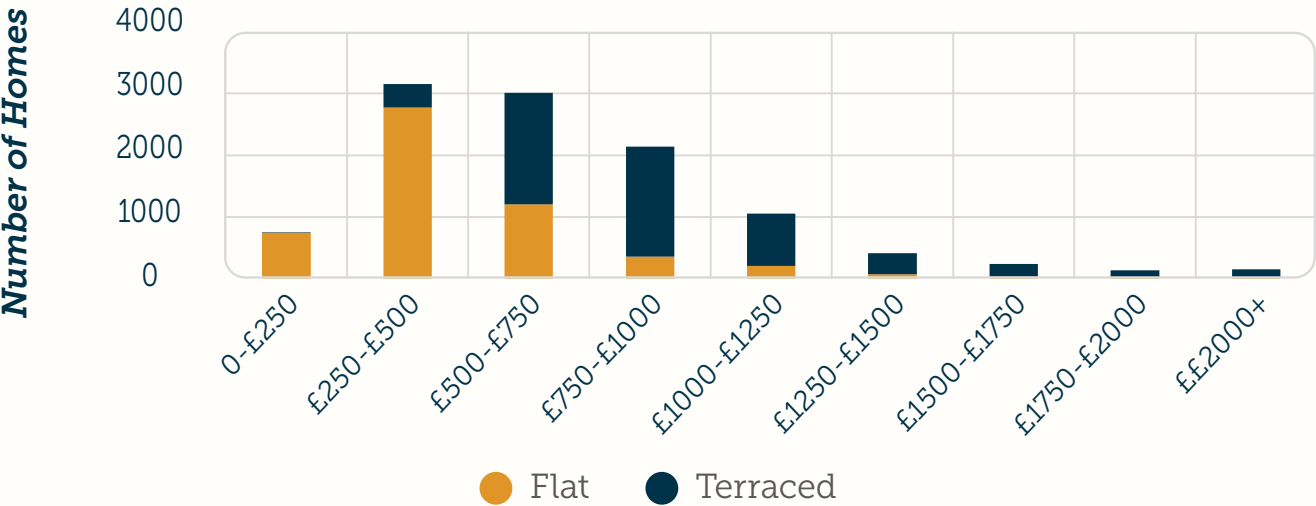
Chart F
Primary heating systems in homes in the neighbourhood⁵²



costs more per unit than gas, switching to technologies such as heat pumps without adequate energy efficiency improvements, or the ability to disconnect from the gas network and avoid standing charges, could result in higher overall costs. A mix of tailored heat solutions will therefore be needed across the neighbourhood, reflecting different housing types and local opportunities. Two key options to explore are air source heat pumps and communal or district heating.*

*At time of publication

Chart G
Annual cost of space and hot water heating⁵⁶



Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs)

Heat pumps are a core part of delivering warm, low-carbon homes. With coordinated retrofit, clear communication, trusted local advice and the right mix of finance they represent a major opportunity for Easton and Lawrence Hill.

ASHPs are a well-established technology and work by converting heat in the outside air to provide low-carbon space heating and hot water for the home, typically through a radiator system and a hot water cylinder. Powered by electricity they are typically 3-4 times more efficient than gas boilers and can substantially reduce household carbon emissions and bills, particularly when homes are well insulated and systems are properly designed.⁵³ Integrating ASHPs with building fabric improvements can help ensure homes are “heat-pump ready”, improving comfort, performance and long-term value.

Installation costs are typically between £10,000 and £20,000, varying by property type and the upgrades needed to make homes heat-pump

ready. In practice, these costs can be addressed through a mix of grants and low-interest finance (for example the government’s Boiler Upgrade Scheme gives any household £7,500 towards the cost of installation and the Warm Home Plan has announced a loan fund will soon be available), alongside neighbourhood-scale delivery, proactive supply chain engagement and trusted local advice that help reduce risk, improve quality and build confidence.

Uptake in Easton and Lawrence Hill is increasing, with around 94 heat pumps distributed across the neighbourhood.⁵⁴ However, this emerging base of installations creates a valuable opportunity to build confidence and stimulate wider uptake through open-home events, local demonstrator projects and peer-to-peer learning led by trusted local residents. With coordinated neighbourhood retrofit, clear advice and targeted investment, ASHP delivery could expand rapidly over time.⁵⁵

Communal and district options

While ASHPs may suit some newer or larger properties, other options, such as shared ground loops, communal heat networks, or waste-heat recovery systems are likely to be required.

With a high density of housing across the neighbourhood, small street-based communal and shared heating systems could offer lower-cost heating solutions for householders and local businesses. Areas in red in Map C indicate the

areas with the highest heat demand density, whilst large anchor loads (bigger buildings that need lots of heat) around which networks can be developed are indicated by black dots. Higher density areas such as those in the north-east of the neighbourhood may offer opportunities for cost-effective shared heating options.

