Energy intermediaries for just urban futures

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Inclusive urban decarbonisation

• **Energy efficiency**: Improving the energy performance of the residential stock

• **Equity**: Fuel poor households are crucial for the success of the low-carbon transition

• **Engagement**: Putting people first, ensuring that communities are mobilised and trust is developed
• A Living Lab approach (Voytenko et al 2016) to address fuel poverty, energy vulnerability and energy injustice

• Improving energy efficiency, thermal comfort, and citizen well being

• Engagement of intermediaries and energy advice to deliver interventions

• Focus on the social capacities, relations and emotional well-being of participants

• Skills for access to resources and building ‘flexibility capital’
Some facts about Greater Manchester:

- 2 cities
- 8 metropolitan boroughs
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- 2.8 million people
- 4 Greater Manchester metropolitan boroughs are among the UK’s top 25 most deprived
The quiet world of energy advice intermediaries

- Energy intermediaries – thinking beyond innovation (Hargreaves et al 2013) and acceleration of low-carbon transitions (Parag and Janda 2014)

- Making cities from within – dynamics of maintenance and repair (Graham and Thrift 2007)


- Unseen practices of infrastructural work / economic intermediation / care / emotional labour / city-building

- Rethinking energy, labour and transformations
The Living Lab in numbers:

A collaboration across over 50 organisations, including two universities, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, AgilityEco (LEAP), and Groundwork

565 households received direct advice (386 home visits and 197 phone consultations), 303 follow-ups

10 energy cafés (5 online) with approximately 270 local residents. Focus

Estimated annual bill reduction of 8.47 per cent across the lifetime of the lab (June 2018-February 2021)
Concluding thoughts: inclusive urban decarbonisation

• **Equity and justice:** Targeting and including energy poor households

• **Engagement:** Putting people first, developing approaches and technologies responsive to people’s needs

• **Infrastructures:** Recognising the role of social reproduction and other forms of everyday agency
THANK YOU

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