# CONSULTATION ON A DEFINITION FOR NET ZERO CARBON BUILDINGS IN THE UK

**FOR UKGBC** 

LONDON ENERGY TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE











# LETI consultation on a Definition for Net Zero Carbon buildings in the UK for UKGBC

The London Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI) believe that in order to meet our climate change targets all new buildings need to operate at net zero carbon by 2030 with all buildings operating at net zero carbon by 2050. In order to achieve this, radical change is needed within the construction industry. In order for the above statement to be implemented, a robust definition of what net zero carbon means for buildings in the UK needs to be developed. LETI therefore welcomes the development of a Net Zero Carbon buildings definition by the UKGBC.

LETI is a voluntary network of built environment professionals, including architects, developers, engineers and sustainability professionals. This network has been utilised to build consensus of what needs to be included in a Net Zero definition and framework to ensure that it is robust enough to ensure our climate change targets are met.

LETI has received feedback from 140 built environment professionals from 78 organisations through an online survey and through a workshop. The findings are summarised below:

### **Key Priorities**

- There must be a fabric energy efficiency standard built into the Net Zero Carbon definition
- The Net Zero Carbon framework must set kWh/m<sup>2</sup> requirement for each key building type (e.g. residential, primary school, etc.)
- All energy uses, not just Regulated Energy, should be included in the Net Zero Carbon definition

#### **Additional Priorities**

- There is strong support for a two-tiered definition of Zero Carbon (Operational and Whole Life)
- Grid storage losses need to be taken into account in a Zero Carbon framework
- A Net Zero Carbon building must be fossil fuel free
- There should be a limit to how much carbon buildings can offset
- Demand response is essential for Net Zero carbon buildings and thus should be included in the definition.

#### More info on the London Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI)

The London Energy Transformation Initiative has been established to support the transition of the capital's built environment to net zero carbon, providing guidance that can be applied to the rest to the UK. We do this by:

- engaging with stakeholders to develop a robust and rapid energy reduction approach, producing effective solutions to the energy trilemma of security, sustainability, and affordability;
- working with authorities to create practicable policy alterations to ensure the regulatory system is fit for purpose, placing verified performance at its core;
- encouraging and enabling collaboration between built environment professionals
- providing technical advice to support exemplar developments, enabling pioneers who aspire to go beyond the current regulatory framework

#### Agenda



- Introduction to LETI and the objectives for 2019 Setting the Scene – Zero Carbon Intro and Sli-do
- Part 1 (1820 to 1910)
  - LETI Zero Carbon Framework
    - Zero Carbon Modelling Results
- Questions/Voting/Group Discussions/Results
   Part 2 (1910 to 1950)

  - Demand Response
  - Getting it Right
  - Future Gazing
  - Questions/Voting/Group Discussions/Results
- \* Finishing up Final Question / Results / Q&A

#LETINetZero #LETI



## CONTENTS

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- C. Workshop agenda
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## Net Zero Carbon Workshop – 11 March 2019

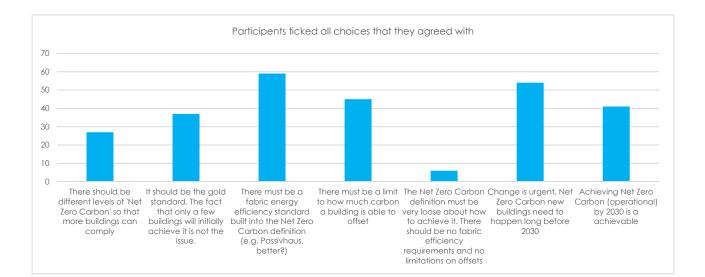
#### What we did

LETI hosted a Net Zero Carbon workshop from 1800 – 2000 on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The aims of the event were:

- To inform attendees of LETI's work on defining Zero Carbon to date
- To gain feedback and ideas from attendees in order to ratify the work done so far and inform future work

#### What were the key outputs?

- 80% supported a two-tier definition of Zero Carbon (Operational and Whole Life inc Embodied)
- 97% believed that continued grid decarbonisation should be part of a Zero Carbon strategy
- 90% believed that storage losses need to be taken into account in a Zero Carbon framework
- 88% believed that there must be a fabric energy efficiency standard built into the Net Zero Carbon definition. There was strong support for an emphasis on fabric efficiency above all other measures/strategies
- There is general dissatisfaction with the current Part L methodology of measuring energy consumption and support for a move to a kWh/m<sup>2</sup>.year target for different building typologies. 85% thought that Net Zero Carbon framework must set kWh/m<sup>2</sup> requirement for each key building type (e.g. residential, primary school, etc.)
- 72% felt that you should only be able to achieve Zero Carbon if no fossil fuels were being used on site
- 76% felt that on-site renewables should take precedence over off-site
- 92% of attendees thought that Demand Response was either vital or very important to achieving Zero Carbon
- 55% thought that zero carbon should be the gold standard (even if that only a few buildings will initially achieve it)
- 67% thought there must be a limit to how much carbon a building is able to offset
- Finally, 61% of attendees thought that Zero Carbon buildings were achievable by 2030



### LETI members' voices on Net Zero Carbon

#### Results of our online survey – March 2019

The London Energy Transformation Initiative is an open network of built environment professionals that are working together to put London on the path to a zero carbon future. The voluntary group is made up of developers, engineers, housing associations, architects, planners, academics, sustainability professionals, contractors and facilities managers.