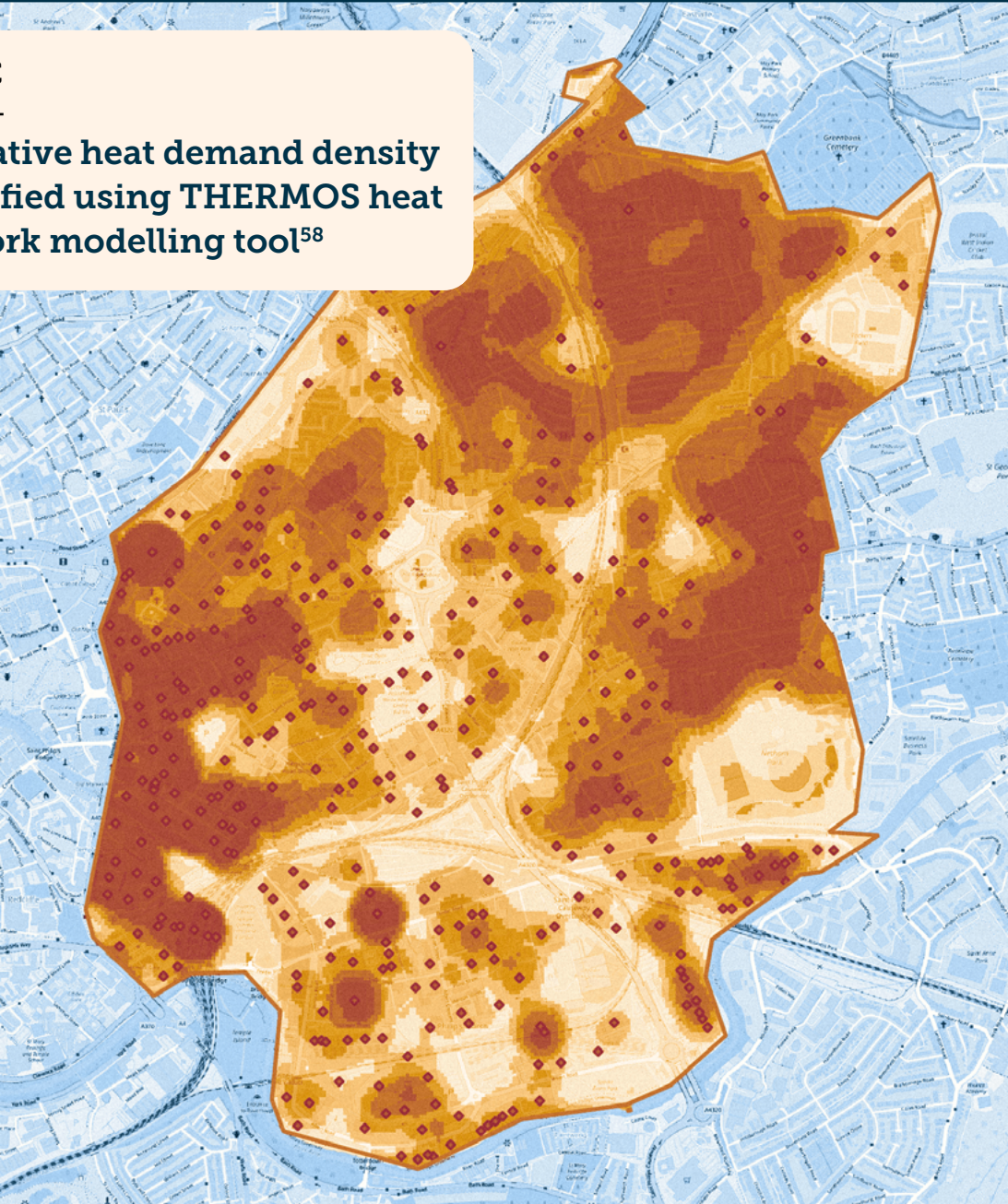
To power these networks a number of potential sources of low-cost heat could be explored.

For example, aquifer or water source heat pumps in the River Avon or Frome, ground source heat pumps in green spaces and parks owned by Bristol City Council or recycling waste heat from industrial processes in St. Philips.

A key factor that could enhance opportunities to develop local shared networks is the expansion of the city’s Heat Network, with ambitions for the network to expand into the Lawrence Hill area in

the coming years.⁵⁷ A number of energy centres have been identified, as well as key potential heat sources and anchor loads, evidencing key commitment and progress to moving forwards whilst offering opportunities for logistical efficiency and socialising shared heating in the neighbourhood.

Map C
Indicative heat demand density identified using THERMOS heat network modelling tool⁵⁸



Moving forwards

Heating electrification is achievable in Easton and Lawrence Hill, but will require coordinated retro-fit, trusted local support and delivery models that work for dense, mixed-tenure neighbourhoods.

Key systemic challenges and potential solutions for exploration are summarised in Table D.

Figure D

Practical challenges limiting electrification of heating in the neighbourhood

Challenge	Systemic challenges and what it means locally		Potential solutions
Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs)	Limited outdoor space in dense terraces can constrain installation, particularly in tightly packed streets.		Focus installs in areas where space allows and maximise available space through compact units and roof-mounted or shared garden installations.
	Older housing typologies often require fabric upgrades first, reducing system efficiency if heat pumps are delivered in isolation.		Deliver high-quality, well-designed, heat pump installations as part of retrofit, ensuring homes are heat-pump ready first.
	Upfront cost and installation disruption reduce householder confidence and uptake, particularly in mixed-tenure areas.		- Use bulk procurement, grants and low-interest finance to reduce upfront costs and perceived risk. - Run open-homes style events alongside trusted independent advice, recognising renovation, extension and home-purchase moments as key retrofit trigger points.
	Low awareness and limited trusted local examples slow adoption, even where climate concern is high.		Phase delivery by prioritising areas with higher climate concern and greater householder capacity in the first instance, generating locally recognisable positive stories that build confidence and support wider uptake.
Communal and district heat network options	Pipework routing and installation disruption in narrow streets can create delivery complexity.		Focus on modular, street or cluster-scale shared heat networks where density allows.
	Shared systems require clear governance, long-term stewardship and trusted ownership models.		Develop cooperative, community or council-backed ownership models to ensure benefits are retained locally and governance is clear.
	Complex financing, coordination and early-stage development risk can slow progress and investor confidence.		- De-risk early development through feasibility funding, anchor-load identification and phased implementation linked to wider retrofit and regeneration programmes. - Combine shared heat opportunities with fabric improvements and plan strategically to connect with citywide corridors (e.g., Fishponds, Temple Quarter) and waste heat sources where viable.

