

OCTOBER 2025

GREEN WATCH

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Welcome to GREEN WATCH

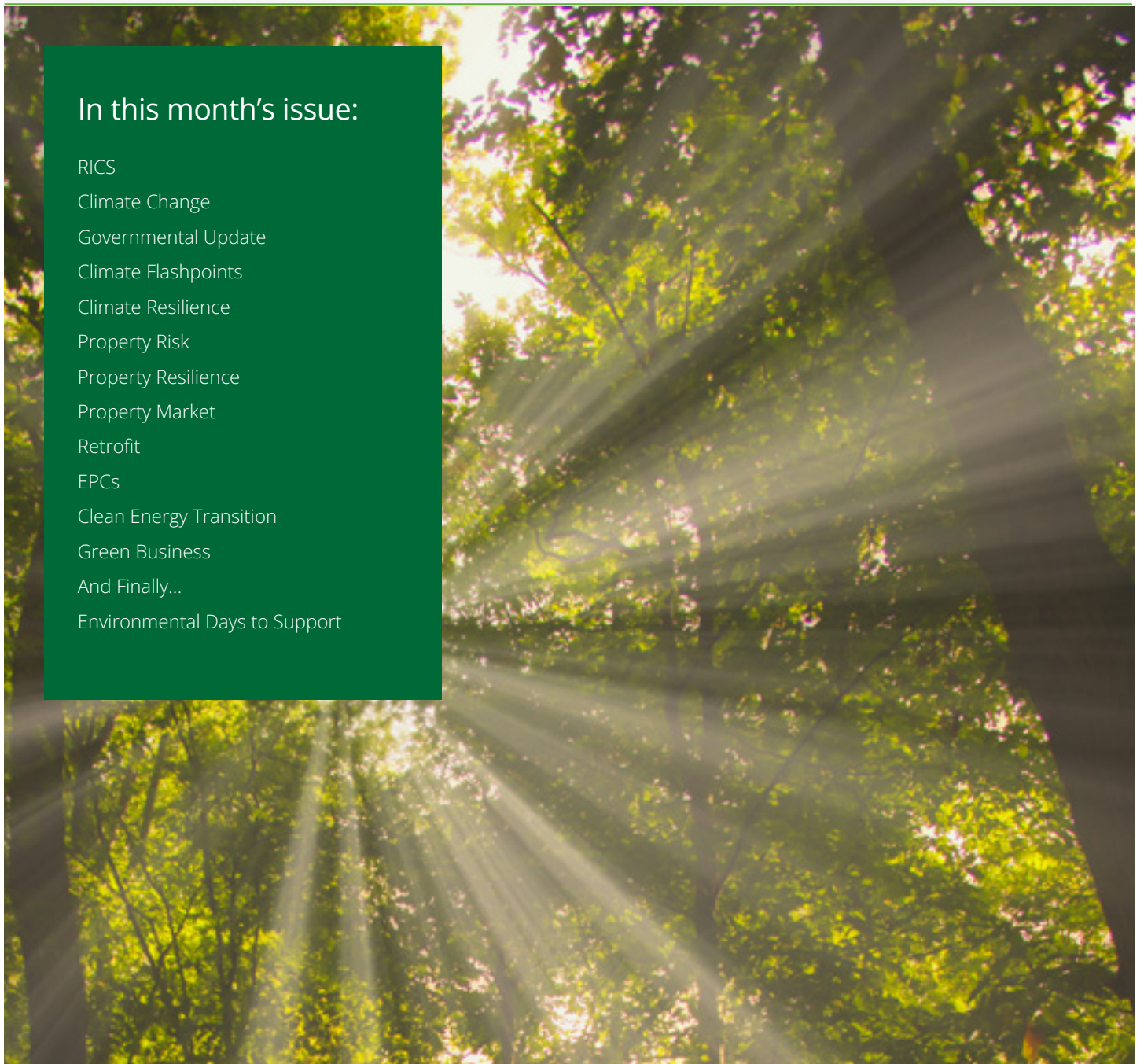
Each month, Environment and Sustainability Manager, Corrina Jones MRICS, shares a round-up of stories and guidance on all things 'green' and sustainable practices.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your colleagues to explore the ways in which we could support you to achieve your sustainability targets. If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss any of the initiatives featured in this update, please contact Corrina Jones via email to corrina.jones@esurv.co.uk.



In this month's issue:

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RICS

Home buying reforms

RICS welcomes the UK Government's consultation on home buying reforms, with strong support for comprehensive upfront data, material information, and the ethical use of AI.



RICS responds to major changes in home buying and selling

Flooding and its implications for property professionals

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) has published a landmark practice information paper, *Flooding and its implications for property professionals*.

Authored by Charles Cowap (Harper Adams University) with contributions from e.surv's Michael Chichester, James Ginley, Ben Sharp, and a cross-profession expert working group, the paper examines how surveyors across all disciplines are being called upon to help clients, communities and policy makers manage the escalating risks and consequences of flooding.

