Survey results

‘Decarbonise Falkirk’ is the name of Falkirk’s LHEES community engagement campaign. The LHEES lead and officers from the Energy & Climate Change team attended a number of events to engage with the public directly concerning LHEES. Leaflets and branded merchandise were distributed around Falkirk, sharing information on LHEES, energy saving tips and leading people to a short survey.

The questionnaire asked a range of questions about energy efficiency. 300 leaflets were handed out and 34 individuals responded to the survey. As displayed in figure 3, most of the participants were homeowners, with some private and social tenants also.

**Figure 3: Tenant Type, taken from the Local heat & Energy Efficiency Consultation Questionnaire, 2022**

The survey asked how individuals heated their properties, either via gas, electric, oil, coal or other. It also asked whether people found their systems to be efficient. Figure 4 presents the results of this question, highlighting that the majority of individuals in the Falkirk area had gas heating systems. There was a mixed response as to whether people found their system to be efficient or not, and many people were unsure. From those who has electric heating, the majority found this to be inefficient.

**Figure 4: Heating Type Efficiency, taken from the Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Consultation**

The questionnaire also focused on the environmental impacts of heat, in an attempt to understand the knowledge base of the community. Individuals were asked to indicate whether they had an awareness of the impacts of fossil fuel powered heating systems and whether they understood how their actions could help. The results (figure 5) shows that 94% of people were aware of the impacts of fossil fuels, however 50% of these people were not aware of how their actions could help. 6% of respondents were unaware of the impacts that fossil fuels have on the environment.

**Figure 5: Awareness of the Impacts of Fossil Fuels, taken from the Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy Consultation Questionnaire, 2022**

Further on to the previous question, the survey asked if individuals would be willing to upgrade to a low carbon heating system, such as a heat pump or a heat network. Details on these technologies were given as part of the survey. As displayed in figure 6, 53% of respondents were willing to change, 34% were unsure and 13% said they would not change.

**Figure 6: Willingness to change heating system, taken from Local Heat & Energy efficiency Strategy Consultation Questionnaire, 2022**

Finally, the questionnaire asked what tools people would require to assist them in making changes to the energy efficiency of the their property. The answer selection included advice, funding and access to information regarding low carbon options, noting that respondents could select more than one answer. The results are shown in figure 7, highlighting that of those who would be willing to change their system, they would like to see access to funding opportunities and advice t assist with this change. This information will then assist in how we tackle our engagement going forward.

**Figure 7: What tools people would like to assist them in becoming more energy efficient, taken from Local heat & Energy efficiency Strategy consultation Questionnaire, 2022**

The purpose of this engagement campaign was to gain an understanding of the community’s awareness of energy efficiency and their willingness to make changes. Overall, although the response rate to this survey was low, the results have shown some key trends. It is evident that many people are aware of the impact of their heating system on the environment, however there is less of an awareness of how to reduce this impact. This trend was clear when discussing these issues with individuals at face-to-face engagement events. The team at Falkirk will endeavour to improve our information sharing skills to advise individuals on how they can make a change.