2.5

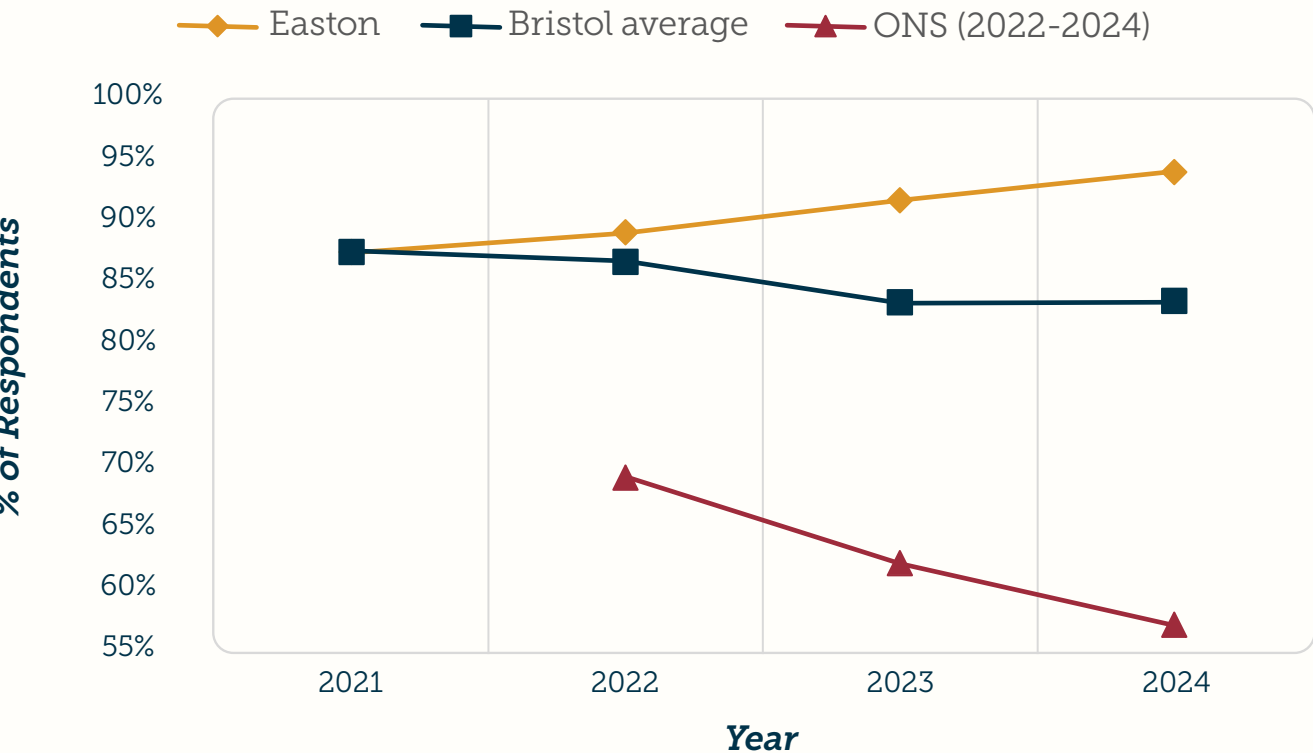
Climate and community action

Demand for change

According to Bristol City Council’s Quality of Life Survey 2024-25 there is strong concern about climate change in the neighbourhood, indicating a strong potential for resident interest in taking future action. In Easton ward 94% of residents have expressed concern, making it the second most concerned ward in the city and this level of concern has risen in recent years, whilst the Bristol average has decreased since 2021 (see Chart H), mirroring national trends. Lawrence Hill has largely followed the Bristol average over the same period, with 83% expressing concern in 2024.⁵⁹

Chart H

Concern about climate change in Easton and Bristol compared with national attitudes⁶²



As a result of this concern, a higher-than-average number of people across both wards have already changed their behaviour, including in the way they travel, the way they eat, and the way they buy goods. For investors, this indicates a strong potential demand for solutions and favourable conditions for investment, with an increased likelihood of uptake and sustained participation.

Grassroots action and local leadership

As well as taking individual action, there is a rich history of grassroots climate action and self organising in the neighbourhood, with local people and organisations collaborating on a broad range of initiatives to meet local climate and energy needs: from street-based pollinator projects, energy champion programmes and community-led research initiatives to innovative energy technology projects such as the Easton Energy Group and the Owen Square ground source heat pump.⁶⁰

Outside of the climate and energy space, community-led action in education, housing, and youth is widespread in the neighbourhood, with a broad range of groups acting to improve the lives of a diverse range of local people. The local knowledge, expertise and trust that these groups and leaders bring, alongside an ability to mobilise, collaborate, and turn ideas into action, is crucial for those looking to stimulate greater uptake of climate and energy action in the neighbourhood. Targeted investment that values what communities can bring to a partnership offers opportunities to unlock significant economic and social benefits, whilst further strengthening the resilience and cohesion of the neighbourhood for the future.⁶¹



“We don’t want people coming in from outside and saying, ‘What can we do for you?’ all the time. Instead, we want them coming into the community and saying, ‘What can we do together?’”

Samira Musse
Resident and Director of Barton Hill Activity Club⁶³

Enabling infrastructure: organisations and networks

A vibrant network of community organisations, faith groups, community centres, and local networks play a central role in supporting and empowering residents in the neighbourhood, working together and using their diverse expertise to foster community cohesion, improve quality of life, and promote sustainable development.

A hub for collaboration in the neighbourhood, Eastside Community Trust provides vital community spaces and facilitates partnerships between residents, local organisations, and authorities to ensure local voices shape the future in areas such as climate, housing, planning and youth. The Trust manages and supports key community assets, including Easton Community Centre and Felix Road Adventure Playground, which play an important role in everyday life and neighbourhood resilience. The Up Our Street Magazine, produced by Eastside Community Trust, is a key communication resource and directory for local people living in the neighbourhood, reaching over 13,000 households.

With regards to climate and energy action, as well as leading the development of the area's Climate Action Plan⁶⁴, Easton Community Centre was the city's first community-owned solar project, highlighting the Trust's commitment and expertise in climate and energy action.⁶⁵

In addition to Eastside Community Trust, there is a strong network of other community and faith organisations in the neighbourhood including Wellspring Settlement, Trinity Centre, The Pickle Factory, Easton Jamia Mosque, and hubs like Jatha Gurdwara and Easton Christian Family Centre. These community spaces and organisations are an essential part of daily life for many local people, fostering connection, support, and resilience throughout the neighbourhood.

As well as the social value that these organisations offer to the local community, they are also shared spaces that require energy efficiency upgrades and can act as demonstrators and positive examples to inspire residents to take action in their homes.



3. From priorities to projects: The Community Climate Investment Plan

With £100 billion of planned investment in new energy sources over the next decade and the UK retrofit market estimated to reach £360 billion by 2050, place-based decarbonisation represents a major investment opportunity.⁶⁶ However, attracting investment and ensuring communities can access and benefit from it remains a challenge, requiring new approaches to unlock these opportunities.

Evidence from other sectors shows that aligning investment with local knowledge, needs, and priorities reduces delivery risk, builds trust, and delivers more inclusive, effective and sustainable outcomes.

Community Climate Investment Planning provides a solution: by working with communities as trusted partners, identifying opportunities, and clarifying the expectations of planners, investors, and policymakers, it translates local ambition into actionable, high-impact projects with local buy-in.

In practice, this approach helps make climate investment faster by building demand, better by capitalising on local knowledge to improve outcomes, and fairer by embedding a just transition from the outset.