The paper includes knowledge on

- Flood types & sources
- Flood damage and management costs
- Climate trends, economic, environmental and social impact
- Planning, standards, construction and design
- Property flood resilience (PFR)
- Professional implications

Moving forward, surveyors may be involved in

- Flood risk assessments and providing advice on property resilience
- Advising on drainage and adaptation in design/construction
- Evaluating flood risk in valuations and due diligence
- Supporting recovery, insurance, and reinstatement
- Encouraging cross-sector collaboration



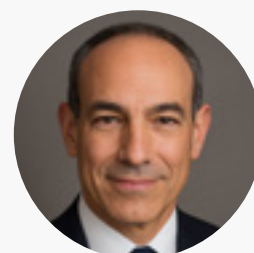
Download the paper here: [Flooding-and-its-implications-for-property-professionals-October-2025.pdf](#)



James Ginley
Director of
Technical
Services



Michael Chichester
Head of Technical
Surveying



Ben Sharp
Technical
Manager

Climate Change

Brace for 2°C by 2050

The UK must prepare for increasingly frequent and severe weather events as global temperatures are projected to exceed 2°C by mid-century, with a potential trajectory toward 4°C, according to the Climate Change Committee.

 Prepare UK to cope with at least 2C of warming by 2050, Government told


The cost of climate inaction

A recent report by the UK Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and Exeter University forecasts that a 2C global temperature hike by 2050 would see a 25% collapse in the global economy and the loss of 2 billion lives.

 Our world is hurtling into climate disaster and what do politicians give us? Oilfields and new runways | Bill McGuire | The Guardian


Record leap in CO2 emissions

CO₂ levels hit record high in 2024, deepening the climate crisis, warns the UN. The annual update by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) warns heat trapped by greenhouse gases is 'turbo-charging' the climate.

 Record leap in CO2 fuels fears of accelerating global heating | Greenhouse gas emissions | The Guardian


First climate tipping point reached

Coral reefs hit climate tipping point. A major global report warns warm-water reefs face irreversible decline due to rising temperatures.

 Planet's first catastrophic climate tipping point reached, report says, with coral reefs facing 'widespread dieback' | Climate crisis | The Guardian

Swiss glaciers in rapid retreat

Switzerland lost 3% of its glacier volume in 2025—among the worst annual declines ever.

 Experts concerned as Swiss glaciers see 'enormous' melting

Major 'megafires' are now primed to ignite across the US.


These fast-growing fires have increased in frequency by nearly 250% in the first 20 years of the 21st century, with California especially showing a jump of 398% in peak daily growth rate. Climate models that project the number of megafires will rise between 50% to 250% as the environment further heats up, dries out.

 It's Time to Redefine Megafires in the Climate Change Era | TIME

One of Earth's most vital carbon sinks is faltering.

Can we save it? For decades, forest, grasslands and other land ecosystems have collectively absorbed up to a third of the carbon dioxide we emit each year - but this climate buffer may be collapsing far sooner than anyone expected.

 One of Earth's most vital carbon sinks is faltering. Can we save it? | New Scientist

 **Corrina says** *Crossing a climate tipping point means triggering irreversible, self-sustaining changes in Earth's systems—even if emissions are cut. These shifts can unleash cascading effects, where one disruption (like ice sheet loss or coral reef collapse) destabilizes others, making the climate increasingly unpredictable, unstable, and harder to manage.*





Corrina says...




“Rolling back climate legislation sends a deeply concerning signal at a time when strong, decisive environmental leadership is urgently needed. Such actions risk eroding investor confidence and delaying the UK’s transition to a low-carbon economy. The science is unequivocal: we are on a dangerous trajectory. Dismantling policies designed to build climate resilience and drive emissions reductions is not only short-sighted—it’s irresponsible. Future generations will rightly question the wisdom of choices that jeopardised their future.”

Governmental Update

MPs Unaware of Climate Action Urgency

A new study finds most British MPs—and the public—underestimate how quickly global emissions must fall to avoid breaching the 1.5°C limit.

 **Implications: Limited awareness among lawmakers could delay vital climate policies. We surveyed British MPs – most don’t know how urgent climate action is**

Conservatives Pledge to Scrap Landmark Climate Legislation

The Conservative Party has signalled plans to roll back key climate commitments, including the [Climate Change Act](#), sparking criticism from Labour and environmental groups. The move is part of a broader shift in political rhetoric, which includes support for fracking and opposition to green levies.

 **Net zero: Tories running away from climate pledge, Labour says - BBC News**

Liberal Democrats Unveil Climate Policy

The Lib Dems have published their “For People, For Planet” climate policy paper, focusing on fairness, public engagement, and international leadership. Proposals include banning onshore fossil fuel production, lowering electricity costs, and supporting vulnerable communities through a Just Transition Commission.

 **For People, For Planet - Liberal Democrat proposals for Climate Policy - Liberal Democrats**

Labour to Ban Fracking Permanently


Labour has committed to introducing legislation that would permanently ban fracking in England. The pledge comes amid renewed concerns over fracking’s environmental and public health impacts.


 **Fracking halted after government pulls support - BBC News**

Implications: Labour’s stance reinforces its commitment to clean energy and public health, while highlighting the environmental risks of fossil fuel extraction.

