



Thermal Camera Impact Survey

6 December 2024

The Thermal Camera Program aims to empower the community by promoting energy efficiency and sustainability. Supported by funding from the Summertown & St Margaret's Forum, these cameras have been available for hire since late 2022. To assess the program's impact and identify opportunities for improvement, we sent a survey to over **70 people** who had hired a camera since the program's inception. We received **18 detailed responses**, which provided valuable insights to guide the future of the program.

Participants were invited to share their experiences, addressing the following aspects:

- How they utilised the thermal cameras.
- The steps taken to mitigate energy inefficiencies.
- Suggestions for improving the program.

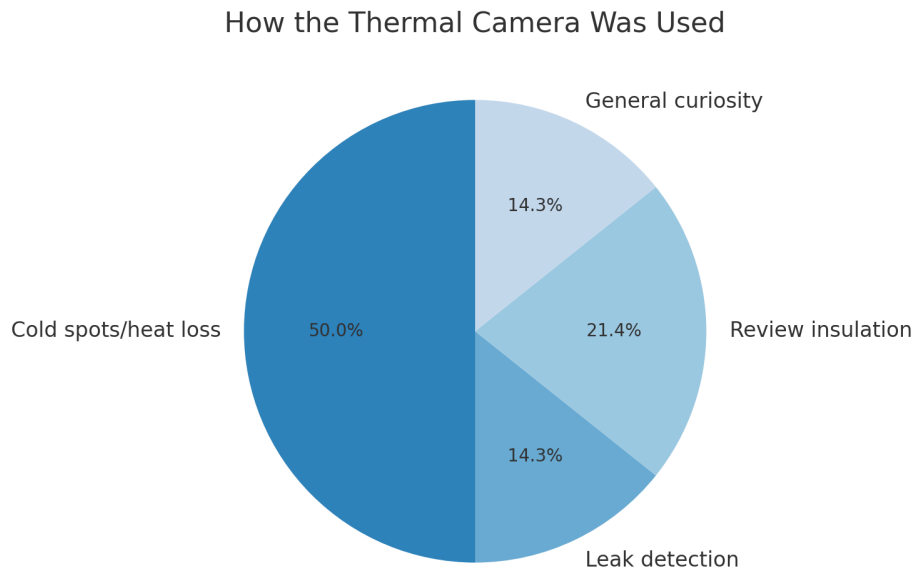
This report summarises the key findings, actionable insights, and future plans for the program.

Results

How the Thermal Camera Was Used

Respondents reported diverse uses for the thermal cameras, including:

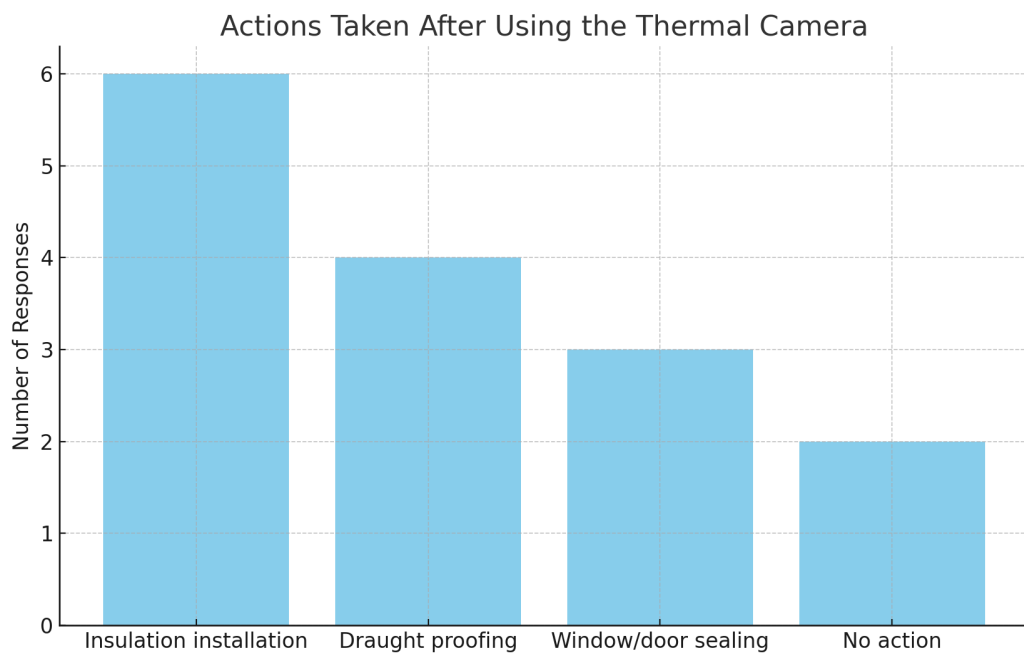
1. **Identifying Draughts and Heat Loss**
 - Many participants used the camera to locate heat leaks around windows, doors, walls, and ceilings.
2. **Evaluating Insulation**
 - Several users assessed the efficiency of their insulation, with some checking the performance of newly installed materials.
3. **Planning Home Improvements**
 - A few respondents used the camera to prioritise retrofit projects based on identified problem areas.
4. **Detecting Water Leaks**
 - Some participants used the thermal camera to locate leaks in heating systems.