3.1

Making climate action fairer by supporting a Just Transition

Delivering climate action at scale requires approaches that build trust, reflect local knowledge, and ensure communities can access and benefit from investment. Alongside making delivery faster and better, a core principle of Community Climate Investment Planning is making it fairer by supporting a just transition.

Climate impacts are felt most acutely by low-income and marginalised communities, yet these groups often have the least access to resources and decision-making power. Embedding community perspectives in climate investment helps ensure action addresses inequality and supports those most at risk. This is particularly relevant in Bristol, where in 2024 activists from disadvantaged communities across the city developed ten principles for a Just Transition, setting out how the shift to net zero must be fair and inclusive. This work has been championed through citywide collaboration, including the Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership, and has since been endorsed by organisations across the city, including Bristol City Council, committing to sustained engagement and capacity-building.⁶⁷

This underscores the need for investment models that protect affordability, reduce inequality, and ensure the transition to net zero delivers shared and lasting benefits for residents. With 31.5% of households in Easton and Lawrence Hill including someone with a limiting long-term health condition, and almost a quarter of residents speaking English as an additional language, inclusive approaches are essential.⁶⁸ Community organisations such as Eastside Community Trust bring cultural expertise and insight into local barriers, helping tailor initiatives so all residents can take part.

Just Transition Declaration



What it means:

Investment in practice

Investors can support a just transition by investing in ways that keep benefits in the community, make it easier for people to take part, and avoid causing harm.

This means:

- Designing funding to protect affordability and prevent displacement, ensuring people can take part regardless of tenure, income, health or household circumstances.
- Developing investment models that prioritise long-term community ownership, stewardship and shared benefit, rather than one-way or extractive delivery where value flows out of the neighbourhood.
- Making sure funding covers the real, everyday costs of involving people, such as translation costs, support from trusted local groups, accessible activities, and staying in touch over time - not just the physical work.
- Paying community members for their time, knowledge and lived experience, recognising this as essential to a fair transition and as an investment in community skills, confidence and long-term benefit, not just buildings or technology.

3.2

Priorities to projects: A local pipeline

This section sets out how local priorities in Easton and Lawrence Hill have been shaped into a clear pipeline of investable opportunities, capable of attracting delivery partners, funding and long-term support.

To support this shift from priorities to projects, a small number of shared tools and frameworks, co-designed with Transforming Energy Together partners⁶⁹, have been applied to bring greater clarity to potential opportunities, their readiness, and the support required to move them forward.

These tools help articulate projects in ways that are meaningful to local communities and transparent to funders, investors and delivery organisations. They include:

- An Outcomes Matrix to capture the wider social, economic and environmental value of community climate action (3.2.1)
- A Project Maturity Assessment Tool to assess readiness for investment and identify any gaps that need to be addressed to enable delivery (3.2.2)

The resulting pipeline in Section 4 spans a range of themes and stages of readiness, showing how projects can progress from early opportunity to delivery over time.

Articulating the wider benefits of climate action

Effectively communicating the wider benefits of climate action is key to building support amongst communities, energy planners, and investors. This support can help secure funding, establish partnerships, and engage local stakeholders, creating momentum for lasting change.⁷⁰

Eight key outcome areas relevant to a broad range of stakeholders have been identified to capture the full value of community-led climate action. An outcomes matrix was used to guide the selection of projects that both meet local needs and provide clear pathways for delivery to planners and investors.

For each project in this plan, the outcomes it contributes to are highlighted, demonstrating the full value of the initiative - not just in terms of carbon reduction or financial return, but also in enabling community action, addressing local priorities, and delivering broader social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Chart I

Categorising outcomes of community climate investment

 Communities able to take action	Outcomes that give communities the tools they need to solve problems both now and, in the future, be that via new knowledge and relationships or access to information and data.
 Direct carbon reduction	Outcomes that reduce carbon emissions.
 Targeted action	Outcomes that improve the efficiency of projects, reduce risk and maximise success.
 A financial return	Outcomes that generate income for investors, residents or community organisations.
 Healthier communities	Outcomes that contribute to better health outcomes for communities by improving wellbeing and housing conditions.
 More money in pockets	Outcomes that result in householders and communities having more money than they did before by reducing bills or providing opportunities to generate income.
 Resilient places	Outcomes that support adaptation to a changing climate and protect local assets.
 Stronger supply chain	Outcomes that build local skills and support regional supply chain development.



Characterising investment readiness

Turning local climate ambitions into action requires projects that are clearly defined and able to meet the expectations of funders and investors.

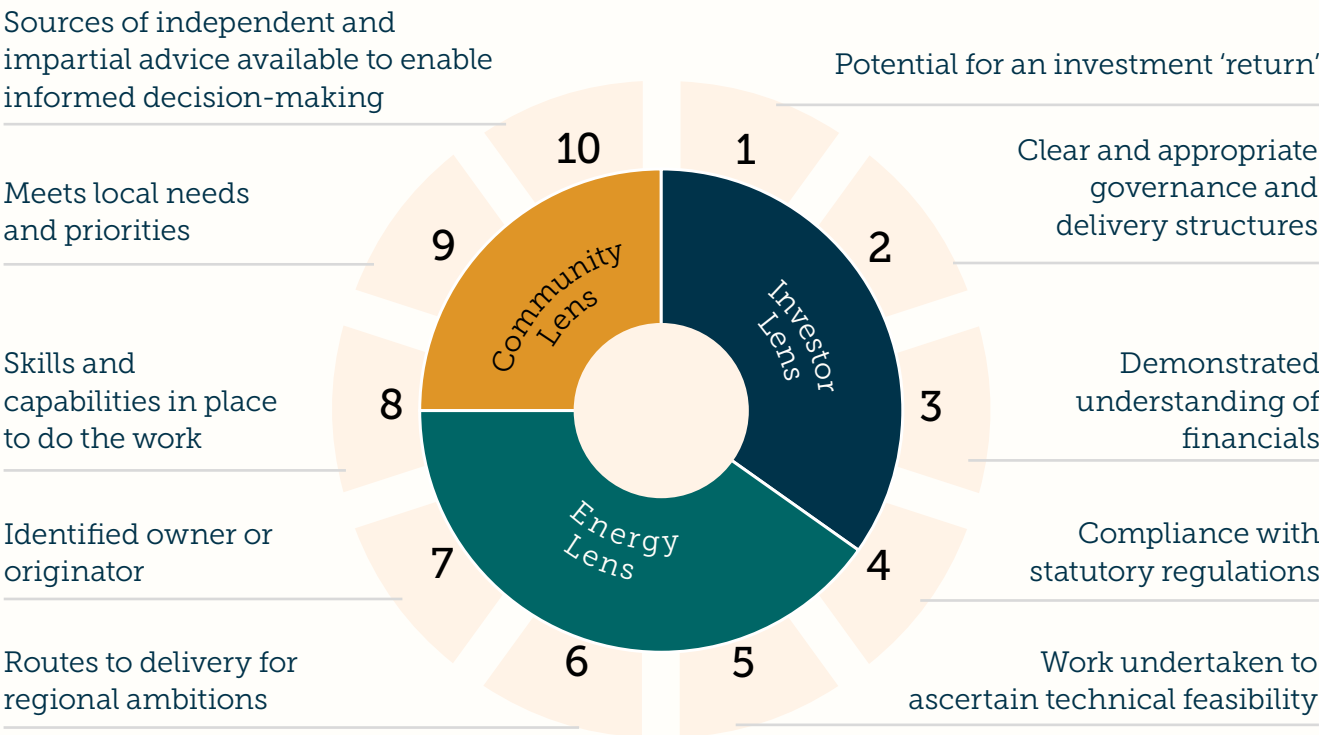
A project is considered “ready for investment” when the right technical, financial, governance, and community foundations are in place to give funders and investors confidence to invest. These foundations reflect the core areas typically examined through investor due diligence, including delivery capability, governance and risk management, and evidence of demand.⁷¹