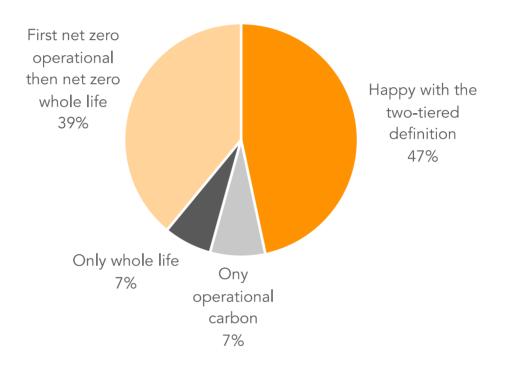
LETI was established to work collaboratively and propose evidence-based recommendations. In order to complement and contribute to the UKGBC consultation on the definition of Net Zero Carbon, we have sent a survey focusing on new buildings to our members.

We received **114** responses, which is amazing. The results are summarised on the following pages.

### Two-tier definition

A majority of LETI members (86%) agree with a two-tier definition with 'Net Zero Operational' a key and more urgent requirement.

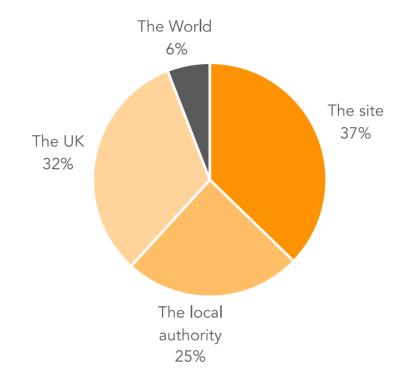
Only 14% of LETI members want a single-tier definition.



I agree that both operational and whole life carbon should be included in the net zero definition and I agree with the two-tiered approach	46.15%	48
I think net zero should only include operational carbon	7.69%	8
I think net zero should only mean net zero whole life carbon (there should not be an option for only operational net zero)	6.73%	7
I think net zero should only mean net zero whole life carbon but let's phase it: we should start with net zero operational and then become net zero whole life	39.42%	41

## What should be the boundary for the carbon balance?

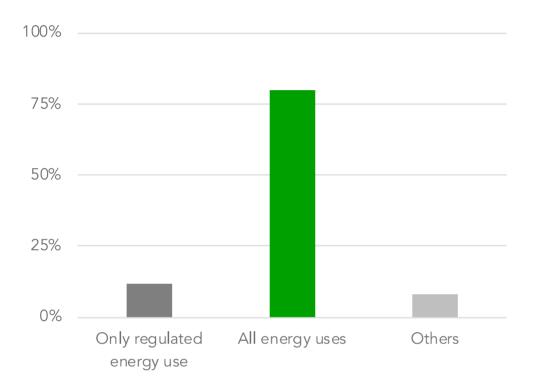
There is no consensus on this issue.



The site - The building should achieve a balance of zero emissions over a year with on-site measures only. I know that all buildings may not be able to achieve it, but it should be the gold standard: a '1.5 degrees C compliant building'	37.62%	38
The local authority - The building should be able to offset residual emissions locally. I think it is important that additional carbon saving projects are being delivered locally and that local authorities become responsible for developing their own zero carbon roadmap.	24.75%	25
The UK - The building should be able to offset residual emissions (e.g. additional renewable energy, carbon offset fund) anywhere in the UK. National renewable and offset schemes would help to reduce the country's emissions more cost-effectively and would still comply with the commitments of the Paris agreement and the current 'national carbon budgets' approach.	31.68%	32
The World - The building should be able to offset residual emissions (e.g. additional renewable energy, carbon offset fund) anywhere in the world. Carbon emissions in the atmosphere have no borders, why should we?	5.94%	6

## Regulated energy vs total energy uses

80% of our members think that the Net Zero Carbon definition should cover all energy uses, not just regulated energy.



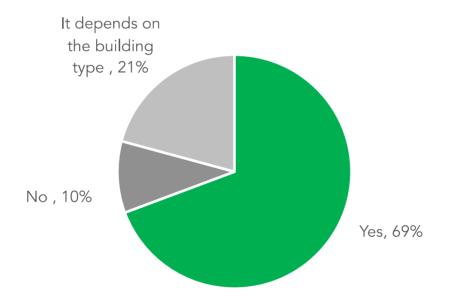
## Net Zero Carbon hierarchy and fabric efficiency

LETI members think that the hierarchy is necessary but not sufficient.

#### 62% of respondents would like the thresholds more clearly defined.

It is a good approach as we need both priorities and flexibility	40.00%	40
It is too flexible, the Net Zero Carbon standard should not enable offsets	31.00%	31
It is far too flexible, the Net Zero Carbon standard should not enable off-site renewables or offsets	12.00%	12
The priorities need to be more strongly defined (e.g. by thresholds) to avoid the definition from being abused, e.g. only a very energy efficient building should be able to achieve the Net Zero Carbon Building standard	62.00%	62

# 90% of respondents think a specific fabric energy efficiency requirement should be introduced, at least for some building types.