Fracking Linked to Water Contamination

A recent investigation has confirmed that fracking operations in New Freeport, Pennsylvania, contaminated local water supplies.


 **Scientists Find Evidence that a Pennsylvania Town’s Water Was Contaminated by Fracking - Inside Climate News**

 **Corrina Says** *“This case highlights the serious risks fracking poses—not only to environmental and public health, but also to local property markets. Areas where fracking takes place may see reduced property desirability due to perceived contamination risks, which can depress house valuations and deter investment. Once water supplies are compromised, the financial and reputational damage to communities can be long-lasting. This reinforces the need for robust regulation and a precautionary approach to fossil fuel extraction.”*

Climate Flashpoints


Carbon emissions from oil giants directly linked to dozens of deadly heatwaves

A new study has directly linked carbon emissions from 14 major oil companies to over 50 deadly heatwaves, making them at least 10,000 times more likely.

 Carbon emissions from oil giants directly linked to dozens of deadly heatwaves for first time | Climate crisis | The Guardian

North Sea giant makes fresh push to drill UK's biggest oil field

A North Sea developer has resubmitted plans to exploit Britain's largest untapped oil field, Rosebank, in a major challenge to Labour's ban on new drilling.

 North Sea giant Equinor in fresh push to drill UK's biggest oil field

Fossil fuel from Rosebank would create 250 million tonnes of CO₂, according to Equinor reapplication. That represents the total annual emissions of Ireland, Belgium and Greece combined.

 Fossil fuel from Rosebank would create 250 million tonnes of CO₂, according to Equinor reapplication


World falling far behind deforestation goals

The 2025 Forest Declaration Assessment reveals the world lost 8.1 million hectares of forest in 2024—putting us 63% behind global targets.

 2021 Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use

CUTS, CUTS, CUTS


The Trump administration plans to cut nearly \$24bn in funding for more than 600 climate projects across the US, according to documents reviewed by the Wall Street Journal.

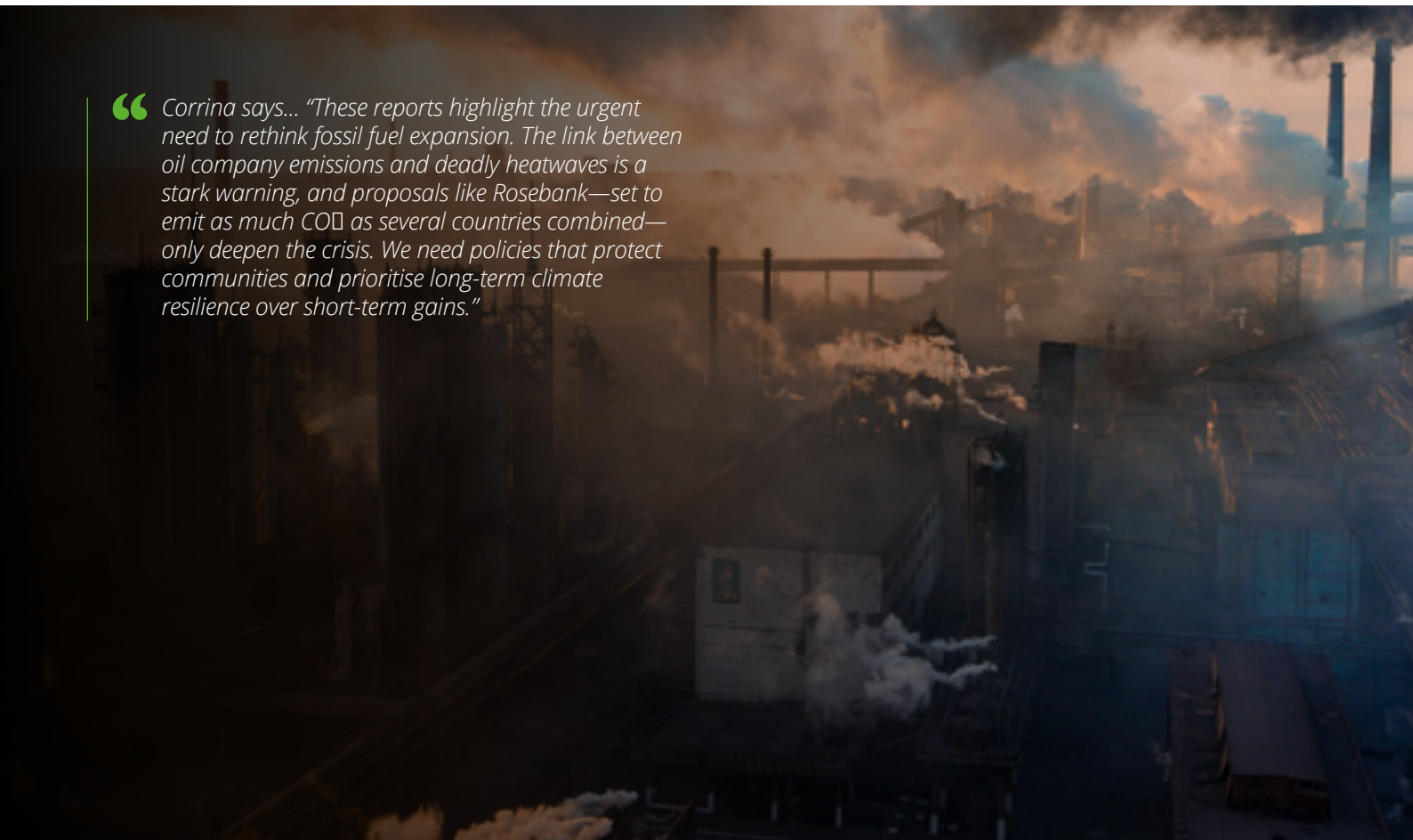
 Energy Department to Slash Nearly \$24 Billion in Green Project Funding - WSJ

