



Welcome to RSN Seminar

Rural Decarbonisation

27th April 2022

RSN Seminar
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1. Older people

Wednesday 26/01/2022
11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

2. Young People in Rural
Areas

Wednesday 02/03/2022
11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

3. Rural Planning

Wednesday 30/03/2022
11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

4. Rural Decarbonisation

Wednesday 27/04/2022
11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

5. Rural Digital
Connectivity

Wednesday 25/05/2022
11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

6. Rural Affordable Housing

Wednesday 29/06/2022
11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

7. Rural Health and Social
Care

Wednesday 27/07/2022
11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

8. Rural Town Centres, High
Streets & Village Hubs

Wednesday 02/11/2022
11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

9. Rural Economies

Wednesday 30/11/2022 | 11 am - 1 pm | [BOOK HERE](#)

The RSN seminar programme is free to members of the RSN as part of their membership.
For full details [click here](#)



Seminars are free to
member
organisations of the
Rural Services
Network.

Book your place for
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RSN Seminar programme is
sponsored by :



Revitalising Rural

Realising the Vision

We want a fairer distribution of national resources to rural areas and for more nuanced national policies that reflect rural circumstances.

preserving
recycling
alternative working environment
electricity government reuse
decarbonisation
target
net-zero

council biodiversity planet
waste travel climate
heat homes sustainable
energy heating rural
transport partnership
countryside



HM Government

TOGETHER
FOR OUR
PLANET



Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener

October 2021

“The UK has a legally binding target to bring greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

Government is committed to ambitious decarbonisation measures across society.

However, we know that this does not mean emissions will drop to absolute zero by 2050 – we acknowledge that sectors such as industry, agriculture, and aviation are difficult to decarbonise completely.

Greenhouse gas removals (GGR), like trees and carbon capture and storage technology, are therefore essential to compensate for the residual emissions arising from these hard to decarbonise sectors, so we can reach net zero by 2050.”

What challenges do rural areas face
in the move towards decarbonisation?





Transport

Rural Residents travel further than urban
Need range of solutions to reduce reliance on
private vehicles



Transport and accessing services

- 60 per cent of households in Rural Villages, Hamlets or Isolated Dwellings own two or more cars/vans compared with 25 per cent of those in Urban Conurbations.
- Publicly available electric vehicle charging devices at all speeds, total devices per 100,000 population:

Predominantly Rural local authority areas 25.1

Predominantly Urban local authority areas 34.1

Heating and home energy efficiency



Homes in rural areas are typically less energy efficient and can be more reliant on potentially more expensive heating fuels

Nearly 20% of homes in rural areas are in the very energy inefficient F and G categories, compared to just 2.4% in urban areas.

And 91.1% of urban households have a gas connection, and are able to use gas boilers compared to only 40% of homes in rural areas.



<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>

HOW BIG IS YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT?

The planet is in crisis - from climate change to the pollution in our oceans and devastation of our forests. It's up to all of us to fix it. Take your first step with our environmental footprint calculator.