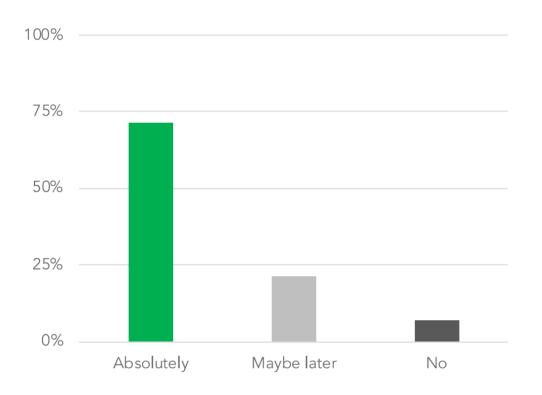


Yes - a building should be able to achieve the Net Zero Carbon standard only if it has adopted a fabric first approach	70.00%	70
No - fabric energy efficiency should be encouraged but not mandated	10.00%	10
It depends - Some building types (e.g. residential) should have a fabric energy efficiency requirement but not all	20.00%	20

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## Maximum energy use (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>)

A majority of LETI members (72%) think a specific energy use target should be set by building type as part of the Net Zero Carbon standard.



Absolutely - we now know that it is not only about carbon. Setting kWh/m2 levels to achieve is a good way to ensure we are driving energy use down	72.00%	72
Maybe later - we really need to do this but we do not have the data to enable us to do it right now. Let's work on it though.	22.00%	22
No - Net zero carbon should be about carbon only.	7.00%	7

### Renewable energy

## There is no consensus on this issue on whether there should be minimum renewable energy requirements as part of the Net Zero Carbon standard

It is essential that Net Zero Carbon buildings have to comply with a minimum renewable energy requirement (e.g. m2 PVs / m2 building footprint)	22.00%	22
It does not matter, even buildings with no PVs at all should be able to achieve Net Zero Carbon	33.00%	33
It matters but we should not create a specific requirement	36.00%	36
Off-site renewables and offsets should only be allowed when roof-mounted PVs have been maximised / are not adequate	41.00%	41

## Fossil fuels

Less than 2<sup>%</sup> think that the use of fossil fuels in a Net Zero Carbon building is acceptable, while 26% think that it matters but that it should not be a condition for achieving Net Zero Carbon.

More than 70% think that the use of fossil fuels on site (e.g. oil, gas) is not compatible with Net Zero Carbon.

## Integration with the electricity grid

73<sup>%</sup> think that the Dynamic Demand Response is essential and that new Net Zero Carbon buildings should be encouraged / mandated to be 'smart grid ready.

58% of them think that Net Zero Carbon buildings should be encouraged / mandated to reduce their peak electrical demand.

## Workshop agenda

Time	Activity
1800	LETI Introduction
1815	Zero Carbon Introduction
Part 1	
1820	The LETI Zero Carbon Framework
1835	Modelling Results
1845	Part 1 Questions (Sli-do)
1850	Table discussions
1905	Results
Part 2	
1910	Demand Response
1915	Getting it Right
1920	Future Gazing
1925	Part 2 Questions (Sli-do)
1930	Table Discussions
1945	Results
Closin	g Session
1955	Q&A and Discussion
2010	Close

## Abridged presentation slides

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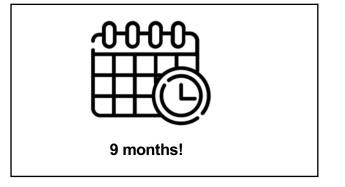


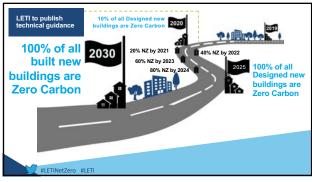




• Be Seen – Energy Use Disclosure

- Calculation of unregulated energy consumption
  Referable scheme to calculate whole life-cycle
- carbon emissions
   The recognition that that Building Regulations
- use outdated carbon emission factorsA Zero Carbon Plan for all developments
- The **heating hierarchy** zero emission and secondary source top
- Inclusion of demand management, minimising peaks and avoiding high energy bills for occupants

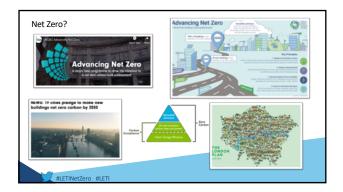




#### Net Zero Carbon

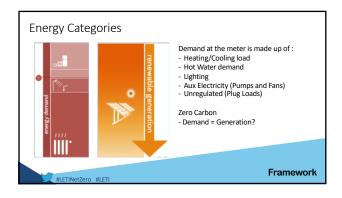
- Embodied Carbon and Whole Life Carbon
- . Calculation Methodologies - Building Regulations - Part L
- Be Seen- Data Disclosure
- The Future of Heating
  Demand Response and Energy Storage (DRES)
- . LETI Declaration

