



Delivering for People through Community Energy

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Community Energy London (CEL)

BIEE Conference Oxford September 2023

Who are Community Energy London?

Community Energy London (CEL) was formed in 2017 and is a network of people and organisations with an interest in supporting the development of community energy projects across the capital.

CEL provides a route for groups to link up and also share experiences, through a regular series of events and workshops and an annual conference. In addition, CEL has hosted monthly meetings on the last Thursday of every month for over five years, focusing on key issues of interest raised by members.

CEL is a volunteer led organisation, with one paid part-time Coordinator in place. We have an active Board of Directors, made up of representatives from member groups, who help shape our priorities and programmes and contribute significantly to helping deliver our work programme.



SELCE member supporting a local resident

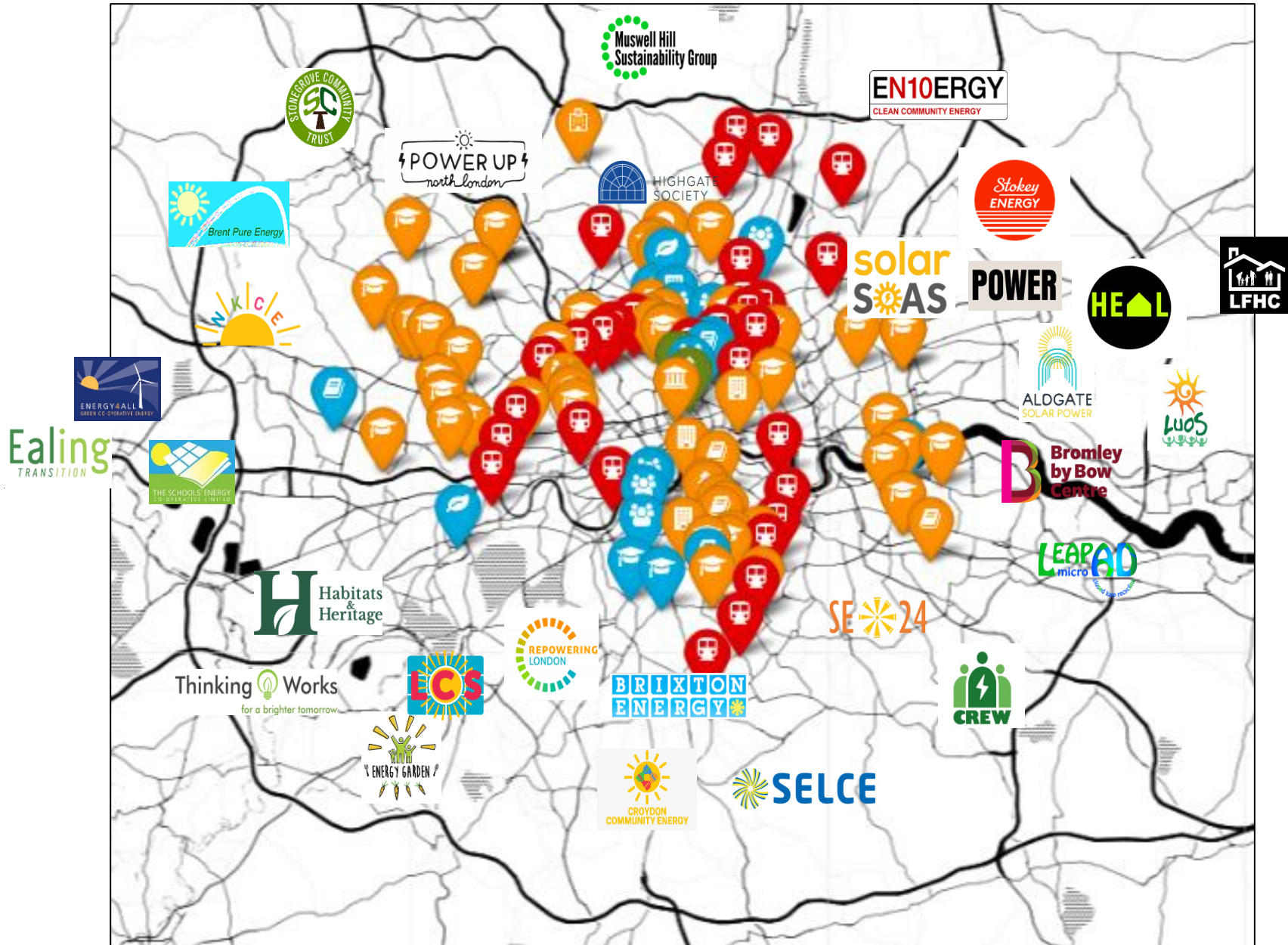
Who are CEL's Members?

Community Energy organisations are based around a cooperative model, owned and controlled by their members, with a focus on working with local communities to help combat the climate and energy crisis.

Groups have formed through a number of routes, such as through the Transition Town movement, resident associations, and from local environmental groups to a cycling club.

