



Chapeltown Cohousing Limited - Chapeltown Cohousing Community Energy

OVERVIEW

Leeds-based Chapeltown Cohousing (ChaCo) are currently working to transform derelict land in one of the most deprived areas of the country into a vibrant neighbourhood. They're creating 29 affordable low-energy homes, shared facilities, recreational space, opportunities for inter-generational connections and a diverse community grown from the local area.

The team have developed their plans for affordable housing in response to the needs of local people - and clearly reducing and generating energy are a key part of keeping the housing affordable and cutting fuel poverty.

SOLUTION

The funding has helped to support the development of an energy strategy for the new homes at ChaCo. The strategy includes everything from managing, reducing, generating and potentially purchasing energy.

Practically, this has meant getting professional help on choosing the best energy solutions for the new homes that will be built, as well as professionally produced designs for the actual electrical and mechanical systems that the finished properties will feature.

OUTCOMES

The grant was spent engaging Leeds Environmental Design Associates (LEDA) - a cooperatively-run design company – to assess the project's energy needs. LEDA produced a professional report with high level recommendations suggesting feasible energy solutions (including solar PV), and have also given an overview of how it should be installed.

The money was also spent on creating mechanical and electrical designs for the project (also from LEDA) - this now means that the ChaCo team have detailed specifications in a format that contractors can understand and can now quote against.

Beyond the initial funding, ChaCo have also continued to work closely with Northern Powergrid, looking at supply solutions into the project.

OBJECTIVES

The project aimed to develop a comprehensive energy strategy for the 29 new community homes that are being built at ChaCo, resulting in a set of clear recommendations on the best energy solutions for the project, and a practical design plan for their implementation.

MORE DETAILS BOX OUT

Project title: Chapeltown Cohousing Community Energy

Group name: Chapeltown Cohousing Limited

Theme: Reducing energy

Area of benefit: Leeds

Duration: 12 months