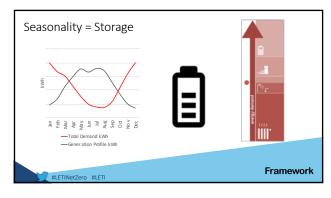


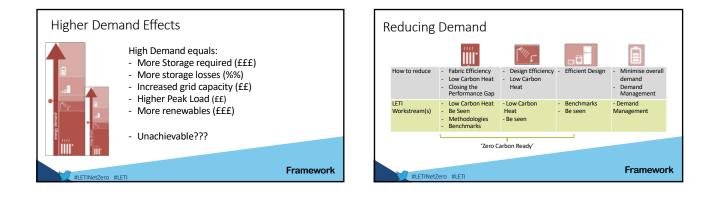


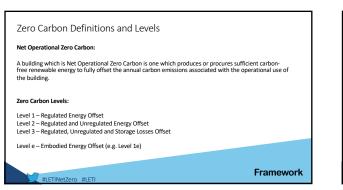


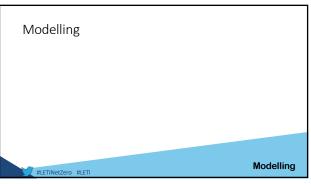






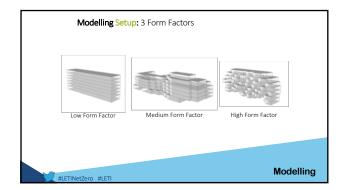






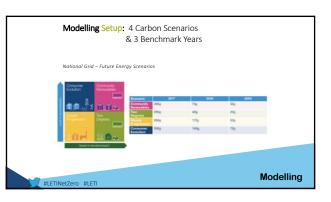
	Modelling Setup: What have we done so far?	
	4 1 Building Type	
[	3 Form Factors	
[	4 Specifications	
	A 3 Heat Supply Systems	
	4 Carbon Scenarios	
	S Benchmark Years	
	Levels of Compliance	
#LETIN	etZero #LETI	Modelling

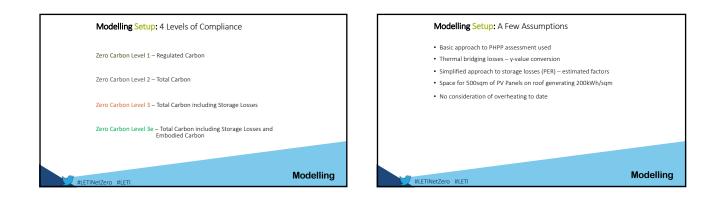
Modelling Setup: 1 Building	Туре
Medium Density Residential Apartme 68 Homes and Communal Areas Treated Floor Area - 5,000sqm	nt Block in London
#LETINetZero #LETI	Modelling

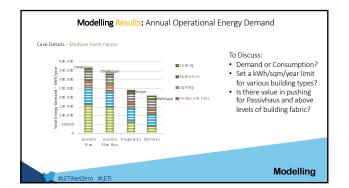


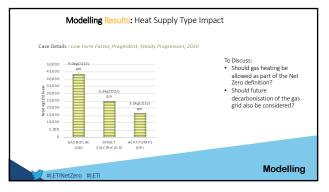
Modelling Set	<b>Jp:</b> 4 9	peci	ficatio	าร						
<b>London Plan</b> – Current London Pl	an Comp	liance								
London Plan Plus – Emerging Lon	don Plan	Comp	oliance							
Pragmatist – Similar to Passivhau	s Level									
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			Glazing	g-factor					0.50	
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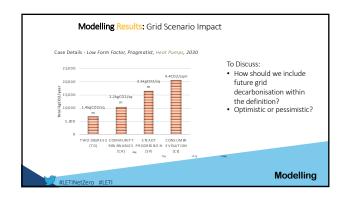


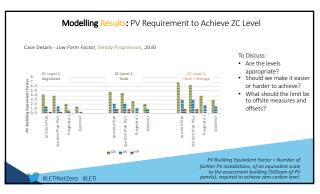




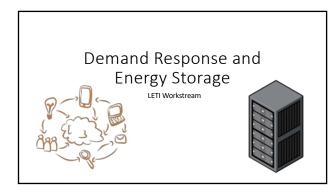






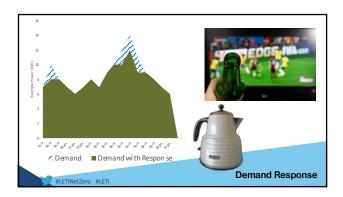


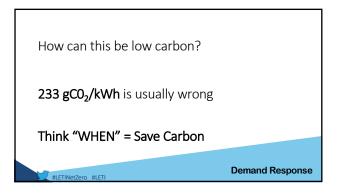


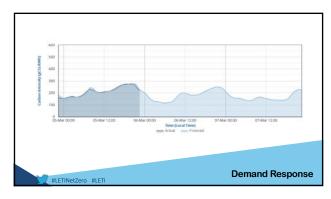


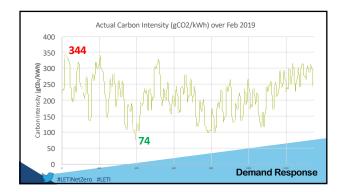
#### Flexibility

Changing when you use energy during a day by using smart controls and energy storage.









