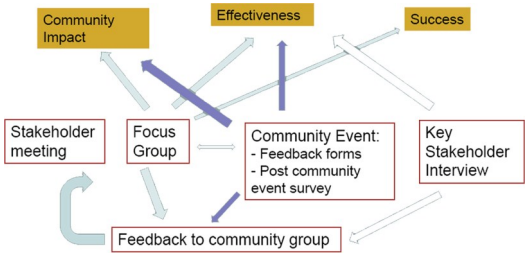
Community engagement activities in EVALOC

- Four community-based themed events.
- Focus groups.
- Baseline energy and CO_2 mapping of communities.
- Household-level in-use monitoring of energy use and environmental conditions .
- Occupancy feedback surveys and semi-structured interviews.
- Energy display library and trials.
- Interviews with key members of the community.
- Workshops between communities and policy makers on cross-cutting themes.
- International experts workshop on energy and communities.
- Dedicated and interactive project website.
- Community newsletters on specific themes.
- End-of project conference.

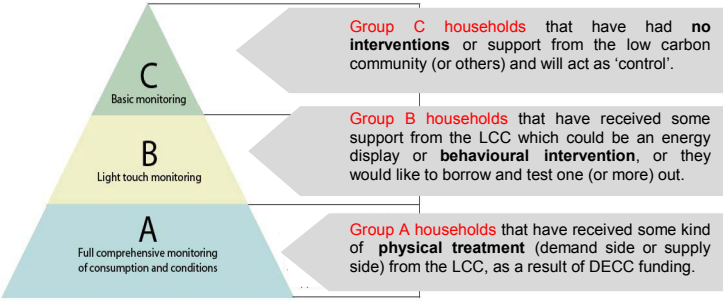
Expected outputs from the project

- Community engagement toolkit which will provide usable materials and guidance for community energy projects (WP1).
- Map-based interactive community energy monitoring to present results dynamically on impacts and effectiveness of low-carbon interventions to community groups (WP2).
- Bottom-up dataset of monitored data of actual energy consumption, thermal environment and occupant feedback from 30 households (WP2).
- Practical, readable guide to the use of metering and feedback technologies (WP3a).
- Social and community networks for identifying 'communication pathways' for rolling out 'energy discourses (WP3b).
- Experts workshop; dedicated website for the project; policy and community-relevant papers and reports; and final end-of-project conference (WP4).

Community evaluation approach



Household survey



Expert consultants

- Capacity Global (Community capacity building)

Advisory board members

- Economic and Social Research Council
- Energy Saving Trust
- Technology Strategy Board
- Department of Energy and Climate Change
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Climate Challenge Fund
- Good energy
- Sustainable Development Foundation
- Capacity Global
- Six case study low carbon communities

International visiting experts

- Professor Jonathan Fink, Portland State University, USA
- Trevor Graham, City of Malmo, Sweden
- Dr Michael Ornetzeder, Austrian Academy of Science
- Dr Jenny Palm, Linköping University , Sweden

EVALOC

EVALUATING LOW CARBON COMMUNITIES

Evaluating the impacts, effectiveness and success of DECC- funded low carbon communities (2011-2014)

www.evaloc.org.uk

Core project team members

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

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Researchers: Laura Barnfield, Dimitra Dantsiou, Rohini Cherian, Ruchi Parakh, Priyanka Arora

Environmental *Change* Institute
eci
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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EVALOC brings together social science and building science disciplines to assess, explain and communicate the changes in energy use due to community activities in within six selected case study projects under the Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC) Low Carbon Communities Challenge (LCCC) initiative.

These low carbon community projects are evaluated in terms of their **IMPACTS** (on changing individual, household and community energy behaviours), **EFFECTIVENESS** (on achieving real-savings in energy use CO_2 emissions) and **SUCCESS** (in bringing about sustained and systemic change), Using a combination of 'community-led action research' and a programme of ' household level monitoring and evaluation' of the DECC-funded interventions. These two core elements are expressed through four inter-related work packages.

Work packages

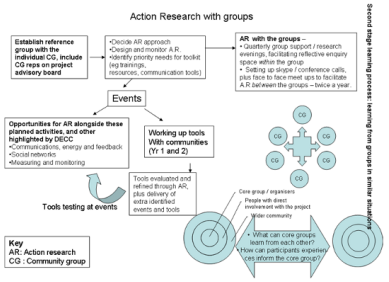
WP1: Community-led action research

WP2: Household-level measurement, monitoring and mapping of the real performance of low-carbon interventions

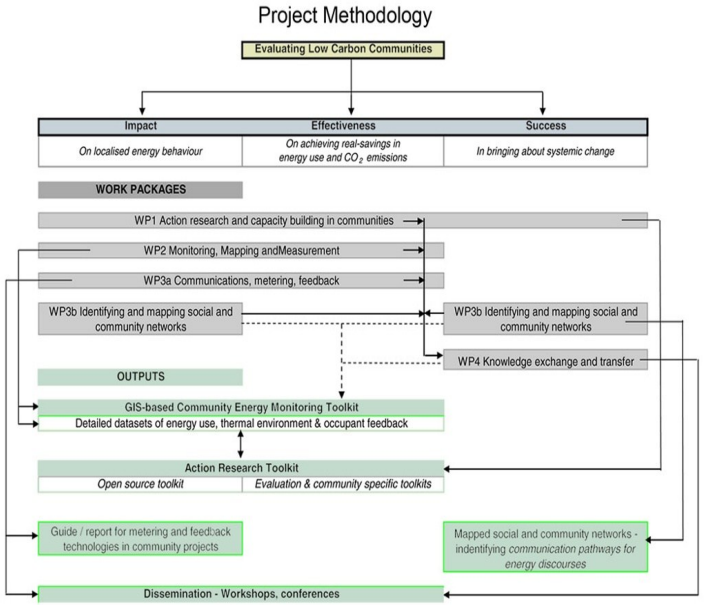
WP3a: Communications, metering and feedback

WP3b: Use of social network analysis in communication of new energy technologies

WP4: Knowledge exchange and transfer



Distribution of CO_2 emissions on a household level: DECoRuM model



Core research questions

- How can community-based organisations best monitor and communicate their own effectiveness at energy demand reduction, and learn from their work? What are the limits and barriers?
- What are the effects and impacts of the LCCC interventions on behaviour change, energy use, and CO_2 reductions, and how sustainable are they ?
- How useful is DECoRuM for communities and policy makers in measuring, tracking, visualising and communicating CO_2 savings to communities?
- How are energy displays used in a social context, and how can they be used to best effect to raise awareness and change practices ?
- What is the role of social networks in promoting or suppressing the communication and take-up of new energy technologies, and how far do these interconnect with local community networks?
- What is the role of cross-learning within a broad 'community of interest', for energy-related change?

Case study low carbon communities

Six case study communities have been selected to represent:

- A range of typical low-carbon interventions.
- A range of local conditions.

Sustainable Blacon

Low Carbon West Oxford

Kirklees Council

Hook Norton

Easterside, Middlesbrough

Awel Aman Tawe

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