

2000

25 years

2025

25 years

2050

**We only have 25 years to 2050
to reduce GHG emissions to
Net Zero.**

To safely electrify existing homes, we must ensure:

- ✓ A competent, skilled workforce
- ✓ Procedures which analyse existing electrical infrastructure
- ✓ Updated standards and regulations including maintenance requirements
- ✓ Compliance and fit for purpose enforcements procedure

**Mass electrification must not be
at the cost of safety**





Interest in circularity is growing

Deloitte's 2023 Sustainable Consumer Survey: 55% repaired an item instead of buying new. 46% bought second hand items.



Second Hand Market

We are seeing a small but growing market for second-hand electrical goods.



Safety of installation

How can we ensure these products are safe to use, link to manufacturer information and are installed correctly?

The circular economy for electrical goods must develop safely.

As we stand on the cusp of an era defined by achieving Net Zero by 2050, it's crucial to understand that this timeline, though seemingly distant, is not as far away as it might appear.

In just 25 years, we must accomplish a momentous shift towards sustainability, and the challenges and changes required are immense.

Just consider how swiftly time flies – many of you in this room will clearly remember how you ushered in the new millennium. But that was 25 years ago. The time between then and now is all the time we have left to reduce emissions – at times it's going to go by in the blink of an eye.

To reach Net Zero, we must undertake two fundamental transformations: reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a circular economy.

Both these endeavours demand significant changes in how we power our homes, travel, and consume resources. Electrification will be the cornerstone of this transition.

But amidst this electrification drive, we must ensure that consumer choice remains paramount. People need options, and installers must be equipped to provide informed choices, familiarising themselves with a variety of solutions. Something which BEAMA are working hard to help with.

For example, air source heat pumps will be a fantastic solution for a number of homes. But they will not be a silver bullet and we will need alternatives, including battery systems, thermal and energy storage and direct electric to meet the requirements to electrify UK households.

However, mass electrification cannot come at the cost of safety.

Ensuring the safety of our electrical systems demands a comprehensive approach.

Firstly, we'll need a competent and skilled workforce capable of correctly installing these systems. We need to be planning now to ensure we have the installer capacity to meet demand whilst offering the right training and safe guards to ensure electrified systems are safe.

With a significant portion of existing homes dating back to pre-1944, the retrofit sector cannot ignore the potentially dated electrical infrastructure and supporting systems of some of the UK's housing stock.

As we move forwards, installation without thorough inspection of internal infrastructure cannot be acceptable to ensure that it can safely cope with increased demand and external connection.

Not only is this imperative from a safety point of view, but also in ensuring that retrofits consider a holistic, long-term plan for the entire dwelling which enables the timely yet cost effective application of electrified heat, ventilation and transport.

In support of this, we need to regularly update and refine standards that support electrification, including maintenance protocols. We must find a way to update these quickly and effectively to keep pace with the speed that we need to electrify.

Equally important are fit for purpose enforcement procedures, guarding against issues from non-compliance to counterfeit products sold online. Manufacturers are already playing a vital role here, actively engaging in standardisation efforts to enhance the safety of their products and installations.

But more needs to be done to bring this challenge into the spot light. It is an example where collaboration across sectors can be used as a powerful force for change and education.

Transitioning to a circular economy presents its own set of challenges and opportunities.

The growing second-hand electrical goods market reflects growing interest in circular practices. Yet, safety must remain paramount.

How can we ensure these products are safe to use, accompanied by reliable manufacturer information, and installed correctly?

This too will require the development of comprehensive standards, which must be accompanied by the digitalisation of product information to keep the golden thread intact.

However, we will also need to be clear on the reseller requirements and responsibility, and ensure consumers understand how to do their due diligence – an area where I'm certain ESF will make a positive impact in the future as key educators to the market.

In the coming decade, we're bound to witness substantial changes.

But amidst these changes, safety must remain non-negotiable.

Thank you.