N	Region	Forecast Carbon Intensity (gCO <sub>2</sub> /kWh)	Index
1	South Scotland	81	kow
2	North West England	84	low
3	North East England	14	low
4	East England	547	low.
8	South West England	188	moderate
6	North Wales and Merseyside	210	moderate
7	North Scotland	225	moderate
8	London	250	moderate
9	South East England	255	moderate
10	South England	284	high
11	Yorkshire	500	high
12	West Midlands	300	high
13	South Wales	360	nigh
14	East Midlands	383	very high

#### Carbon Savings

- •Carbon Intensity 'Trading' / 'Avoiding'
- •Allowing more renewables on the network
- Delaying grid upgrades
- More effective use of on-site generation

Demand Response

Demand Response

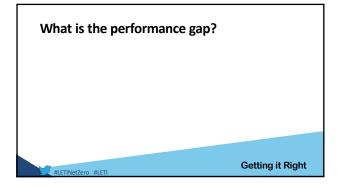


#### We're asking you

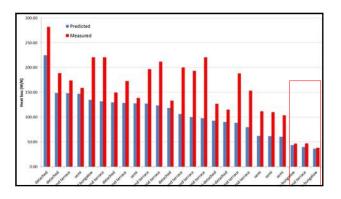
- •What does GOOD FLEXIBILITY look like?
- •How best to assess **FLEXIBILITY** elements?
- •What are the 'LEVELS' of Flexibility
- •How much of a developments peak should be **FLEXIBLE**?
- •How should GLA do ongoing monitoring?
- •...Design Guides for Flexibility...

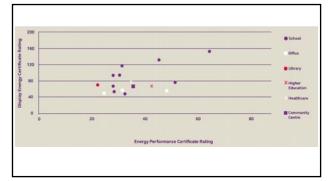
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Closing the performance gap
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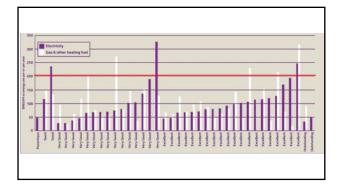
**Getting it Right** 





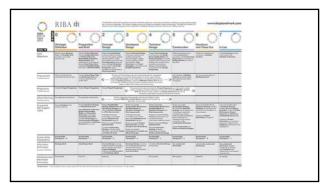


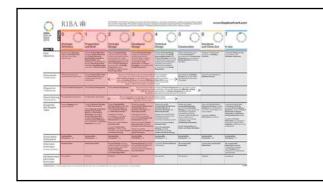




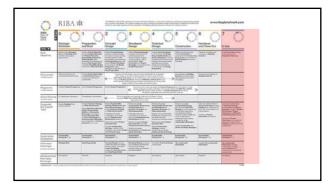


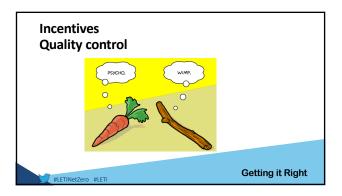


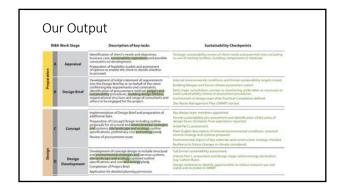




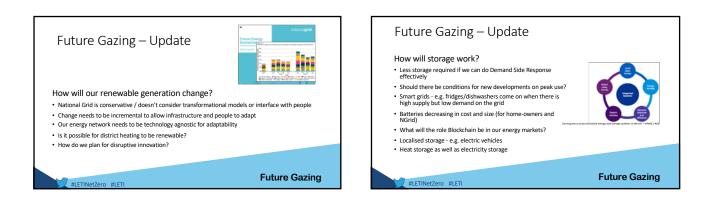
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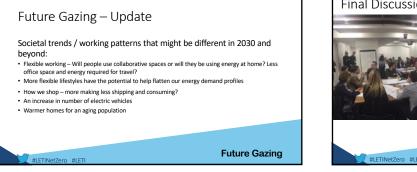






1. What might be different by 2030?
<ol><li>How might this affect our modelling? What might we need to make allowances for?</li></ol>
<ol> <li>What new technologies and working patterns do we anticipate?</li> </ol>
#LETINetZero #LETI Future Gazing

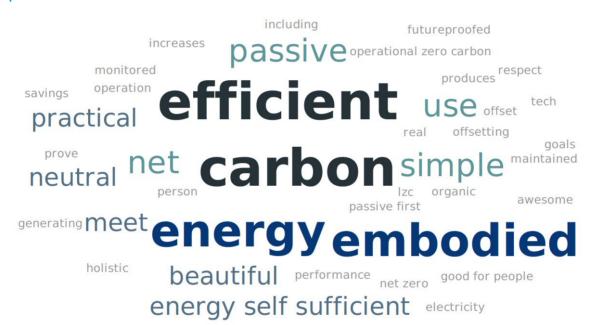






### **Detailed workshop poll results**

#### People at the event said a net zero carbon should be:



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#### People at the Event thought:

There should be different levels of 'Net Zero Carbon' so that more buildings can comply

40 % It should be the gold standard. The fact that only a few buildings will initially achieve it is not the issue. 55 % There must be a fabric energy efficiency standard built into the Net Zero Carbon definition (e.g. Passivhaus, better?) 88 % There must be a limit to how much carbon a building is able to offset 67 % The Net Zero Carbon definition must be very loose about how to achieve it. There should be no fabric efficiency requirements and no limitations on offsets 9% Change is urgent, Net Zero Carbon new buildings need to happen long before 2030