Starmer-backed net zero tax on ships in tatters: Shipping climate deal sinks

Talks to cut global shipping emissions collapsed after US and Saudi opposition. The US threatened tariffs and dismissed the plan as a "green scam," halting progress on binding climate targets.

 Landmark global shipping deal abandoned under US threats - BBC News

 Corrina says... "These reports highlight the urgent need to rethink fossil fuel expansion. The link between oil company emissions and deadly heatwaves is a stark warning, and proposals like Rosebank—set to emit as much CO₂ as several countries combined—only deepen the crisis. We need policies that protect communities and prioritise long-term climate resilience over short-term gains."



Climate Resilience

CCC Urges Stronger UK Adaptation Objectives

In its latest letter to the UK Government, the Climate Change Committee (CCC) calls for clearer and more ambitious national objectives to prepare the UK for worsening climate impacts. Key recommendations include:


- Planning for at least 2°C of warming by 2050, with contingency for 4°C by end-of-century.
- Embedding adaptation into all levels of decision-making, including infrastructure, housing, and public services.
- Improving monitoring and accountability.
- Prioritising vulnerable communities and critical systems, such as health, transport, and food supply.

Homes, electricity networks and other infrastructure that is expected to last for decades, must be built with the potential to be adapted to cope with temperatures of as much as 4C above pre-industrial levels.

 **Letter: CCC letter to Minister Hardy - advice on the UK's adaptation objectives - Climate Change Committee**


Defence & intel warning on climate risk (report delayed) — Climate crisis threatens UK national security

A delayed intelligence report warns that climate and ecosystem collapse pose severe risks to the UK's food supply and economy. With rising import pressures and over-reliance on global supply chains, defence chiefs urge urgent action. Concerns have emerged that the report's release may have been blocked by the Government.

 **The Ghttps: //www.theguardian.com/ environment/2025/oct/08/national-security-threatened-climate-crisis-uk-defence-chiefs-warn**


Learning lessons and building resilience

The Scottish Government is strengthening wildfire preparedness amid rising climate threats.

 **Preparing for wildfires - gov.scot**

Returns on Resilience

A landmark report launched ahead of COP30 reveals that investing in climate adaptation and nature resilience could create over 280 million jobs in emerging markets by 2035, while boosting GDP and unlocking a trillion-dollar market.

 **The returns on resilience**

The cost of extreme weather and climate change in the EU in the last four years – two-and-a-half times higher than in the decade to 2019, according to a European Environment Agency report covered by the [Financial Times](#).

Corrina says...



The Climate Change Committee has issued a clear warning - the UK is not yet prepared for today's climate risks, let alone those projected by 2050. Their advice to Government calls for urgent, measurable adaptation objectives—with clear accountability across infrastructure, housing, and public services.

For mortgage lenders and risk professionals, this is more than a policy issue—it's a strategic imperative. Climate resilience isn't just about flood maps; it's about understanding portfolio exposure, asset durability, and long-term value. Given the potential for 2°C to 4°C warming, it will become increasingly important to start integrating adaptation into lending, underwriting, and investment decisions. A climate-resilient UK means:

- Homes built to withstand extreme weather
- Infrastructure that ensures continuity of service
- Financial systems that remain stable under pressure

The CCC's message is clear: adaptation isn't optional—it's smart risk management.

Property Risk


UK landmarks and cities at risk

Aviva's Building Future Communities report warns that iconic UK landmarks—including Edinburgh Castle, Giant's Causeway, York city centre, and Liverpool waterfront—face increasing threats from climate change by 2050. Risks include surface water flooding, coastal erosion, and subsidence.

The report also highlights:


- A projected 66% rise in properties located in high flood-risk areas.
- 1.4 million more homes could face subsidence risks.
- Major cities like London and Manchester may become hotspots for surface water flooding.

Aviva calls for urgent action to make the UK more climate-ready, including investment in preventative measures for homes and infrastructure upgrades.

 [Download the report here: UK's iconic landmarks at risk from climate change by 2050, according to new report - Aviva plc](#)


Towns may be abandoned

Experts warn that worsening flood risks could force the abandonment of some UK towns.

 [Towns may have to be abandoned due to floods with millions more homes in Great Britain at risk | Environment | The Guardian](#)


Flood risk awareness dangerously low

Many UK communities do not know who is responsible for flood management where they live, more than a decade after accountability reforms, the cross-party Environmental Audit Committee has stated.