To support the identification and development of suitable projects win this plan, a purpose-built Project Maturity Assessment Tool was developed (see Chart J). This tool examines opportunities using ten criteria across three complementary lenses:

- **The Community Lens**, ensuring projects are rooted in local needs and supported by the people they aim to serve.
- **The Energy Planning Lens**, ensuring alignment with local and regional strategies and delivery pathways.
- **The Investor Lens**, highlighting the information and structures required to assess viability, risk, and potential return.

This holistic assessment helps bridge the gap between early ideas and delivery by identifying strengths, highlighting areas of weakness, and clarifying where and what further development is required.

Chart J
Project Maturity Assessment Tool⁷²



4. Opportunities for investment

In this section, a range of near-term clean energy opportunities are outlined, grouped into three thematic areas: Homes (4.1), Neighbourhood (4.2), and Skills (4.3). Together, they form a neighbourhood-wide pipeline for investment and delivery, shaped alongside local partners.

Rather than providing a blueprint for the total decarbonisation of Easton and Lawrence Hill, these opportunities prioritise clear, achievable first steps that can be delivered in partnership with communities. The focus is on fair and visible investment that responds to local needs, builds confidence and capacity, and directs resources where they can deliver early, measurable impact.

By combining local insight with targeted investment, these projects establish a strong foundation for effective and sustainable climate action that can be scaled in the years to come. As the owner and landlord of a significant proportion of local housing, Bristol City Council has a central role in enabling low-carbon retrofit at scale and will be an important delivery partner in this transition, guided by its published **Warm Homes Plan** and aligned with the ambitions of this Community Climate Investment Plan.



4.1

Projects in the home

There are 13,800 households across Easton and Lawrence Hill wards, home to over 34,000 people. Whilst there are some similarities between how these homes are constructed, each is unique, with the capabilities and resources of householders and factors such as tenure framing what action can be taken at any point time.

A number of clean energy opportunities are outlined in this section. These opportunities are split into:

- **Projects supporting the development of an equitable foundation in the neighbourhood by targeting action where it is needed most.** These projects focus on simpler actions to make homes warm, healthy and robust in the face of a changing climate, as well as enabling householders to better engage with smart technology.
- **Projects looking to stimulate wider uptake of measures amongst householders with the ability and agency to engage.** These projects focus on bulk-buying initiatives and targeting support to enable informed decision-making.



Building an equitable foundation

The projects in this section focus on simple, low-risk actions that help householders make their homes warmer, healthier and more comfortable, while building confidence to take part in more ambitious retrofit over time.

Designed as early, accessible stepping stones they respond to immediate needs such as damp, mould, comfort and energy costs, while helping households understand what good retrofit looks like in practice.

These opportunities are intended to support all housing tenures, including the area’s significant social housing stock. Delivered alongside trusted local organisations, these projects provide clear starting points for residents, landlords, local authorities and investors.

By building householder and community capability early they help create the conditions for more comprehensive, street-scale retrofit that is inclusive, well understood and rooted in local experience.



Adapting to a changing climate

This project focuses on low-cost, practical adaptations that help homes cope with rising temperatures and more extreme weather.

A small neighbourhood pilot would support residents to install measures such as blinds and shutters, paired with hands-on support so households can choose options that fit their home and budget. Delivered through trusted local organisations, the project also builds awareness of climate risks while giving householders tangible experience of adaptation measures they can see and feel.

These visible, manageable actions help reduce overheating in summer, improve comfort year-round, and reduce heat loss through windows in winter by up to 33%⁷³, while building confidence and ownership that supports progression into wider retrofit and resilience.



Smart and fair local energy systems

This project supports households to better understand and manage their energy use through Smart Energy Action Plans, supported by smart technologies such as smart meters and real-time feedback. The focus is on helping residents make sense of their energy data and translate it into practical, everyday actions.

By building confidence and capability around how energy is used in the home, the project addresses common gaps in understanding that currently limit the benefits households receive from existing systems.

Evidence from smart energy trials suggests that simple action planning can reduce household energy bills by around 4% in some cases⁷⁴. Delivered at neighbourhood scale, Smart Energy Action Plans provide a fair and accessible starting point for households, building energy literacy and confidence while creating clearer pathways into shared energy, flexibility and wider retrofit initiatives.



Making Homes Warm and Healthy

This opportunity area focuses on practical actions that improve comfort and health in homes, especially where damp and mould are affecting everyday life. It combines two linked sub-projects:

- Damp and mould: supporting households and social housing providers to identify causes (including ventilation and moisture risk) and take practical steps to address them.
- Quick-win upgrades: installing LED lighting and loft insulation, with the potential for substantial household bill savings.⁷⁵

The focus is on visible, trusted support that helps householders understand what works, builds confidence, and creates a stronger starting point for deeper retrofit.