Actions Taken After Using the Camera

Over **75% of respondents** reported making changes to improve their home's energy efficiency after using the thermal camera. The most common actions included:

- **Improving Insulation:** Adding or enhancing insulation in lofts and walls.
- **Installing Draught-proofing Measures:** Applying door seals, window strips, and other gap fillers.
- **Re-sealing Windows:** Addressing poorly insulated window frames.
- **Optimizing Heating:** Moving radiators for better heat distribution.



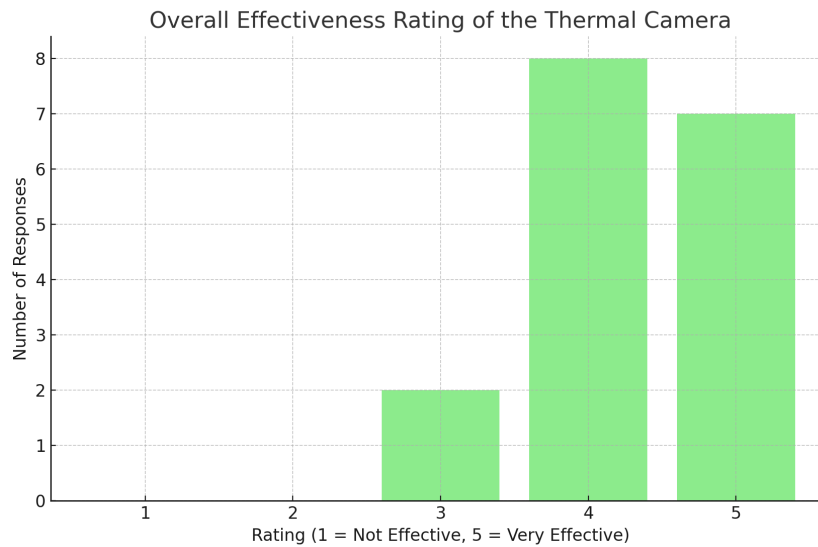
Highlights from Participants:

- One participant identified and rectified issues with poorly installed insulation around window frames and doors in a newly built home.
- Another respondent reported reducing energy consumption by switching from central heating to heating blankets after identifying heat loss.

Effectiveness and Community Impact

Overall Effectiveness Rating: 4.3 out of 5

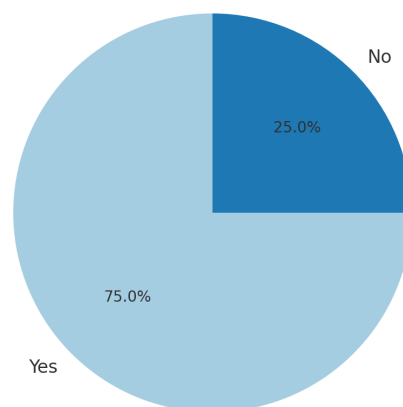
- Most users found the thermal camera highly effective in pinpointing problem areas and informing energy-saving decisions.



Housewarming Program Influence:

- 75% of respondents accessed the camera through the **Housewarming Program**, highlighting the success of this initiative in promoting sustainable practices.
- While the information sheet provided was praised, some users suggested simplifying it for easier understanding.

