

Energy:2030 Chart of the Week

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“Energiesprong has the potential to create huge carbon savings in UK domestic housing in a smart and innovative way. Despite higher upfront costs, long-term cost and carbon reductions must be seen as part of the long-term vision of decarbonisation.”

Energiesprong could revolutionise UK decarbonisation

In its latest report, *Reinventing retrofit*, published earlier this month, Regen highlighted the potential benefits of redesigning the UK’s energy efficiency policy.

The report outlined the necessary action needed to tackle the efficiency of the UK’s housing stock, deemed to be the least energy efficient in Europe and contributing to more than 3,000 deaths from cold, insufficiently heated homes every year.

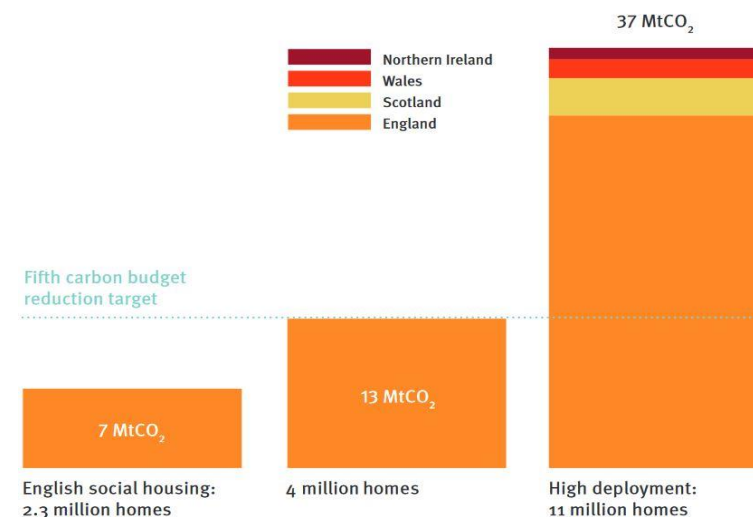
The UK has shown good intentions with a target to upgrade all homes to EPC band C standard by 2035. However, this is still a way off with 71% of homes still in need of upgrade to this standard – something that Regen sees as unlikely under the current policy approach.

The main current (ECO) and previous efficiency schemes (CERT and CESP) have targeted low-cost installation measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation, which are now present in over 60% of UK homes.

In order to further decarbonise households, and facilitate upgrades to more hard-to-treat homes, its report highlights the need to transition to new alternative and innovative efficiency techniques, with the Energiesprong scheme initiated by the government of the Netherlands outlined as a viable solution for achieving this.

Energiesprong has been a highly successful approach to energy efficiency upgrades across the Netherlands. It sets standards to achieve net zero energy homes. Typically this involves a new thermally efficient façade, solar PV roof and ‘energy hub’ which includes air or ground source heat pumps and optional batteries.

Figure 1: Potential UK emissions reductions from Energiesprong retrofits



Source: Regen

Through implementation of a similar approach in the UK, it is estimated that carbon reductions could meet the targets within the fifth carbon budget from upgrade of 4mn homes (see Figure 1). This compares to 15mn upgrades needed every year to achieve the same results under the current regime. If further expanded to all eligible homes (estimated to be at least 11mn), carbon emissions reductions could surpass 37 MtCO₂.

Once rolled out on a larger scale, Energiesprong type deployment could achieve installation cost reductions of 54% from £75,000 to £35,000 per house by 2025. In 2025, this would make it 12.5% cheaper than the expected costs of conventional retrofits.

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