Unlocking householder finance

For households in Easton and Lawrence Hill who are ready and able to take next steps, clear and practical routes are needed to turn growing interest into action. Even where confidence is increasing, uncertainty around cost, disruption and performance can still limit uptake.

The projects in this section are designed as next-step gateway interventions and by bringing households together at neighbourhood scale,

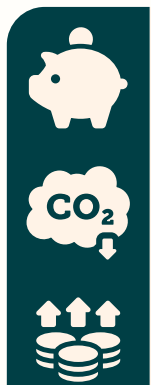
they enable aggregation that reduces risk and cost, unlocks household investment, and creates clearer routes to coordinated action.

This approach makes it easier for households to invest, either as match funders alongside public or philanthropic support, or as primary funders where they are able, whilst giving local authorities and investors a simpler, scalable model to support.



Next step insulation

This project supports households considering more substantial fabric improvements, such as floor insulation, cavity or solid wall insulation, or external porches. These measures can feel high-risk without trusted advice, clear sequencing and reassurance. A neighbourhood-scale pilot delivering building assessments would help households identify appropriate next steps, understand options and make informed decisions. Delivered collectively, this approach improves quality, reduces duplication and creates clearer pathways towards more coordinated retrofit.



Stimulating Solar Uptake

This project supports households ready to invest in renewable energy by making solar PV simpler, cheaper and more accessible through neighbourhood-scale coordination.

By aggregating demand across streets and using bulk-buying and coordinated delivery models, the project reduces costs, simplifies decision-making and improves quality. This enables household investment to act either as match funding alongside public or philanthropic support, or as primary capital for those able to invest independently.

Collective purchasing models such as Solar Together have demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach, achieving bulk-buying discounts of up to 34%.⁷⁶ With less than 1% of homes in the neighbourhood currently utilising their solar potential⁷⁷ there is clear scope to unlock significant household-led investment through a locally trusted, coordinated model.



Smart Thermostats

For those who are ready to explore smart heating options, bill savings of around 10-20% can be achieved by installing smart thermostats,⁷⁸ with relatively short payback periods. A bulk-buying programme across the neighbourhood would drive costs down for householders and provide them with knowledge and information, with the potential to reduce by up to 10tCO2e per year.

4.2

The neighbourhood

A neighbourhood is a place where local people meet, work and play, and a pro-active approach should be taken to build local resilience in the face of rising energy costs and a changing climate. A number of clean energy opportunities are outlined in this section, and focus on improving assets of community value, presenting accessible transport alternatives and adapting to a changing climate.

Improving assets of community value

Community centres, places of worship and public buildings offer opportunities to inspire wider interest in retrofit and energy that could translate to a greater uptake of domestic measures in the future.⁷⁹

Often with a smaller number of actors to convince, an increased agency to enact change and, in some cases, tried and tested business and financing models, these established local

assets are potential showcases that can demonstrate the value of retrofit and energy action.

Enabling studies and energy efficiency plans have already been undertaken for several community buildings in the neighbourhood and offer first opportunities for investment that can help stimulate wider uptake in the neighbourhood in the years to come by showcasing the benefit of energy efficiency measures to similar buildings.



Community Clean Energy

The project aims to refurbish and update the existing energy systems at Easton Community Centre, Felix Road Adventure Playground, and Raised in Bristol Nursery to maximise on savings from utility bills. This includes increasing insulation and airtightness, updating heat pump technology, and implementing point of use water systems, resulting in an estimated potential saving of over 6tCO₂e per year.⁸⁰

Trinity Centre building improvements

This project will service and re-commission the building’s existing solar array and add battery storage, along with taking steps to get off gas by introducing infra-red heating and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery. Additional works include secondary glazing, LED lighting, new loft insulation, and upgrading the building energy management system. This project has the option to be delivered over three distinct phases.



Easton Community Centre, (Tadeusz Hare, 2025)

Presenting accessible transport alternatives

The combination of narrow Victorian terraced streets and high-rise flats in the neighbourhood mean that streets are often densely crowded with cars. This can mean that options for electric vehicle (EV) charging are limited.⁸¹

The transport transition relies on people making personal behaviour changes. For individuals to do this, accessible, convenient and safe alternatives need to be made available. There is high demand in Easton and Lawrence Hill for cars. This means, if successful, the projects in this section could lead to a significant shift away from fossil-fuel transport, whilst also tackling local issues of overcrowding and improving air quality and resident wellbeing.



An example of an existing e-bike charging hub



EV charging points for terraced streets

This project aims to expand safe, accessible EV charging across the neighbourhood, addressing the current shortage of suitable options for residents without off-street parking. Providing reliable local charging points can make it easier for more households to participate in the shift towards cleaner transport, supporting wider uptake while helping tackle congestion, air quality pressures and local transport inequalities.

Accessible Resident E-Bike Charging Hub

A pilot project creating a secure charging and bike storage facility for residents of high-rise flats has the potential to reduce carbon emissions whilst providing a safer alternative to home battery charging. With the potential of adding solar panels to generate electricity for charging, this could also offer some financial return over time and is a model that could be replicated and scaled up across high rise blocks in Easton and Lawrence Hill, and the wider city.

Adapting to a changing climate

Overheating, flooding, and poor air quality pose major risks to climate resilience in Easton and Lawrence Hill. Lawrence Hill and most of Easton face high heat vulnerability, with some areas among the highest in the city⁸⁴, and surface water flooding is frequent, particularly in underpasses along key commuting routes, with several streets projected at high risk by 2040.⁸⁵ Proximity to the M32 and large commercial and industrial areas in the neighbourhood further contribute to poor air quality.

To address these challenges, targeted, nature-based interventions provide practical solutions, with a strong local mandate. In a recent survey, 62% of residents endorsed “making streets greener,” and 76% highlighted more trees, wildflowers, and biodiversity as key improvements.⁸⁶

The two opportunities outlined here offer achievable first steps that can also build local confidence, strengthen capacity, and create a foundation for scalable, sustainable climate action.



Street planters

With some areas having as little as 5% tree canopy cover, creative approaches are required to increase tree cover in the neighbourhood.⁸² This project involves residents coming together to build planters in front of their homes, primarily on the typical Victorian terraced streets, and planting trees to reduce overheating, improve air quality and making streets greener and nicer places to live. Similar projects on Camerton Road and Stanley Park have demonstrated a precedent and replicating this in other streets will improve wellbeing, reduce carbon, and build resilience in a neighbourhood adapting to a changing climate.⁸³ Typically a low-cost initiative of interest to a number of philanthropic funders, street tree projects require ongoing maintenance which should be accounted for in decision-making. Alongside planting, targeted information campaigns can encourage residents to retain front garden greenery rather than paving over spaces for parking, helping increase canopy cover while reducing surface water runoff.

