

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **Energy & Communities interactive exhibition**
- **Winning paper at 30th PLEA conference**
- **Final Advisory Board Meeting**

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A SENSE OF ENERGY: AN ENERGY & COMMUNITIES EXHIBITION



Above: The EVALOC exhibit at the Senedd, Cardiff (image thanks to Merryn Thomas)

As part of the Evaluating Low Carbon Communities (EVALOC) research project, the Low Carbon Building Group (part of OISD) has helped to create an installation to be part of an interactive community energy exhibition. The 'A Sense of Energy' exhibition included exhibits from Cardiff University, Goldsmiths College and Keele University, and was funded by the Research Councils UK.

The EVALOC installation used thermal imaging and carbon mapping to help 'visualise' energy. By airbrushing the colours normally seen in a thermal image onto a doll's house, it provided an innovative way of demonstrating heat

losses from a typical Victorian terrace as well as providing recommendations on how to reduce such heat losses. The carbon mapping showed the changes in a community's estimated domestic household energy use, before and after local community energy action.

The exhibition ran in London in July 2014 and in Cardiff from September until October 2014. In Cardiff, the exhibition had workshops and chances to talk to researchers and visitors about methods, issues and the exhibition work.

The exhibition was very successful, and allowed the researchers to stray from their typical world of academic

journals in order to convey research findings to the general public in more imaginative and appealing ways. The exhibition created a comfortable environment for a wide variety of people to openly discuss energy and learn ways of saving energy themselves; "I learnt about some energy saving tips and enjoyed hearing about people's personal opinions of energy. The house I found the most practical for personal energy saving and most useful."

Thanks to Cardiff University and Goldsmiths College, as well as the designer, Rachel Murphy, for putting together this very successful exhibition.

FINAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



Above: Discussions amongst members of the EVALOC advisory board



Above: Presentations from the EVALOC researchers

On the 18th December 2014 we held our final Advisory Board Meeting. Members of the Advisory Board include energy and community experts from government, academia, industry and practitioners.

The EVALOC team presented the work done to date at both community and household level, followed by open discussion and debate; particularly in terms of appropriate target audiences and knowledge exchange and dissemination methods.

The board were introduced to the EVALOC Energy and Communities Toolkit, which led to very useful discussion on the interface as well as the contents.

The toolkit has been a work-in-progress, and input from the six communities, through the

focus groups held this summer, has been invaluable.

As a community-facing toolkit, it was felt that case studies as well as summary briefing notes would be most useful, but that more in-depth technical reports should also be included and allow those interested to access the more detailed evidence. In terms of the interface it was felt that the navigation needed to be very simple, with visual aids rather than text.

The EVALOC team would like to thank all members of the Advisory Board (past and present) for their help and guidance throughout the project.

HOUSEHOLD M&E UPDATE

Second round interviews

The final round of interviews was undertaken this summer and the data are currently being analysed.

Monitoring

The 5 minute monitoring systems in 29 of the

houses were scheduled to be removed in November/ December 2014, but this has been delayed due to difficulties in appointing suitable contractor/s to remove the monitoring equipment. However, the EVALOC team is hopeful that this will be complete before the end of February.

Many thanks go to the households that had these installed for their patience and understanding. They have provided really valuable data to the project, and will contribute greatly to national understanding of domestic energy use.

A Winning Paper at the PLEA Conference, India, 16-18th December 2014

The EVALOC team is pleased to announce that our conference paper on 'A quiet revolution: mapping energy use in low carbon communities' won the Best Paper award at the 30th PLEA conference in Ahmedabad, India. The conference was attended by 500 delegates and nearly 300 papers and posters from 50 countries were presented.

The paper will be available for download in the New Year.



Left: Award for Best Paper at the 30th International Conference of Passive & Low Energy Architecture.

BEHAVE Conference, Oxford, 3-4th September 2014

BEHAVE 2014 was the third European conference on behaviour and energy efficiency. Held in Oxford, this year's conference theme was 'Paradigm Shift: From Energy Efficiency to Energy Reduction through Social Change.'

The EVALOC team was pleased to find that two presentations based on the findings from EVALOC were chosen.

Jo Hamilton presented 'Here come the energy police: Social networks and energy consumption' in the 'Community Energy

Right: Presentations at the BEHAVE Conference, Oxford by EVALOC researchers.

Programmes: networks and capacity' session, whilst Rajat Gupta presented 'Quiet revolution: impacts of low carbon communities on localised energy behaviours' in the 'Community Energy Programmes: fuel poverty and demand reduction session'.

Both presentations were well received and the published conference papers from these presentations can be found on the EVALOC website: www.evaloc.org.uk



Royal Geographic Society-Institute of British Geographers Conference, London, 26-29th August 2014

EVALOC researchers in partnership with Awel Aman Tawe presented 'Creative approaches to energy in a

community context' at the annual International Conference of the RGS-IBG.

This presentation was in the

Narrating Energy: Performance and Creativity session and was again, well received.

IN OTHER NEWS...

Sharing our findings:

Over the past six months, the EVALOC project team have been busy analysing the data in preparation for outputs, for the toolkit as well as for the final conference and communities.

In addition, there have been a number of publications, presentations and workshops including:

- A paper on 'unravelling the unintended consequences of home energy improvements' in the International Journal of Energy Sector Management.
- A display and workshop on working with university research at the CAG (Community Action Group) Oxfordshire Skillshare event.
- A workshop/seminar on creative approaches to energy in a community context at the University of Exeter.

Links to the conference papers and presentations are available online at the EVALOC website: www.evaloc.org.uk

In addition, EVALOC researchers have developed a step-by-step guide to community monitoring & evaluation, with low carbon and transition community groups in the UK, including EVALOC communities. The spin-off project received very useful and positive feedback from participants and the resources will be available online at www.mesc-project.org

Upcoming events:

A key date for the diary is March 27-28th 2015 when a major Low Carbon Communities Network / Climate Coalition Conference will be held.

EVALOC researchers will be

presenting at the Milesecure conference in Rome on 17th February 2015 (the MILESECURE -2050 International Seminar on 'European Societies facing Energy Transition: the challenge of the human factor and energy security up to 2050.'

However, the main focus over the next few months will be on developing outputs for the toolkit and final conference.

The end-of-project conference for EVALOC will be held in March 2015 (date to be confirmed). It is also hoped that a few workshops for a variety of stakeholders including DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change) will be held in the lead up.

... we will keep you posted with any updates. But in the meantime, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



For further information please contact:

**Professor Rajat Gupta
Low Carbon Building Group
Oxford Brookes University
Headington Campus, Gypsy Lane
Oxford OX3 0BP**

Phone: (+44) 1865 484049

Fax: (+44) 1865 483928

E-mail: rgupta@brookes.ac.uk

www.evaloc.org.uk

The EVALOC project seeks to assess, explain and communicate the changes in energy use due to community activities within six selected case study projects under the Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC) Low Carbon Communities Challenge (LCCC) initiative, a government-supported initiative to transform the way communities use and produce energy, and build new ways of supporting more sustainable living.



Grant Reference:
RES-628-25-0012

EVALOC is a three-year multi-disciplinary project worth £1.14 million funded by the UK Research Council's (RCUK) Energy Programme. The energy programme is a RCUK cross council initiative supported by EPSRC, ESRC, NERC, BBSRC and STFC.

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