 [UK public's awareness of flood risk 'dangerously low', MPs warn - edie](#)

The future of climate risk reports

Climate risk assessments are increasingly included in conveyancing reports, reflecting growing awareness of flood, subsidence, and heat risks among buyers and legal professionals.

 ['Increasingly standard' climate risk reports can't be avoided in conveyancing, Law Society panel says | Today's Conveyancer](#)



Property Resilience


One in Four UK Homes at Risk of Flooding by 2050

An independent review has set out recommendations on how to protect homes from flooding, after the Environment Agency found that one in four homes will be at risk of flooding by the middle of the century.

FloodReady Action Plan

The UK Government's FloodReady strategy outlines practical steps to improve flood resilience which include:

- Promoting Property Flood Resilience (PFR).
- Create a National Supplier Framework - ensuring consistent quality in flood protection products and services.
- Expanding educational campaigns to help communities understand and prepare for flood risks.

 [Read the full action plan here: FloodReady - an action plan to build the resilience of people and properties - GOV.UK](#)

Educating Communities on Flood Risk

In Hampshire, the FloodPod mobile unit is raising awareness about flood preparedness, showcasing tools and technologies to help communities adapt.

 [Welcome to the NEW FloodMobile! - Flood Mary](#)

£66m Coastal Defence Scheme to Protect Rhyl Homes

The Welsh Government has officially opened the £66 million Central Rhyl Coastal Defences Scheme, designed to protect nearly 600 properties from flooding and coastal erosion for decades.

 [£66m scheme protects hundreds of properties in Rhyl from flooding | Welsh Government News](#)




Property Market

Environmental issues that hit home values hard

A recent analysis by Springbok Properties highlights the top factors that can significantly reduce property values in the UK. Subsidence tops the list, potentially cutting values by up to 20%—around £54,000 on an average home. Other major devaluing issues include:

- **Japanese Knotweed:** -15% (£40,500)
- **Flood risk or damage:** -13.6% (£36,720)
- **Power lines or turbines nearby:** -14% (£37,800)
- **Damp and mould:** -10% (£27,000)

Subsidence claims rose sharply in 2025, with insurers paying out £153 million.

 **From subsidence to clutter: The issues that can hit your home's price the hardest | Property Reporter**

Rural homes face higher costs in net zero transition

A new study finds rural homes face higher costs in the net zero transition due to older buildings, limited infrastructure, and policy gaps. It urges tailored solutions, better finance options, and stronger community engagement to avoid leaving rural areas behind.

 **Unlock Net Zero - Insight & comment - Rural homes face higher costs in net zero transition, study warns**

Tenants at risk as landlords block ECO4 improvements

Many landlords are refusing consent for ECO4 energy upgrades, leaving tenants in cold, inefficient homes. 63% of landlords say they'd rather sell than invest in improvements. Experts warn this risks non-compliance, falling property values, and rising tenant energy bills.

 **Tenants at risk as landlords block ECO4 improvements | Property Reporter**

Green home improvements boost property value

Nationwide reports that upgrades like extensions and loft conversions can raise property values by up to 24%. Energy efficiency improvements are also gaining popularity, reflecting growing interest in sustainable living.

 **Loft conversions 'can add nearly a quarter to value of typical property'**

Renewables surge

The UK saw a record 170,000 certified small-scale renewable installations in early 2025, driven by solar panels, battery storage, and heat pumps. This reflects growing buyer demand for energy-efficient homes, with sustainability upgrades increasingly seen as a way to boost property value and market appeal.

 **Record number of renewables being installed into UK homes - MCS Certified**


UK's Largest Net Zero Housing Development to be Delivered in Wales

The Welsh Government has agreed a contract with Barratt Redrow to deliver the UK's largest net zero carbon housing development and one of the biggest in Europe. The 576 homes will achieve net zero through innovative design and technology, producing as much energy as they consume.

 **UK's Largest Net Zero Housing Development to be Delivered in Wales**


The number of housing association homes built to EPC Band A has soared by 69% in one year

This is due to tougher planning policies and the sector's attempt to get on the "front foot" of forthcoming broader regulation changes such as the Future Homes Standard.

 **Unlock Net Zero - The lead view...Exclusive: the landlords building the most energy-efficient homes, and why some are completing fewer**

Landlords urged to prepare for EPC changes amid market shifts

Many landlords remain unaware of upcoming EPC rules that could affect property compliance and investment. Brokers are key to helping landlords stay informed and resilient.

 **Landlords hold steady amid shifting rules and market pressures | Mortgage Introducer**

EPC rules driving landlord sell-off

New analysis shows energy efficiency rules are now the top reason landlords plan to sell, surpassing tax and interest rate concerns. Over a third expect to offload properties within a year, raising concerns about rental market stability.

 **EPC rules push landlords out of the rental market | Mortgage Introducer**

Belfast grows as hotspot for eco-conscious property investors

Rental yields of around 6% place Belfast above the UK average for property investment returns. New research shows 76% of property investors in 2025 factored sustainability into their decisions, with over a third divesting from assets that didn't meet ESG standards.