Rainwater harvesting

Surface water runoff is a key issue in the neighbourhood and this project would see residents and community groups in areas most at risk of surface flooding collecting rainwater in their gardens or communal spaces during periods of severe contrasting weather. This project works in combination with other nature-based activities, such as street planting, and meets the community’s need to protect nature.

4.3 Skills

Building local skills, confidence and practical capacity to improve homes, reduce living costs and support everyday resilience is a clear priority in Easton and Lawrence Hill. At the same time, strengthening the green skills supply chain is becoming increasingly important across Bristol, the West of England and nationally as the transition to net zero accelerates.⁸⁷

Demand is significant. Government estimates suggest delivery of the Heat and Buildings Strategy could support around 240,000 green-skilled jobs by 2035, while the Construction Leadership Council estimates the UK will require around 500,000 additional professionals and trades.⁸⁸ In the West of England alone, up to 50,000 jobs are expected to support the transition, including around 14,000 linked to housing retrofit.⁷⁴

Despite this growing demand, much existing green-skills provision focuses on upskilling established contractors or promoting formal apprenticeships and technical training. These routes can remain difficult to access for many residents due to limited awareness and confidence, and wider structural or cultural barriers. Easton and Lawrence Hill are highly diverse wards with relatively young populations and this creates clear potential for local workforce development, but without targeted approaches that address systemic access barriers, residents are at risk of missing out on emerging employment opportunities linked to the transition.

There is also a wider structural mismatch between skills funding and delivery. Between 2019 and

“At local scales community-led groups and public services such as libraries, museums and job centres can likewise underpin skills development and provision, with trade unions, student associations and the third sector together having a crucial role to play in creating the conditions needed to transform the skills system nationwide.”

Skills and Net Zero (2023)⁸⁹

2022, £3.3 billion of Apprenticeship Levy funding went unspent nationally, while procurement models in retrofit and construction often favour larger national firms. This can limit local workforce development and reduce the economic benefits retained within communities where investment takes place.⁷⁵ It highlights the opportunity for more place-based approaches that connect skills funding directly with neighbourhood delivery, helping ensure investment supports both workforce development and local economic resilience.

Trusted, place-based organisations in Easton and Lawrence Hill are well positioned to help bridge this gap through strong community relationships, locally rooted infrastructure and experience supporting participation across diverse communities. Alongside their direct work, they can play an important convening and enabling role within the wider skills ecosystem, connecting residents, training providers, employers and delivery partners. Over time, this can help build confidence, support community-led innovation and strengthen pathways into employment, ensuring the economic and social benefits of the net zero transition are retained locally while reducing delivery risk for future investment.



Community-led solutions

Eastside Community Trust’s experience of local climate action show that facilitating practical workshops such as draughtproofing, DIY skills and repair workshops are popular and empowering for communities.⁹⁰ Initiatives like Bristol Energy Network’s Energy Champions programme have evidenced the potential for foundation building, community-based initiatives that add wider local value, with 15 warm homes champions trained and active in Easton and Lawrence Hill.⁹¹ For those who haven’t engaged in climate or environmental work before, providing an accessible entry point is crucial, and action in the neighbourhood to inspire, upskill and remove barriers could unlock a diverse workforce for the future, with valuable lived experience of the local housing stock. The projects on this page offer tested approaches to get things moving

Inspiring young people

With children and young people forming opinions about their future career options, or perceived lack of, whilst still at primary school⁹², a locally-led project utilising Felix Road Adventure Playground to inspire young people about green careers would capitalise on a well-used local asset and grow the next generation of local green leaders.

Removing barriers

For many, not being able to afford the tools to enable them to undertake work in their own homes or gardens is a factor preventing action. Local tool libraries operate across the country and establishing one at Easton Community Centre would reduce the cost of entry into green skills for local householders, with the potential to become self-sustaining through a pay-what-you-can membership model.

Building skills to meet local needs

Self-interest is a key motivator for action. Proven approaches implemented elsewhere in the city, such as Bristol Energy Network’s Warm-Up Skill-Up Programme⁹³ could offer practical opportunities for local people to learn through doing in their own homes, building a baseline of skills and interest to enable engagement with more committing regional provision in years to come.

“The ‘Reskilling for Net Zero’ briefing found that over 60% of respondents had not heard of green skills and that only one in five knew which green skills employers require. This lack of awareness was identified as the leading barrier to the pursuit of green skills development.”

**UK Government
Pride of Place, 2025⁹⁴**



Maximising opportunities for green innovation

The creativity and resourcefulness of local people is evident throughout the neighbourhood - from murals and cultural activity to the self-organisation and action residents take to address local needs.⁹⁵

Rather than requiring entirely new initiatives, this social capital provides a strong foundation to build on. A focus on supporting residents to connect into existing employability, skills and enterprise programmes could help unlock green opportunities locally, enabling more people to participate in the transition and apply their lived experience to practical challenges.

Small-scale mechanisms, such as a targeted Energy Challenge Fund to back community ideas and local prototypes, could make it easier for residents and businesses to trial solutions and build confidence, while strengthening links with future regional initiatives like the Bristol Local Access Programme (run by BBRC from 2021 to 2025)⁹⁶. Together, these programmes provide wraparound support that can nurture local skills, enterprise, and routes into green work.

“Communities are built through the hard work, time and imagination of people coming together. Right across the country, people have endless ideas to improve their neighbourhood – they just need the resources and tools to make that change happen.”

**UK Government
Pride of Place, 2025⁹⁷**



Longer-term enterprise

Building on the challenges and opportunities identified across this plan, two promising longer-term pathways have been highlighted that could support local employment, skills and retrofit delivery, both in the neighbourhood and across the wider region. While these have not yet emerged as community-led proposals, they represent opportunities that could be developed further with local partners if there is interest and capacity.

