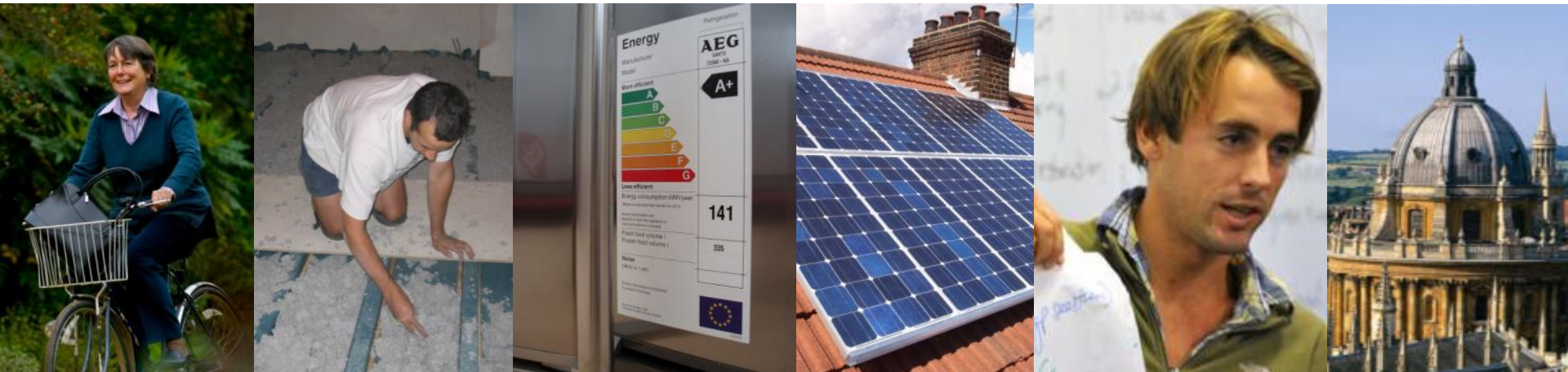




Scaling up Local Action

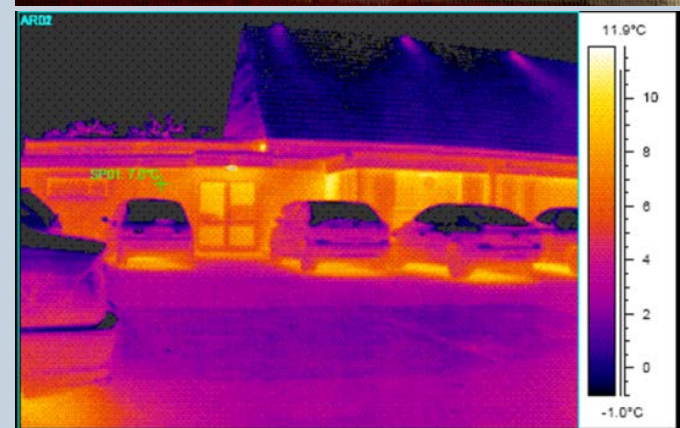
Ruth Mayne ruth.mayne@ouce.ox.ac.uk

Jo Hamilton jo.hamilton@ouce.ox.ac.uk



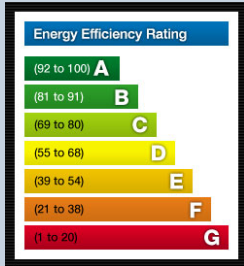
Overview: The role Low Carbon Communities (LCCs) can play in the transition to a low carbon future

- Focus
 - Community groups and Local Authorities
 - Household and personal energy use
- Evidence draws on
 - 3 ½ year EVALOC research programme with 6 LCCs, Oxford Brookes University and University of Oxford (ongoing)
 - wider body of research on LCCs e.g. UNLOC
 - own experience as practitioners



The challenge: emission reduction

Scale of challenge and short timescales → need for portfolio approach to achieve carbon reduction targets:



increased energy efficiency



reduced energy demand



decarbonizing energy supply

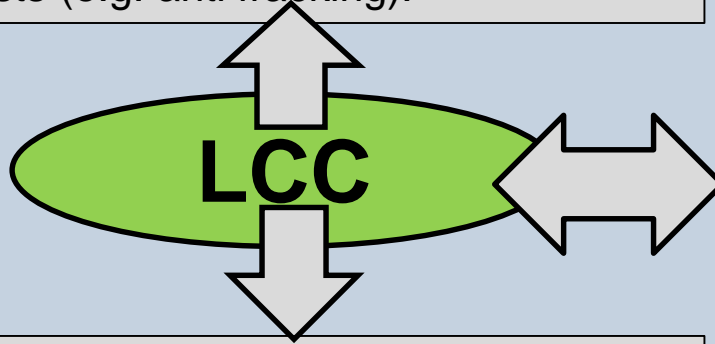
... these require some degree of behaviour change by *people*:



LCC Roles

Building on Janda and Parag's 'Middle out' framework (2011, 2013)

2. Upstream: Building public support for govt. action on climate change; and informing and influencing govt. policy e.g. via modelling solutions, lobbying, public campaigning, protests (e.g. anti fracking).