COMPLETE YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE

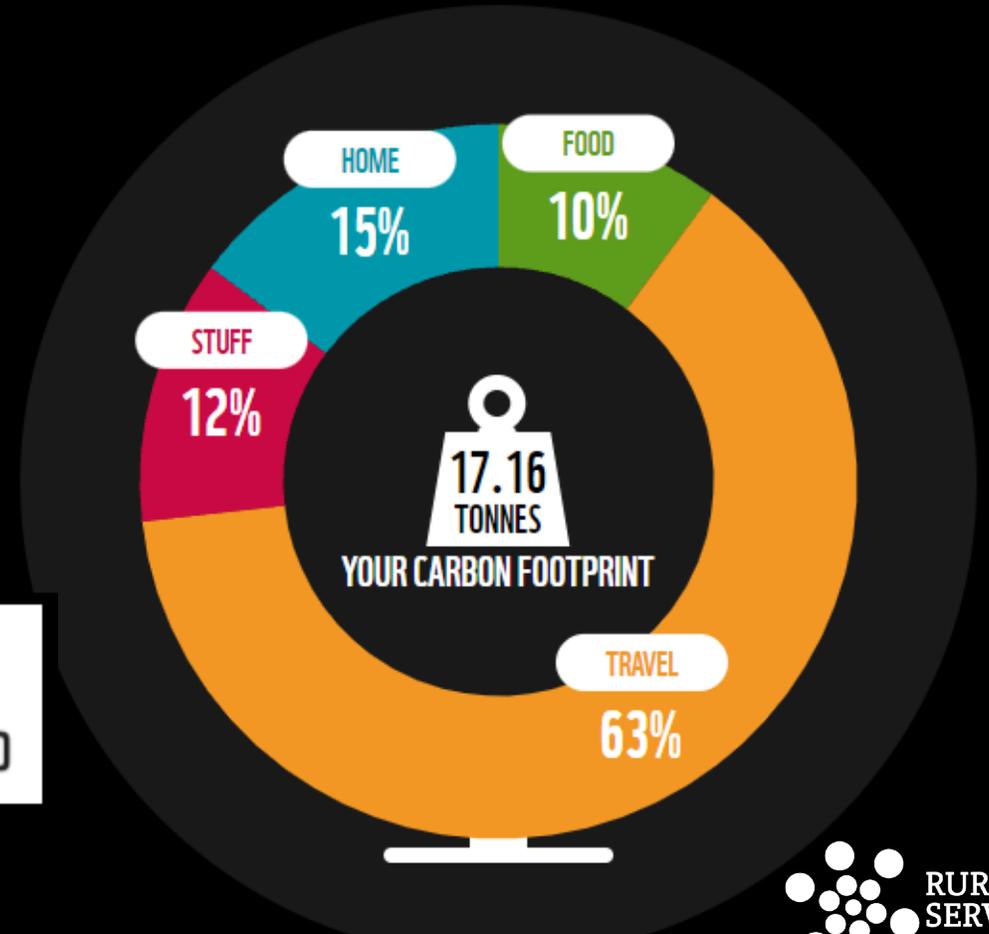
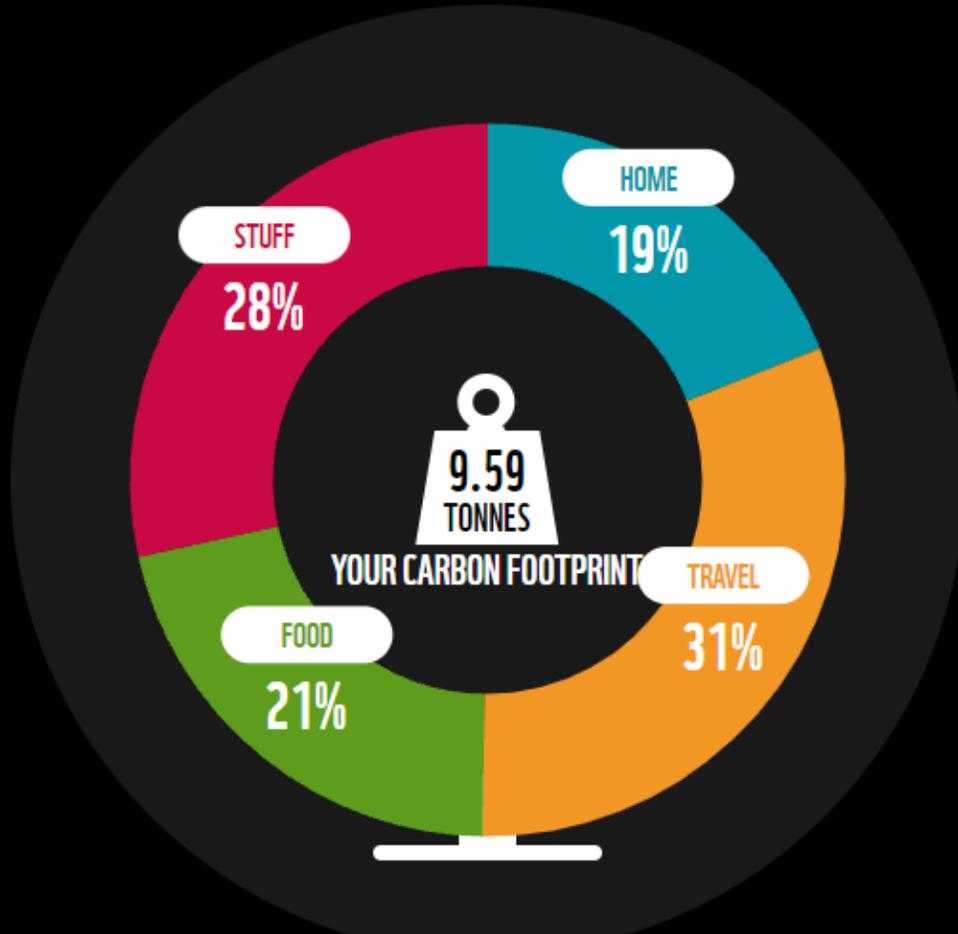
[Restart questionnaire](#)



Carbon Footprint

Urban

Rural



CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.





Heat and Buildings Strategy



Rural Lens Review of Heat and Buildings Strategy

Heat pumps may provide opportunities for **around 50% of rural households** – the Government believes that 80% of off-grid homes are suitable for a heat pump, but analysis suggests that is more likely to be around 56%. Therefore, the hard to decarbonise, older housing stock with limited opportunity for further insulation will need other options, including switching to bio-fuels such as bioLPG.

The proposed **rural first approach**, with a replacement boiler ban proposed from 2026 in off grid homes and 2024 for some off grid businesses, will mean higher replacement heating costs for rural homes and businesses compared to urban, where a boiler ban won't occur until 2035.