 **Belfast grows as hotspot for eco-conscious property investors | Property Reporter**

Retrofit

Audit reveals widespread issues with solid wall insulation under ECO4 and GBIS

A new report from DESNZ and Ofgem shows that 92% of External Wall Insulation (EWI) and 27% of Internal Wall Insulation (IWI) installations under the ECO4 and GBIS schemes had at least one major technical non-compliance—with some posing health and safety risks.

The audits were carried out by chartered surveyors against PAS2035 standards. These findings highlight the urgent need for better quality assurance, installer accountability, and robust oversight in retrofit delivery. [Solid wall insulation installed under ECO4 and GBIS: Statistical audit results - GOV.UK](#)



[Download the report here: Energy efficiency installations under the Energy Company Obligation - NAO report](#)

We spoke with Richard Bruce, Commercial Director at CSG Partners, who oversee a national network of Retrofit Surveyors, to get his take on why retrofit delivery is falling short — and what needs to change.

Q What's your current involvement in the retrofit space?

We're supplying labour across several clients, mainly in the internal wall insulation (IWI) space. Our workers are subject to exacting standards. The contrast between our organisations and others is striking — while ours are highly compliant with internal technical monitoring teams, others are known to lack even basic oversight.

Q What difference does internal auditing make?

A big one. When installation teams are separate from internal auditors, standards are upheld more rigorously. Properties are often audit-ready before external inspection even begins.

Q What have you observed when working with inspection teams directly?

Some inspectors aren't familiar with key PAS standards or what actually constitutes compliance. We've seen properties fail audits despite meeting all written requirements.

Q What do you see as the root causes of these inconsistencies?

Two main issues:

- *The standards are overly complex and open to interpretation.*
- *Oversight is inconsistent — both among installers and inspectors.*

Q How does this play out in external wall insulation (EWI)?

The quality is often poor. There's no clear, shared definition of what's acceptable. It's too subjective, we need a unified standard for what's good, bad, and unacceptable. We've stayed away from it for that reason.

Q Are internal wall systems any better?

They come with their own challenges, but largely much better. There are many "deemed compliant" systems, but we've seen identical installs pass one audit and fail another. Most failures are often minor — cosmetic, not structural.



Q Are there signs of progress?

Yes. A large number of properties are now energy efficient. Many companies are genuinely raising standards and tightening processes. But without tougher regulation and real barriers to entry, rogue installers will keep gaming the system — cutting corners and leaving others to fix the mess.

Q Who ultimately pays the price?

The industry and homeowners. They end up paying twice — once for the install, and again to put it right.

Retrofit assessment standard launched


BS 40104: 2025 was officially published on 24 September 2025 by the British Standards Institution (BSI). It provides a comprehensive code of practice for retrofit assessments of domestic dwellings. It fills a gap in the UK's retrofit framework by standardising pre-retrofit evaluations.

Who's it for: Retrofit professionals:

- Assessors
- Coordinators
- Surveyors
- Architects
- Planners
- Installers
- Certifiers

Why it matters:

- Enhances retrofit quality and consistency.
- Reduces risk of poor outcomes.
- Builds trust and transparency.
- Supports national goals on carbon reduction, fuel poverty, and healthier homes.

 [Purchase a copy here: BS 40104 2025 | 24 Sep 2025 | BSI Knowledge](#)

MCS pilots heat battery standards

MCS is trialling new standards for installing Thermal Energy Storage Systems, including heat batteries. These aim to improve quality and build consumer trust.


 [MCS announces pilot for new Thermal Energy Storage Systems Installation Standard - MCS Certified](#)

Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for the social rented sector: Consultation Summary

The UK Government proposes introducing a Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) for socially rented homes in England for the first time. Target standard: EPC Band C (or equivalent) by 2030. Improving the Energy Efficiency of Socially Rented Homes in England - GOV.UK


Retrofit at scale is possible

Major retrofit deal covers energy efficiency improvements across a large public / housing-association stock, showing scale is possible. Lincolnshire Housing Partnership has awarded a major contract to retrofit 1,243 homes to EPC Band C.

 [Fortem wins contract to deliver major retrofit programme for Lincolnshire Housing Partnership - East Midlands Business Link](#)

Housing group embarks on £72m retrofit programme

Riverside Housing Group aims to deliver a £72m retrofit programme across 3,064 homes, making them warmer and more energy efficient.

 [Housing group embarks on £72m retrofit programme to improve tenant conditions | TheBusinessDesk.com](#)

Manchester sets out climate action plan

Manchester's 2025–2030 Climate Action Plan sets out a roadmap to help the city stay on track for its 2038 zero-carbon target. Key goals include retrofitting 78,850 homes and 6,200 non-residential buildings and installing 54,000 heat pumps and nearly 400 MW of solar power.

 [Smart Cities World - Climate action - Manchester sets out climate action plan for next five years](#)



EPCs

Scotland sets 2026 date for EPC reform

The Scottish Government will implement major EPC changes in 2026, including new metrics like Heat Retention and Heating System Ratings.

