

News



Spring 2025

Newsletter of Brampton 2 Zero www.brampton2zero.org.uk

B2Z Thermal Imaging Surveys

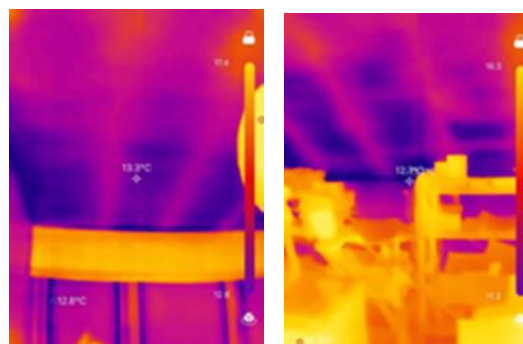
In our last newsletter Philip Sage and Peter Orr wrote about the Thermal Imaging Service for Brampton households which B2Z developed in a new partnership with Cumbria Action for Sustainability (re-named on 2 April Futureproof Cumbria). The purpose of the service is to identify cold spots in a property so a householder can make informed decisions about how to make their home cheaper to heat and lower their carbon footprint.

Since the last B2Z Newsletter Philip, Lead Coordinator, has recruited more volunteers and now there are five helping with the project. They trained together with Futureproof Cumbria and did practice surveys as a team before offering the service to householders. The group have particularly appreciated sharing the knowledge and experience of one volunteer who is a qualified engineer and has his own thermal imaging camera; the rest share the camera purchased by B2Z.



Surveys are undertaken in pairs with appointments agreed between October and March when the difference in temperature is picked up best by the equipment. Each survey takes up to an hour and

the images captured on the camera are shared with the householder. One B2Z volunteer described how in a recent survey a loft hatch was shown to be leaking heat and this was a 'quick fix' for the householder who could fit draught-proofing and extra insulation. Any issues the survey uncovers that need professional advice are referred to the Cold to Cosy Homes Team at Futureproof Cumbria.



Two survey images: warmer temperatures display as lighter colours like red, orange, or yellow; cold spots are blue and purple.

Householders were alerted to the project's offer in Brampton by a leaflet drop and signposting via local networks. The official launch (pictured left) took place on 25th January at the Moot Hall in conjunction with the monthly Farmer's Market. The Home Energy pop-up advice session, also attended by a member of the Cold to Cosy Homes team, offered free information about draughtproofing, insulation, heat pumps and other energy issues and the chance to sign up for a Thermal Imaging Survey. It was well-attended and a dozen householders expressed an interest in a thermal survey. The service was also promoted at the January 2025 Café Sci meeting.

Over the 2024/25 season the Thermal Imaging Service completed 12 surveys and the group is confident that advertising for the 2025/26 season, starting in September 2025, will generate a significant increase in requests. Now the service is up and running the aim is to build volunteer capacity and two new recruits will be needed by September. Meanwhile the current team are getting DBS checks to signal to the public this is a professional service that recognises the need to



safeguard vulnerable individuals. From the 2025/26 season all volunteers who conduct thermal surveys will be issued with ID cards to reassure householders about who they are inviting into their home.

The Lead Coordinator expects the project partnership with Futureproof Cumbria to be sustainable long-term. The B2Z group communicate via WhatsApp and also share experiences more widely with other groups in the county so an informal network of ideas and experience is emerging. Next steps include preparing an integrated social and traditional media promotion to launch the 2025/26 season; community outreach sessions to build awareness and recruit new volunteers and review and improve the resources currently used to document the project. They also plan an end of season meet-up and thank you for the current dedicated volunteers (pictured above).

Brampton Fell Moss Restoration Project – update

B2Z are pleased to report the Legal Department of the Environment Agency signed the deed to confirm the project last week. This means the funds will be released and we can begin Stage Two – capital works and the Moss restoration described in our November 2024 Bulletin. As soon as we have further details confirmed we will share them with you.

Connecting to Nature Lottery Bid – update

The consultation meetings held with community groups in October 2024 really moved the Lottery bid forward. Local groups wrote letters of support and the ideas generated in the meeting helped shape and develop the details of 'Connecting to Nature'. In early 2025 we received external advice on how to enhance our bid's potential by including more of an emphasis on community-based learning. The revised version will be submitted as soon as some final legal details are confirmed.

Lancaster University 'Climate Action' partnership – update

B2Z have facilitated a student placement from the University to support Sustainable Brampton conduct a survey of current public attitudes to climate and environmental challenges. Sustainable Brampton will use the data, expected to be available in the autumn, to help shape their discussions 'Whither Sustainable Brampton'. A workshop, open to anyone in the community who is interested, will analyse the survey findings and help devise a way forward. To find out more visit the B2Z stand at the Brampton Farmer's Market on Saturday 28 June, 10am to 1pm.

B2Z A.G.M. May 9, 2025

B2Z Board members discussed new ways of working to help develop further activities as we move forward. The Chair's Report 2023-4 is available on this link:

https://www.brampton2zero.org.uk/shared/images/content/bus_55661/pdf/Chairs_report_202324_.pdf

The current B2Z Board is Phil Furneaux, Chair and Founding Director; Michelle Rae, Treasurer and Founding Director; Philip Sage, Director and Mike Siddall, Director. Pam Cronin is Clerk to the Board.

Pot luck supper May 12



Volunteers enjoyed a supper of homemade treats and reviewed the outcome of proposals discussed at B2Z AGM a few days before. The idea of a Project Management Group, to enable more volunteers to be included in decision-making, was welcomed.

Activities Summer 2025

To express an interest in any of the activities

contact: enquiries@brampton2zero.org.uk

Unity Farm Lonning hedge tending: Sunday 6 July, 11am – details to follow

Unity Bog activities: Saturday 19 July, 11am – To include an ecology survey, birch pull and picnic. Booking essential for this event.

The **B2Z Mapping Group** meets monthly and at the end of May 2025 we will be reviewing what needs to be done over the next year. Once that's in place we will let you know about volunteering opportunities 2025/26.



As reported last year Hallbankgate Primary School artwork created in B2Z supported sessions featured in the **Community Bioblitz Exhibition** (pictured above) held at RSPB Geltsdale in October 2024.

Keep up to date with us on Facebook



Our newsletter retrospectively covers activities but new stories, longer articles and forthcoming events are posted on our

Facebook page.

Would you like to volunteer with B2Z?



We need volunteers to help with a range of activities to achieve a net carbon zero community. For more information email:

enquiries@brampton2zero.org.uk