81 %

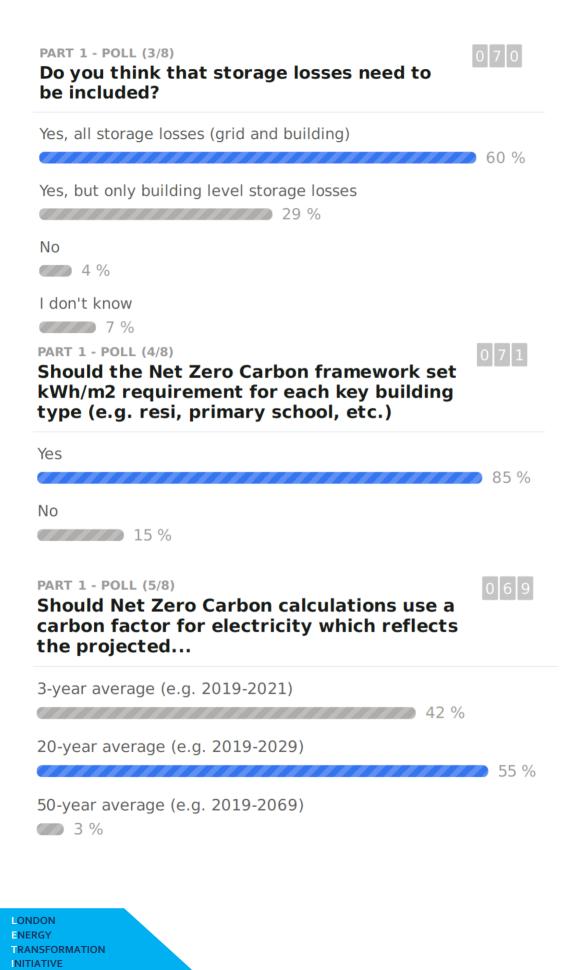
Achieving Net Zero Carbon (operational) by 2030 is a achievable

61 %

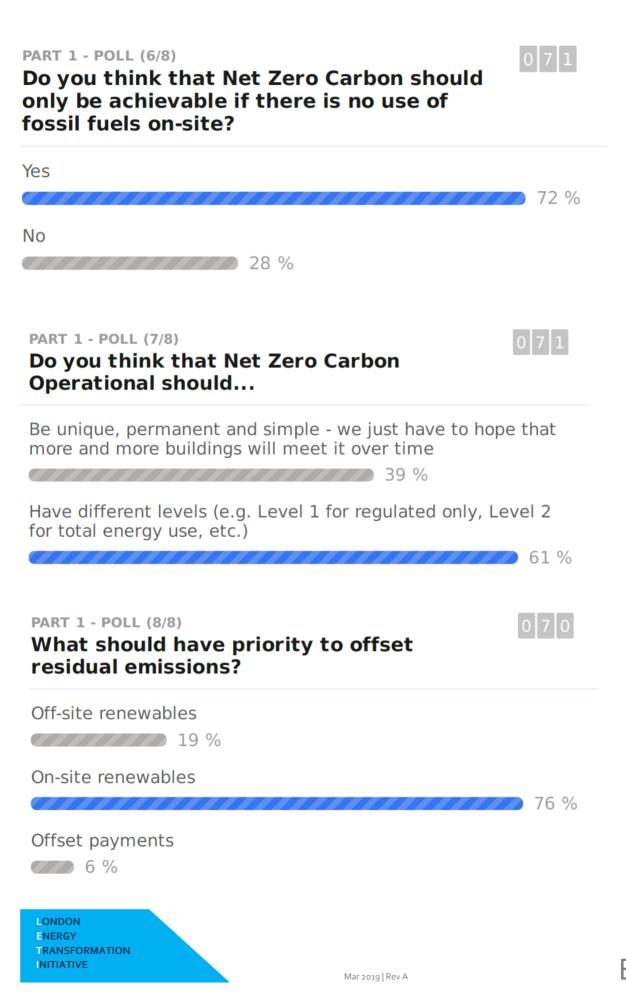
#### Part 1 Poll

PART 1 - POLL (1/8) There seems to be an emerging consensus that a two-tiered definition (Net Zero Carbon Operational and Net Zero Whole Life) is the best way forward. Do you agree?	
Yes	
80 %	
No, Net Zero Carbon should only be about Net Zero Carbon operational 9 %	
No, Net Zero Carbon should only be about Net Zero Whole Life	
PART 1 - POLL (2/8) Do you agree that we should base our strategy on continued grid decarbonisation?	
Yes 97 %	
No	