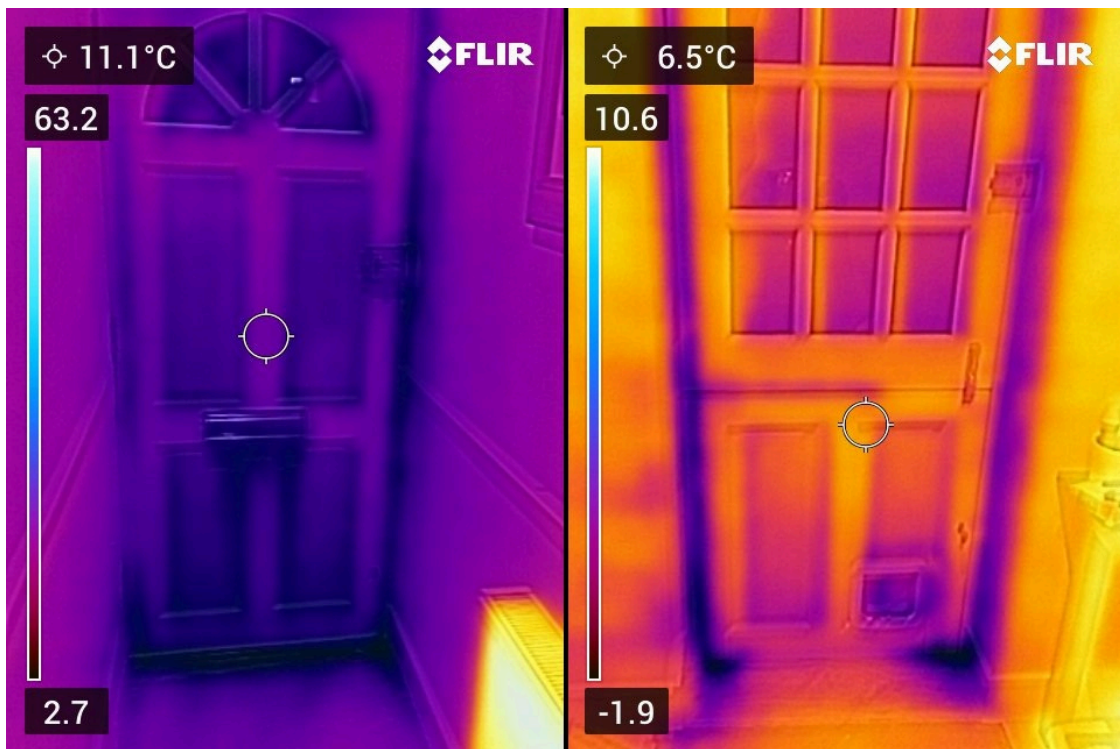
Access Through Housewarming Program



Some positive comments from our participants:-

“This prompted me to have a discussion with friends and I learned that my back door didn't have any "fuzzy insulating strips" around it despite having slots for them. We bought some and have stuck them in. I've not noticed a massive difference in temperature near the back door in winter but hope it's helped me use a bit less energy keeping my kitchen warm.”

“We decided to get internal insulation in the downstairs and upstairs bay window as a result of seeing just how cold the walls were compared to the rest of the room.”



Img- How our participants utilized the thermal camera to identify cold and hot spots

Suggestions for Improvement

Survey participants provided valuable feedback to enhance the program:

1. **Improved Guidance**
 - Provide clear and simple instructions for interpreting thermal images, including examples of common findings.
2. **Higher-Resolution Cameras**
 - Invest in cameras capable of capturing detailed images for outdoor and complex analyses.
3. **Increased Accessibility**
 - Reduce waiting times by increasing the number of cameras available for hire.
4. **Actionable Advice**
 - Offer practical solutions for heat loss issues, along with links to local service providers.

Ideas for the Future

Based on the survey feedback, several opportunities have been identified to expand and improve the program:

1. **Enhanced User Experience**
 - Develop comprehensive yet user-friendly training materials to help participants interpret their findings and take action effectively.
2. **Increased Accessibility**
 - Seek funding to purchase additional cameras and reduce wait times for users.
3. **Integration with Other Services**
 - Partner with local insulation installers or energy-saving experts to offer a bundled approach to tackling energy inefficiency.
4. **Community Engagement**
 - Organize workshops and share success stories from users to encourage broader community participation.

In Summary

The Thermal Camera Program has demonstrated its value in empowering the community to take actionable steps toward energy efficiency. The feedback from this survey will inform the program's next phase, focusing on:

1. **Expanding accessibility** by increasing the number of available cameras.
2. **Improving user resources** to ensure participants can fully benefit from the technology.
3. **Enhancing community engagement** through workshops and user success stories.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this survey. Your input is shaping the future of this program and fostering a more sustainable community.

For more information, please contact us at hello@shareoxford.org