

Vocal

VCSE forums facilitated by
Salford CVS



Vocal Environment Network Report

University of Salford
Monday 26th February 2024

Chaired by:

Martyn Wilcock, Salford CVS

Speakers:

Professor Mike Hardman, University of Salford

Nigel Blandford, University of Salford

Lydia Marshall, Groundwork GM

The network meeting began with a presentation from Professor Mike Hardman - Professor of Urban Sustainability at the University of Salford, who discussed his work supporting greening the city with radical greening initiatives, urban agriculture, guerrilla gardening and growing an urban revolution in our communities.

In this condensed version of his full lecture Greening the City : Growing an Urban Revolution, Mike reflected on his work in North America, Africa and Europe, and highlighted radical ways we can reshape our urban landscapes and create more sustainable cities for future generations.

Professor Mike described how with populations rising and more people living in cities than ever before, there is an urgent need to rethink our urban spaces. He argued we are now witnessing more interest in the connection between nature and the built environment, particularly in the wake of the pandemic.



The network then was then given a tour by Nigel Blanford, who showed the attendees the ongoing projects within the University of Salford, including:

Salford Smart Home - built by Barratt Developments which is the first home in the UK that takes sustainability beyond the current Future Homes Standards.

The house was developed as an industry showcase home to demonstrate what is achievable, particularly from a mainstream, volume housebuilder. The home was built with over 40 leading industry partners from across the housebuilding, sustainability and technology sectors, all helping to broaden knowledge in zero carbon living.



This was followed by a tour of Energy House 2 – which contains two environmental chambers with the ability to achieve temperatures of between -20°C to $+40^{\circ}\text{C}$ and can simulate wind, rain, snow, and solar light. The facility has a global reach, with environmental conditions of 95% of the world's population able to be replicated in the facility.



The network meeting ended with Lydia Marshall from Groundwork GM describing and advertising the VCSE Energy Efficiency programme, which is helping voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations (VCSEs) across England to deliver more efficient services for people and communities by saving money on their energy bills. For information and to apply, please follow this [link](#).

To book on for the next network meeting please click [here](#)