**3**%



E-4

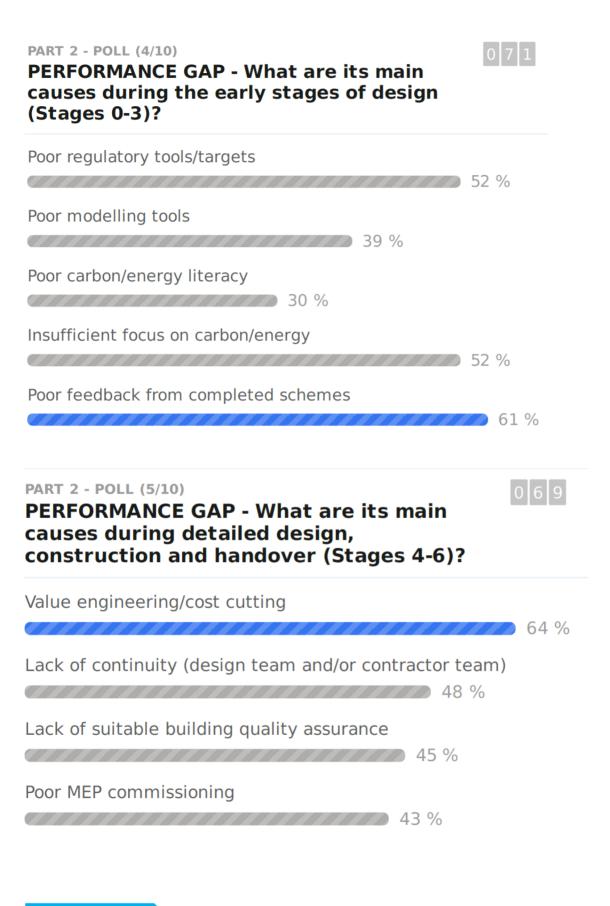


#### Part 2 Poll

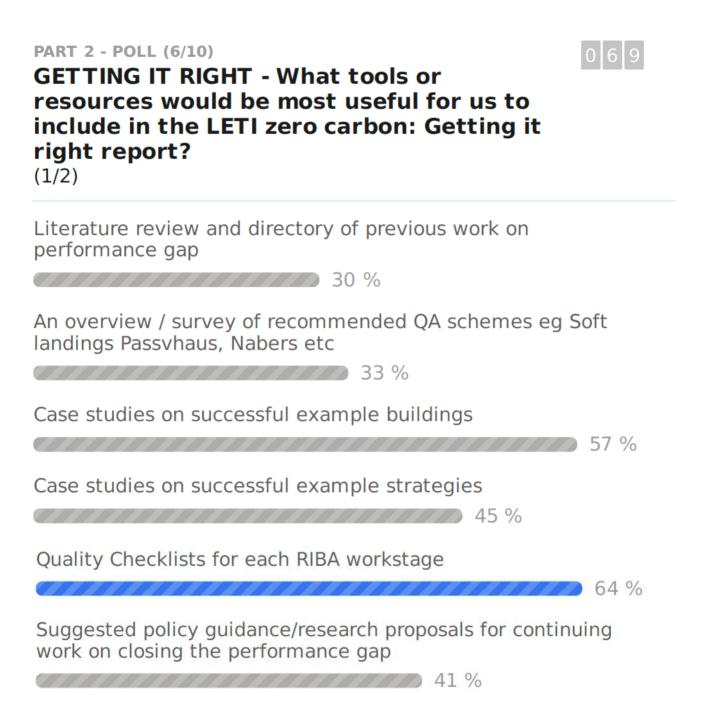
PART 2 - POLL (1/10) DEMAND RESPONSE - How important is increasing energy flexibility to achieving a Net Zero Carbon future for London?	0 7 0
It is a vital component to achieve Net Zero	61 %
It will be very useful in achieving Net Zero 31 %	
It will be somewhat useful in achieving Net Zero 7 %	
We can achieve NZC without it	
PART 2 - POLL (2/10) DEMAND RESPONSE - Have you seen it used in a scheme? (Plans, accepted plans or completed buildings)	069
Yes, lots of times	
Yes, but only a few times 25 %	
No, I've never seen this happening in practice yet	<b>)</b> 74 %

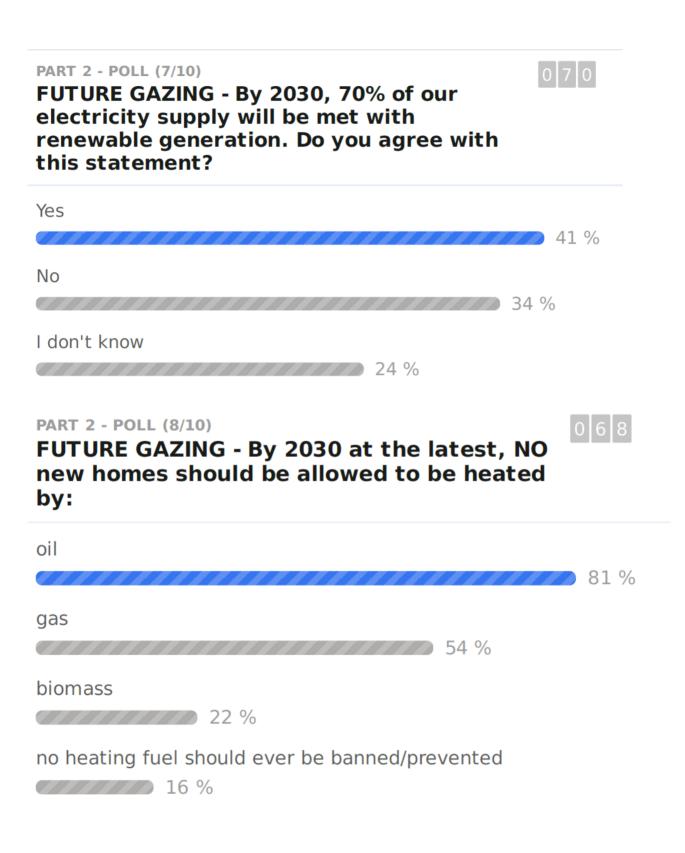
PART 2 - POLL (3/10) DEMAND RESPONSE - What percentage of total peak energy use (kW) in a scheme should be flexible for at least 1 hour? (Note: It is technologically feasible to do 100%) (1/2)	066
More than 50%	<b>3</b> 9 %
40 - 49%	
30 - 39%	
20 - 29%	
10 - 19%	
0-9%	