 [Scottish Government Sets 2026 Date for EPC Reform Implementation - Elmhurst Energy](#)

SPF urges delay on EPC C deadline for new lets


As it stands, all rental properties in Scotland must achieve an EPC C rating by 2028 for new lets. However, the Scottish Property Federation (SPF) proposes 2030 as a more realistic EPC C deadline.

[SPF urges delay on EPC C deadline for new lets | Property Reporter](#)

New EPC methodology


The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has published the response to their consultation on the 'Home Energy Model'. HEM will offer more accurate, flexible, and transparent assessments of home energy performance, supporting key housing and climate policies. Key Points:

- **HEM replaces SAP** (used since 1993) for EPCs and Building Regulations compliance.
- **Launches alongside the Future Homes Standard.**
- **Open-source and cloud-based**, enabling better integration of new technologies.
- **Improved accuracy and flexibility**, with half-hourly energy simulations.

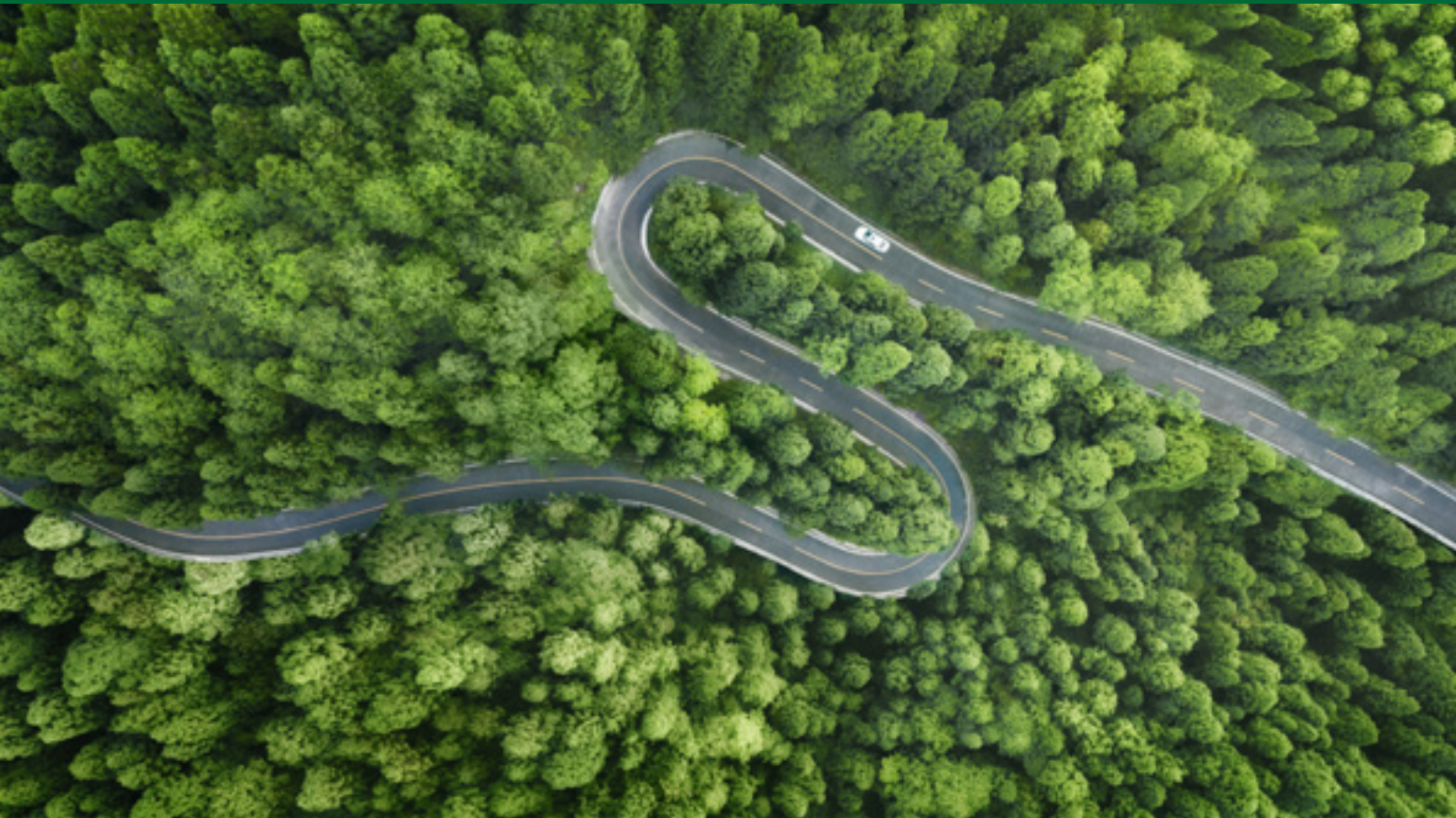
 [Download the consultation response here: The Home Energy Model: summary of responses and government response](#)

Study reveals high error rates in EPC records

A recent analysis of over 15 million UK EPCs finds that up to 62% may contain errors, with 27% showing clear flags. Discrepancies often stem from assessor disagreements on building features like wall type or layout—especially in flats and maisonettes.