1. Downstream: Engagement; norms and values; empowerment; innovations; changing energy behaviours/practices; uptake of new low carbon / energy efficient technologies; fuel poverty; socio economic benefits, building community / resilience

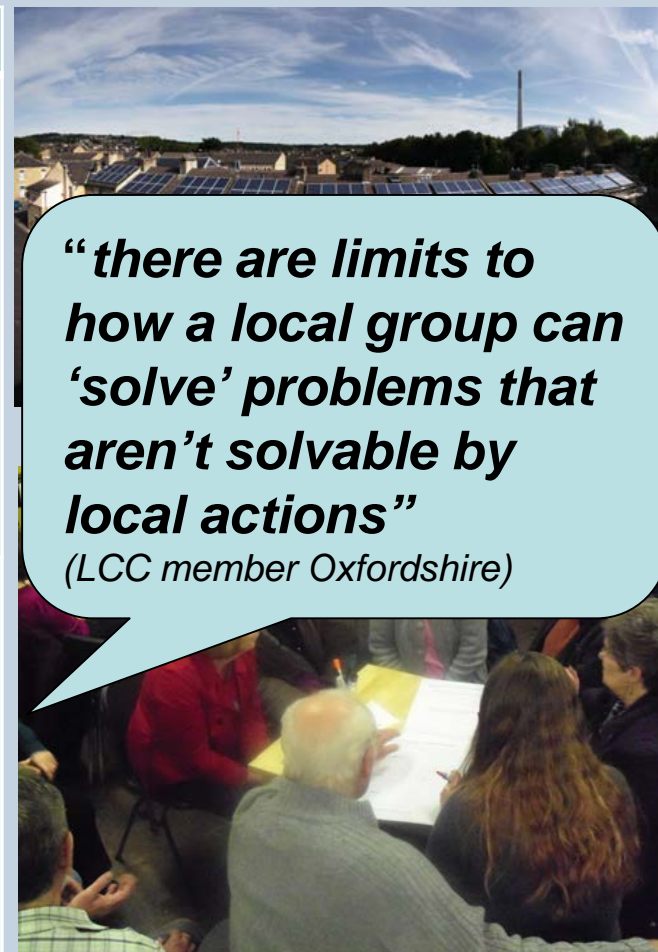


3. Midstream / sideways Coordinating and/or catalysing action by other local actors; increasing scale & reach through joint working; disseminating innovations through networking



Perceived strengths and limits of downstream roles

LCC type	Strengths	Limits
LA led	Engagement; Adoption of low carbon technologies; addressing fuel poverty;	Empowering residents; changing residents behaviours; developing innovatory approaches
Community led	Engagement, innovation, empowering residents, changing behaviours	Adoption of new low carbon technologies; addressing fuel poverty



Household carbon reduction policy

Emphasis on **market led, decentralised and voluntary** approaches:

- Financial incentives are weighted to technical infrastructure, limited investment in human and social infrastructure
- Private sector unlikely to take on many needed roles
- Limits to how far households will *voluntarily* reduce carbon emissions
- Structural constraints not fully addressed

Solutions



Anyone for sport? A comparison

Behaviour change through community sport: large Govt investment in **physical and human infrastructure**

e.g. hosting and engaging people in the Olympics

- long term strategy, inclusive, values and develops the human infrastructure
- £1bn planned spending for UK community sport in next five years:

facilities

mentoring

events

scholarships

training courses
training facilities

technical
guides

salary
supplements



Imagining the future

Imagine what **LCCs** could achieve if they received longer term funding on a par with sport funding...

support for

- core staff e.g. to coordinate and support volunteers, outreach
- skill sharing, learning, development and mentoring networks and events between communities and intermediaries
- national and community engagement events
- intermediary organisations to support and develop LCC sector, encourage broader local partnerships
- Local Authorities also require revenue funding

How to achieve the change

HOW is as important as WHAT and WHO

- Experience from previous social movements/public campaigns suggests the community movement could contribute to systemic change
- Community groups have significant untapped ‘soft power’: legitimacy from taking action and leadership, they represent ordinary people, are trusted local actors, have practical expertise & tacit knowledge
- Challenge to develop movement / coalition to accelerate change and exert pressure on government, with allies from LAs, community sector, academia, government, business, scientists, wider civil society.



Conclusion

- LCCs (local authority and community groups) – are important change agents who play key down, mid and upstream roles
- Shortfalls in current policy approach restrict their contribution and potential reach, scale and speed of carbon reduction
- Need for policies which support mutually reinforcing top down and bottom up action and invest in human/social as well as technical infrastructure
- Requires coordinated movement/coalition for change with shared change objectives, clarity about responsibilities, roles and change strategy (insider / outsider)