0 %



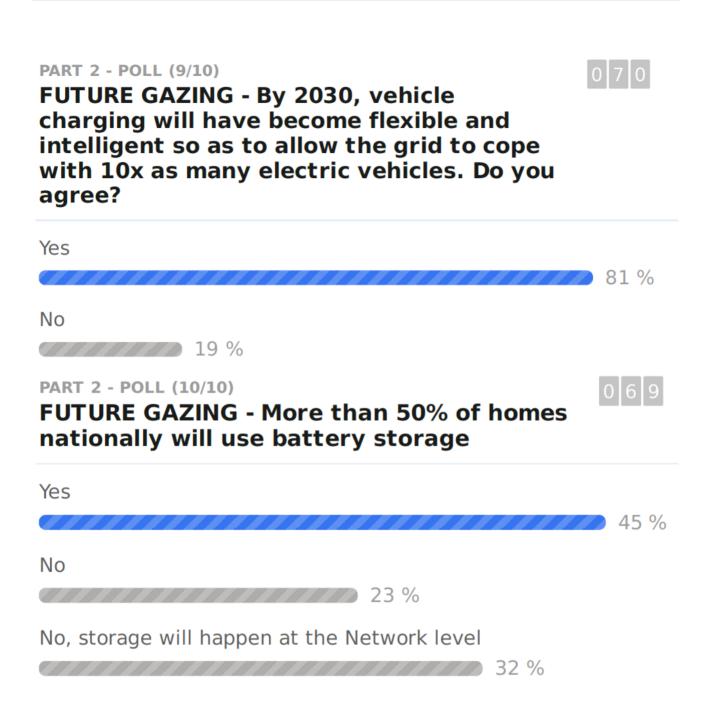
LONDON ENERGY TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE





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Mar 2019 | Rev A



## **Detailed comments from survey**

You have to have a measurement and display scheme of actual energy use

The way we model building performance must closely align with reality- we can't measure with a faulty tape! This means moving beyond Part L modelling into more realistic approaches- PHPP has been successful, as have other methods.

Air quality in our cities would be greatly improved if more people had electric cars. A barrier to electric cars in cities is a lack of charging points especially for people living in old residential stock, even house owners. Would it be appropriate to use this framework to encourage provision of chargers? This may be muddying the water.

The amount of off-site renewables needed to meet a building's energy demand should be an equitable proportion of the total renewable energy available from the UK's grid.

There is a careful balance between the output and the processes. I think as soon as specific approaches or technologies are mandated, then it becomes a target for influential lobbying (e.g. it's holding back other tech). It should be output driven to encourage alternative approaches. Start with aiming for zero energy consumption for the regulated energy, onsite renewables for the unregulated energy consumption, and then offsite renewables as a last resort. Perhaps a green bank/trust/broker that will invest in sustainable energy for offsetting as a last resort.

The first step to net zero MUST be disclosure and reporting of whole building energy and renewables for ALL buildings on an annual basis.

I believe that the industry/local authorities need to make an effort in designing more dynamic urban areas, where loads/peaks can be shared. Instead of focussing in a building only and try to optimize the use of its services, and investing in the new emerging technologies (smart grids, IoT) that can really help us to reduce emissions faster than just focussing in individual buildings.

All buildings heating system to be low grade (heat pump ready). Cooling system with low grade to be encouraged. Innovation credits to be taken into account.

Using measured metrics are essential component. Design based compliance with no feed back loop has been shown to be not fit for purpose.

Bear in mind the IPCC warning that we have 11 years to steeply decarbonise. That is the aim - not current pledges and budgets.

The net zero carbon hierarchy is a good tool to allow flexibility and retain the responsibility for specific solutions with the project team. However, it needs to sit in some context to make sure it is respected in implementation. At the moment this aspect feels weak and not guarded in any way against cost and other project pressures.

I feel that it is important that in new build sites (or in refurbishment of several buildings in a close area) are seen as a 'unit' or a 'co-operative' where renewable energy is delivered and shared. This would hopefully engender a feeling of shared responsibility - together we are stronger.

PV is a great technology, but unsuitable for all building types. I think we are also being narrow minded, what about solar thermal or other renewable electrical generators?

Embodied carbon is a grand aim, but unpractical in reality. Most manufacturers of building services equipment will have equipment with over 250+ different components from all over the world. Those components will be made of other components, that will be made of other components etc etc. unless it becomes an EU or UK law requirement to report embodied carbon on the good imported into the UK/EU it will not be possible to achieve.

new buildings must also recognise how those people in those buildings are using energy outside of the building - a key example of this is providing adequate cycle storage and washing facilities to encourage people to cycle to the building.

Must mandate fabric first approach to energy efficiency with Passivhaus style kWh/m2/yr targets as well as peak load targets. Also, PVs need to work in conjunction with green infrastructure such as green/brown roofs. Drive for zero carbon must not be at the expense of on-site biodiversity.

Low carbon heat needs to be prioritised, which likely means heat pumps or direct electric (if fabric efficiency is high enough). The CCC has made it clear that heating of buildings needs to be near completely decarbonised.

The survey does address affordability for the users. This has apparently proved to be problematic for some low carbon residential buildings. This should be considered if there is not be a back lash in the future.

There should definitely not be a minimum on renewables because their effectiveness in reducing carbon emissions is very variable and dependent on the carbon intensity of the grid. If the grid becomes much cleaner, we can easily get to the point where PVs are not good at all and, considering their embodied carbon, they could actually become carbon active! The reduction in energy demand through passive strategies has to be the key point for a net zero carbon building.

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