

## RetroNetZero RS&IN (Retrofit Net-Zero Buildings - Regulatory Science & Innovation Network)

*A collaborative network to unlock the adoption of innovation in domestic retrofit.*

### Overview

RetroNetZero RS&IN is an Innovate UK-funded project now in its implementation phase, having successfully completed its discovery phase in 2024. The Network will explore the regulatory challenges to the deployment of products in domestic retrofit, which are preventing potential new solutions from contributing to the rapid upscaling of retrofit needed for the UK to meet its net zero carbon targets.

Regulations are not keeping pace with innovation in the retrofit sector. The focus for the RS&IN is on where regulatory science can provide a solution and address evidence gaps to allow policies and regulations to align with pro-innovation ambitions. The RS&IN will help policymakers and regulators identify, understand and assess different approaches to regulating new technologies.

The RS&IN will build on relevant work undertaken by others (e.g. the Energy Systems Catapult, BE-ST, Innovate UK project TransformER), to amplify existing guidance and connect research opportunities.

### Partners

RetroNetZero RS&IN is a 'network of networks', leveraging existing trusted relationships to foster collaboration, remove silo-working and ensure the necessary linkage between innovators, regulatory science providers, regulators, specifiers and designers, trade associations and other stakeholders, to facilitate meaningful change. The RS&IN partners are:

- BRE and Constructing Excellence
- National Retrofit Hub
- Construction Products Association
- National Energy Foundation
- Planet Mark

### Scope

Innovation in products, materials, technologies, services, efficient processes and techniques for delivery of net zero solutions into domestic retrofit. A core principle of the Network will be to uphold safety, consumer protection and the delivery of reliable energy, carbon, cost, comfort and health performance in homes.

### Proposed Network activities during the implementation phase (year 1)

- The Network's online presence will be created, providing signposting to resources on regulatory pathways and to regulatory science organisations relevant to deploying products into domestic retrofit.
- Test the process for identifying regulatory challenges with stakeholders and proposing science-based solutions.
- Obtain consensus and support for the proposed solutions to challenges with the sector and regulator/policymaker community.
- Develop and test a business model and plan for the RS&IN network beyond year 1.

### Challenge and solution identification

A key activity of the RS&IN will be to study specific regulatory challenges identified by stakeholders and shape proposed solutions that should accelerate adoption of innovation. The Network will run 3 rapid cycles of study and engagement over 12 months, aiming to tackle 3 specific identified challenges in each cycle. Challenges may fall into the following categories:

- Resource: Knowledge creation and sharing, to help those navigating the regulatory ecosystem.
- Feasibility: Investigation to stress-test and refine needs for recognised challenges, but where the technical requirement is not yet well-defined. (May prompt a subsequent 'technical' challenge.)
- Technical: Develop specific evidence needed.

Solutions may include direct policy or regulatory recommendations, signposting to existing information or creation of new resources if lacking, the scoping and justification for deeper regulatory science research, a call for evidence, development/ amendment of standard(s), etc.

