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**Net-Zero Homes as localities of households, neighborhoods,
and natural environments
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Abstract

This paper responds to the question 'how can we engage more effectively with the home and family as a resilient unit to help societies and economies combat Climate Change?' by focusing on 'connected locality'. What we mean by this term is the ways in which people, place and planet come together in shaping homes that then become 'net-zero by default'. Our argument is based on the idea of homes as dwellings, as ways of being in the world (Heidegger, 1971). These ways of being are embedded in meaningful connectivity based on the relations of nature- and people-centred neighbourhood-making. This requires creating imaginaries and visions of home within localities, developing concepts, and turning these into concrete models and designs, gaining planning approval and undertaking generative and innovative developments.

The paper will first cover some of the underpinning arguments for taking a neighbourhood and home-centred approach to address climate change. It will then discuss a real-world example of the development of sustainable connectivity that addresses global climate change through its local contextual rootedness, namely the Ladyfield development. It will conclude by arguing that our homes can become net-zero by default if we think about home as dwelling. Dwelling operationalised in home and neighbourhood centric approaches is central in developing sustainable communities that support environmental and household wellbeing. This requires working with deep understanding of the natural environment, working with technological and material innovations responsibly, and taking community focused approaches with the ways households create their homes.

*Full paper is being prepared for publication. Further details to be announced.