Going further: a Traditional Building CIC

A national shortage of skills in the supply chain relating to the Victorian terrace housing typology seen across Easton and Lawrence Hill provides an opportunity for local skills development that can meet a clear regional need.⁹⁸ With approximately 110,000 of these homes across Bristol⁹⁹, a workforce of local residents with lived experience of the housing type and skills developed through the trade school model could offer a longer-term solution to the challenge of retrofitting traditional-build properties.

Connecting supply and demand: a local brokerage model

Through the Warm Homes Champion Project local people expressed that they find it difficult to get trades in for smaller soft retrofit measures, whilst a desire for more culturally sensitive and female tradespeople has been identified as a way to build trust with local people. On the flip side, local tradespeople have highlighted a lack of jobs coming to them from the local area, and an interest in being better connected to local opportunities. A service working alongside local organisations to identify and connect local demand with the most appropriate providers would offer value to all, with the potential for longer-term revenue generation through finder fees.

5.

Moving to delivery: Collaboration in action

As regional investment frameworks and national programmes continue to develop, there is a growing opportunity to connect community priorities with emerging funding, policy and delivery structures. By working collaboratively, local organisations, communities and Bristol City Council, can help progress projects, strengthen local capacity and governance, and translate neighbourhood ambitions into practical, investable activity.

This section highlights the shared commitment and intent across communities, Bristol City Council and the wider region to support the transition from early-stage planning to coordinated delivery across Easton and Lawrence Hill and the wider Bristol portfolio, acknowledging key routes to delivery and setting out priority areas of focus in the near term.

Visit to community owned wind turbine in Lawrence Weston



5.1

A shared commitment

Eastside Community Trust and Bristol City Council share a commitment to supporting meaningful, community-led climate action in Easton and Lawrence Hill and across the wider Bristol portfolio of neighbourhood climate investment plans. Building on the learning and opportunities identified through this work, partners intend to continue collaborative exploration of how priorities can be progressed, drawing on emerging regional arrangements, national policy developments and other potential funding sources.

The inclusion of projects in these plans does not imply agreement from any organisation to approve or undertake the work described. The plans are a snapshot in time and a great starting point but further conversations with the community organisations will be needed before developing the projects described to check that these are still what the community wishes to proceed with. The endorsement of these plans does not constitute Bristol City Council approval for the projects within the plans. Implementation of any of the projects by Bristol City Council would be subject to additional governance approvals.

Routes to local delivery: national and regional opportunities

In January and February 2026, the Government published two key policy initiatives – the Warm Homes Plan and the Local Power Plan. Both are expected to support investment in home retrofit, neighbourhood energy infrastructure and skills development, closely aligning with priorities and opportunities identified by the Easton and Lawrence Hill community through this plan. Having clear, community-rooted investment priorities strengthens Bristol City Council’s ability, alongside partners, to align with these programmes and secure resources where opportunities arise.

Alongside these national initiatives, the community priorities set out in this plan have also informed the emerging West of England Clean Energy Investment Plan and proposed delivery mechanisms. Further work is planned to ensure these neighbourhood priorities continue to be integrated with developing regional and citywide plans over the coming months.

Key focus areas

Subject to resources being available, this ongoing collaboration is expected to focus on:

- Strengthening community capacity and governance arrangements
- Developing projects to investment-ready stage
- Aggregating neighbourhood initiatives where this supports scale and efficiency
- Engaging delivery partners, funders and investors
- Ensuring alignment with evolving regional and national programmes.

While progress will depend on funding availability, policy development and continued partnership working, the foundations established through this plan – strong community engagement, clear priorities and coordinated working across Bristol neighbourhoods – provide a credible basis for moving from planning toward delivery.



Glossary of terms

Affordability: The extent to which households can reasonably meet the costs of housing, energy and essential living expenses without financial hardship.

Area-based approach: A coordinated approach to improving homes or infrastructure across a defined neighbourhood or area, rather than working one building at a time.

Carbon emissions: Gases released into the atmosphere (such as carbon dioxide) from activities like heating homes, transport and electricity use, which contribute to climate change.

Carbon neutral: When the total carbon emissions produced are balanced by actions that reduce or remove the same amount from the atmosphere.

Climate adaptation: Changes that help people, homes and neighbourhoods cope with the impacts of climate change, such as overheating, flooding or extreme weather.

Climate justice: The principle that climate action should address inequality and ensure that those least responsible for emissions are not unfairly burdened and benefit from solutions.

Climate resilience: The ability of homes, infrastructure and communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate impacts.

Community capacity: The skills, knowledge, relationships and resources within a community that enable it to organise, participate in and deliver local projects.

Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP): A plan developed with local residents that sets out a shared vision and priorities for climate and nature action in a neighbourhood.

Community Climate Investment Plan (CCIP): A plan that translates community priorities into practical, fundable projects focused on homes, neighbourhood infrastructure and local skills.

Community-led: Designed, shaped or delivered with strong involvement and leadership from local residents and community organisations.

Community wealth: Economic value, jobs and skills that are generated and retained within the local area rather than flowing out to external organisations.

Decarbonisation: Reducing carbon emissions from homes, transport, buildings and energy systems.

Energy efficiency: Improving how a building uses energy so less is wasted — for example through insulation, draughtproofing or more efficient heating systems.

Fuel poverty: When a household struggles to afford adequate heating and energy services at reasonable cost.

Green infrastructure: Natural and designed features such as trees, parks, green roofs and sustainable drainage that improve environmental quality and climate resilience.

Green jobs: Employment that supports environmental sustainability, including roles in retrofit, renewable energy, nature restoration and low-carbon construction.

Just transition: A shift to a low-carbon economy that is fair and inclusive, ensuring that benefits and opportunities are shared, especially with those most affected by inequality.

Local energy system: Energy generation and supply that happens close to where it is used, such as rooftop solar panels or shared neighbourhood energy projects.

Low-carbon heating: Heating systems that produce little or no carbon emissions, such as heat pumps or heat networks.

Mixed tenure: A neighbourhood with different types of housing ownership, including owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing.

Net zero: Achieving a balance between the carbon emissions produced and those removed from the atmosphere.

Neighbourhood-scale approach: Coordinating improvements across a street or area to reduce costs, increase impact and improve fairness, rather than upgrading one building at a time.

Renewable energy: Energy from natural sources that are constantly replenished, such as solar, wind or hydro power.

Retrofit: Upgrading existing homes or buildings to improve energy efficiency, comfort and climate resilience.

Tenure-blind approach: Designing programmes so people can participate regardless of whether they own or rent their home.

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