**Winchester Area SuperHomes**

Have you been think about reducing your home’s carbon footprint?

Local charity Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) has recently launched Winchester Area SuperHomes, a two year non-profit project aimed at reducing home energy use. It will provide homeowners with tailored, independent advice on how they can retrofit their properties to reduce their carbon emissions, and so help the City Council achieve a net zero carbon District by 2030.

WinACC is looking to provide 150 homeowners across Winchester District with detailed Whole House Retrofit Plans which cover areas such as insulation, solar panels and heat pumps. They are offering subsides for homeowners on low and mid incomes and providing advice on available grants.

Energy use in the home is responsible for around 20% of direct carbon emissions. Winchester Area SuperHomes can help homeowners to transform the energy performance of their home to reduce its cabin footprint by retrofitting. Retrofitting means changing a property so that it uses less energy and has lower carbon heating.

Winchester Area SuperHomes will provide help with some costs for homeowners on low and middle incomes (but is open to homeowners on all income levels) – this will include some of the survey and design costs. But the real benefit is being linked into a project that provides:-

* Access to qualified and accredited Retrofit Coordinators
* Technical back up from the National Energy Foundation
* Support to access grants.

The first step is for the Project Officer to arrange a home visit or video call to explain exactly how Winchester Area SuperHomes works. They will then put you in touch with a qualified Retrofit Coordinator who will carry out a survey of your property and produce a Whole House Retrofit Plan. This is a detailed assessment of you property and will include a costed list of all the measures you could take to reduce your home’s energy use and carbon footprint.

There are several grants available for home energy retrofit – and the Project Officer can help you apply for them. From April, the Boiler Upgrade Scheme will provide grants of £5,000 towards the cost of an air source heat pumps. For homeowners on low incomes, the Green Homes Local Authority Delivery scheme can provide grants of up to £10,000.

To find out more, and register your interest go to: http:www.winacc.org.uk/what-we-do/campaigns-2/wash-home/