 [An analysis of errors in the Energy Performance certificate database - ScienceDirect](#)





Clean Energy Transition

Electricity Prices Could Rise 20% in Five Years

Octopus Energy has warned MPs that electricity prices may increase by 20% over the next 4-5 years. The firm urges reform of how wholesale gas prices influence electricity costs, which disproportionately affect UK households.

 Electricity prices set to jump 20% within five years, energy firm warns

Implications: Without market reform, rising electricity costs could hinder affordability and slow the transition to electrified heating and transport.

Energy VAT Cut Under Consideration

Energy Secretary Ed Miliband has suggested the government may reduce or scrap the 5% VAT on energy bills. This follows Ofgem's recent price cap increase, which raised average household bills to £1,755 annually. Cutting VAT could save households around £86 per year but would cost the Treasury £2.5 billion.

 PMQs: Labour's Angela Rayner steps up call for 5% energy bill VAT cut - BBC News

Implications: A VAT cut would offer short-term relief to consumers but risks undermining funding for long-term sustainability initiatives unless offset by alternative fiscal measures.

Marginal Gains

A new report shows wind power is helping push gas out of the UK's power market, lowering wholesale electricity prices by up to 25% in 2024. The findings highlight wind's growing role in

stabilising energy costs and support continued investment in renewables.

 Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit | Marginal Gains: how wind is...

£18 Million Investment in Oil & Gas Transition


The UK and Scottish Governments have jointly committed £18 million to support North Sea oil and gas workers in transitioning to clean energy roles. The funding will enhance career advice and training opportunities, aiming to future-proof the workforce.

 Support for oil and gas workers - gov.scot

Implications: This investment signals a strategic shift toward a greener economy and highlights the importance of just transition policies to support affected workers.

UK Clean Energy Plan Estimates 400,000 Extra Jobs by 2030

The government has published a comprehensive national plan to train up the next generation of clean energy workers, with employment expected to double to 860,000 by 2030.


 Clean energy jobs boom to bring thousands of new jobs - GOV.UK

Implications: This plan positions clean energy as a cornerstone of economic growth and job creation.

Green Business

Climate investment is only growth opportunity of 21st century, says leading economist

Lord Stern says fossil-fuelled growth is futile as the damage it causes ends in economic self-destruction.

 [Climate investment is growth opportunity of 21st century, says economist - Grantham Research Institute on climate change and the environment](#)

UK banks jointly support green building innovations including 'heat batteries'

Lloyds Banking Group, NatWest Group, Coventry Building Society, Skipton Building Society and Leeds Building Society have collectively selected nine cutting-edge sustainability technologies to trial across their building estates.

 [UK banks jointly support green building innovations including 'heat batteries' - edie](#)


Lloyds Bank offers heat pump mortgages

Customers who take out a new Lloyds mortgage and are eligible for the Government boiler upgrade scheme could claim an air-source heat pump supplied and fitted by Octopus, with Lloyds picking up the cost of standard installation. To qualify the house must have an EPC of C or D.

 [Lloyds offer heat pump mortgages - National Sustainability News](#)


Solar panels via salary sacrifice

Ministers are weighing a tax-friendly salary sacrifice scheme to help households afford solar panels, heat pumps, and batteries. Backed by nearly 100 Labour MPs, the plan could cut upfront costs and save families up to £600 a year—potentially landing in the next Budget or Warm Homes Plan.

 [Salary sacrifice for rooftop solar panels in new tax-break scheme](#)

Climate Transition Plans

A new report by Kamma finds that 49% of UK lenders have no climate transition plan, and only 5% meet top standards. While leaders like Nationwide and Lloyds disclose emissions and support retrofits, most fall short—71% don't report emissions, and only a third offer retrofit support. Top performers include Ecology, Handelsbanken, OneSavings, Lloyds, and Nationwide.

 [Download the report here: The State of the Lender Transition 2025: Report - Kamma Climate](#)

Net-Zero Banking Alliance scales back


After four years, the UN-backed Net-Zero Banking Alliance is ending its role as a membership body. It will now act as a voluntary hub, offering guidance and frameworks for banks to measure and reduce financed emissions.

 [Global banking climate group to stop operations after member exodus | The Independent](#)

And Finally...


Invasive species alert in Belfast

Northern Ireland confirms its first sighting of a harmful insect threatening local ecology, warns DAERA. Experts link its spread to climate change.

 [Asian hornet: Public warned after first confirmed sighting of 'harmful invasive species' in Northern Ireland](#)

Changing what we eat could bring the planet back from the brink

Researchers say a shift to mostly plant-rich, flexible global diet could slash premature deaths, ease inequality, and curb environmental destruction.

 [Changing how people eat could save 15 million lives a year, landmark study finds | The Independent](#)



Environmental Days to Support

1st November – World Vegan Day

Founded by the Vegan Society in the UK, this day promotes the environmental, ethical, and health benefits of a plant-based lifestyle. It's a great opportunity to highlight sustainable food choices.



[Home - World Vegan Day 2025](#)

28th November – Buy Nothing Day

A global protest against consumerism and overconsumption. It encourages people to refrain from making any purchases for 24 hours, challenging the culture of excessive shopping and promoting mindful, sustainable living.



[BuyNothing | Home](#)