A **Heat Pump Ready First** approach is reliant on government's very optimistic aspiration for heat pump costs falling dramatically, from an average of £12k per rural home, to parity with gas boilers by the end of this decade. By going first, rural homes won't enjoy full benefit from any cost reduction in heat pumps.

Diverse and decarbonised - electrification is not the single answer, the government should follow a mixed technology approach including biofuels such as BioLPG and bioliquids **Choice, not mandate** - options are needed that are suitable for all homeowners, dependent on their situation (financial, physical and property). To achieve conversion for all homes in 30 years needs financial support, available equipment and a workforce to deliver – which needs a range of solutions.

Equal status - Rural areas should not be treated as a test bed to trial systems for the rest of the UK. 2 million diverse homes are not “low or no regret” or “low hanging fruit” – we need to get them right for the policy to work for everyone.



Rural Lens Review of Net Zero Strategy

Rural areas will want to ensure that they **benefit proportionately** from the expected growth of employment in green sectors and in business that transition to net zero.

The big unknown is the extent to which Strategy measures will reach or **target rural transport** networks or infrastructure when implemented.

A majority of onshore energy generation from renewable sources takes place in rural areas, so debate about the **pros (such as job opportunities) and cons (such as environmental impacts)** of its expansion will likely play out most often in rural areas.

The Strategy says that the transition “must be affordable and achievable for all” and that the costs homeowners will incur should “fall fairly across society”. This is helpful, but its implementation will need to ensure it is **affordable, achievable and fair in rural areas** with their particular characteristics.

References to taking **a place-based approach** and working with local government are potentially a useful hook. It will be important to ensure that this specifically includes rural places and their challenges. It would seem helpful if there was a **dedicated rural representative on the planned Local Net Zero Forum**.

Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener

October 2021

<https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/net-zero-strategy-rural-lens>



The Rt Hon. Greg Hands MP
Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

08 April 2022

Dear Minister

Decarbonisation of off gas grid heating

I am writing to you as chair of the Rural Coalition, an alliance of thirteen national organisations who subscribe to a vision for a living and working countryside in England.

The Rural Coalition has recently discussed the Government's proposals to accelerate the decarbonisation of premises that are not connected to the gas grid. This is an important issue for rural people, as they form the majority of those for whom mains gas is not an option and where, for many, heat pumps may not be the solution due to the difficulties (and the disproportionate expense) in heating and treating rural housing stock.

I attach a short position paper outlining the concerns held by the majority of our members. Our major concerns relate to the proposed compulsory timing of the transition for off gas grid premises to many years before on-gas grid areas and our belief that there is a need for considerable investment in the resilience of the rural energy distribution network to underpin this transition and other moves to net zero in rural areas.

The Coalition welcomes the additional help that is being provided to the social housing sector for its transition to net zero. With this in mind, one of our members, the National Housing Federation, has stepped back from endorsing the paper, whilst still in discussion with you about implementation of the schemes aimed at the social housing sector.

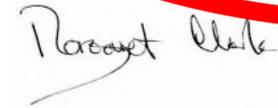
We are, of course, very aware that the transition to renewable energy has become an even more urgent issue for reasons other than just our national commitment to net-zero. Our discussions took place in the aftermath of Storm Arwen, but we are now writing at a time of record global fuel costs due to the conflict in eastern Europe and the consequent regime of sanctions on Russia. We also note that the Government has just released its long-term Energy Security Strategy and has committed to the creation of a new Future Systems Operator to oversee future planning of a national, integrated, energy system. All these developments will have a considerable impact on rural communities and businesses.

Rural Coalition

The Rural Coalition would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns and the more recent developments with you. Our aim is not only to ensure that rural areas benefit from a comprehensively planned future energy system but also to unlock their potential, and the communities and businesses they house, to make a significant contribution to this system being both resilient and secure for everyone in the country.

I am copying this letter and paper to Lord Benyon, the Minister for Rural Affairs at Defra, with whom the Coalition works closely.

Yours sincerely



Margaret Clark CBE
Chair, Rural Coalition

Members of the Rural Coalition: Action with Communities in Rural England, CPRE – The Countryside Charity, Country Land and Business Association, The Arthur Rank Centre, National Association of Local Councils, National Centre for Rural Health and Care, National Farmers Union, National Housing Federation, Plunkett Foundation, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Royal Town Planning Institute, Rural Services Network, Town and Country Planning Association.

President: Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans

<https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/tag/rural-lens>

RURAL LENS REVIEW



People at the Heart of Care
Adult Social Care Reform
White Paper

Published December 2021



RURAL LENS REVIEW



Heat and Buildings Strategy

Published November 2021



RURAL LENS REVIEW



Integration and Innovation
Health White Paper

Published June 2021



RURAL LENS REVIEW



Net Zero Strategy
Build Back Greener

Published December 2021



RURAL LENS REVIEW



Build Back Better
High Streets

Published August 2021



The Rural Services Network is fighting for a fair deal for rural communities, in all public sector funding