These groups, which mostly operate on a voluntary basis, develop, fundraise and deliver local energy projects. In many cases, part of the income raised from these projects goes into community funds which are spent on further local initiatives.





What kind of projects do groups work on?

Many community energy groups' first projects involved the installation of solar PV on rooftops, responding at the time to the Government's Feed in Tariff (FITs) incentive.

Over time, as groups delivered more projects and increased their knowledge around different energy solutions, they have diversified their skills in areas such as energy efficiency advice, building retrofit, LED installations, heat pumps and fuel poverty alleviation projects. Groups continue to innovate and deliver projects which:





- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Re-connect people with how energy is generated and consumed - supporting wider behaviour change
- Tackle fuel poverty, and
- Return benefits to the local economy.

Community energy groups:

- Provide **technical support** to organisations helping identify carbon reduction solutions
- Host energy **advice and training** workshops for residents
- Secure **funding** through routes not always open to local authorities (e.g National Lottery Climate Action Fund)
- **Raise finance** through issuing community share offers.
- **Develop and Install** renewable and energy efficiency projects
- Maintain **enthusiasm** and interest in their communities on climate and energy issues

Community Energy London (CEL)

- Work closely with Greater London Authority (GLA) – Six rounds of the London Community Energy Fund (LCEF) to date
- Liaise with local authorities – councillors and officers – to highlight role community energy can play in delivering their climate action plan goals
- Share knowledge – monthly meetings/regular events
- Promote community energy to wider stakeholders
- Work to influence national policy agenda on urban based community energy projects (DESNZ Community Energy Contact Group (CECG))
- Recent work includes:
 - Peer Mentoring Programme
 - CEL London Projects Map
 - 10 step guide for establishing a community energy group
 - How to set up a Local Authority Community Energy Fund
 - Technical Project guides – solar, EV, LED, retrofit
 - 2023 4 x case study videos
 - Community Scale Heat Pump Guidance (forthcoming)

	<p>Islington closed the 6th round of the Islington CEF in January 2023. To date almost 50 projects have been supported.</p>
	<p>The Hounslow £100,000 CEF launched in 2022. Six projects have been supported so far.</p>
	<p>The Haringey Community Carbon Fund is a 4 year programme with £300,000 available. The first round supported 6 local projects and the second round has just closed.</p>
	<p>Hackney's Light & Power CEF launched in November 2022 with £300,000 available. Successful projects will be announced shortly.</p>
	<p>Lewisham's CEF opened in 2019. In the first year £90,000 was awarded to 11 groups.</p>
	<p>In July 2022, Southwark announced a £400,000 CEF which is anticipated to launch shortly.</p>
	<p>The Camden Climate Fund allows community energy groups to apply for grants up to £25,000. The fund is currently open.</p>

- Tower Hamlets Carbon Reduction Community Grants Programme
- City of London Community Infrastructure Levy
- Neighbourhood Fund
- Westminster City Council's carbon offset fund
- The London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) carbon offset fund

Community Energy: Delivering for People

During the pandemic many groups pivoted to shape their programmes to help households struggling with their energy bills. This has continued through the cost of living crisis

- Provision of energy efficiency advice
- Acting as an advocate for households when discussing energy bills with energy suppliers
- Signposting energy efficiency funding opportunities
- Liaising with other community groups in area (older people, housing, health focussed initiatives)
- Train the trainer/other community groups
- Highlighting those most in need to local authorities, PRS programmes with energy companies
- Prepayment meter support – including top up payments
- Utilising community energy funds (income received through a PV scheme directed to a community fund) to fund household simple energy efficiency measures
- Collaborating on ECO, private rented sector, LAD, ++

New routes for community energy

Also seeing an increasing diversity of projects

- street based/neighbourhood initiatives looking at hard-to-treat homes and blocks of flats
- Employing Retrofit Coordinators and Retrofit Assessors
- Service delivery models with local government
- Developing referral networks
- Low cost finance
- Network of Trustmark approved contractors
- Retrofit Design Service
- Mass Heat Pump and/or PV retrofit
- Local electricity supply trials

The Value of Community Energy

- Demand side/local delivery an increasingly important component of policy – Government directing funding to councils through the five Energy Hubs
- Councils have Climate Action Plan commitments – but stretched. Groups can provide technical + financial support (community share offers) – and support community engagement and build enthusiasm!
- Decarbonisation of homes will not be achieved in one intervention. Households need support/advice/handholding on the journey to Net Zero.
- ‘On the ground’ intermediaries increasingly recognised as core component of rollout
- Input into Local Area Action Plan (DNOs)
- Things go wrong – only takes one poor install...

Community Energy London Potential Map^{beta}

[Login](#) if you are a Community Energy London member

Home Instructions Data Information **Explore Data** Credits

Want to explore the data more?

[Become a Community Energy London member](#) and get full access to the map (besides all the other great benefits)

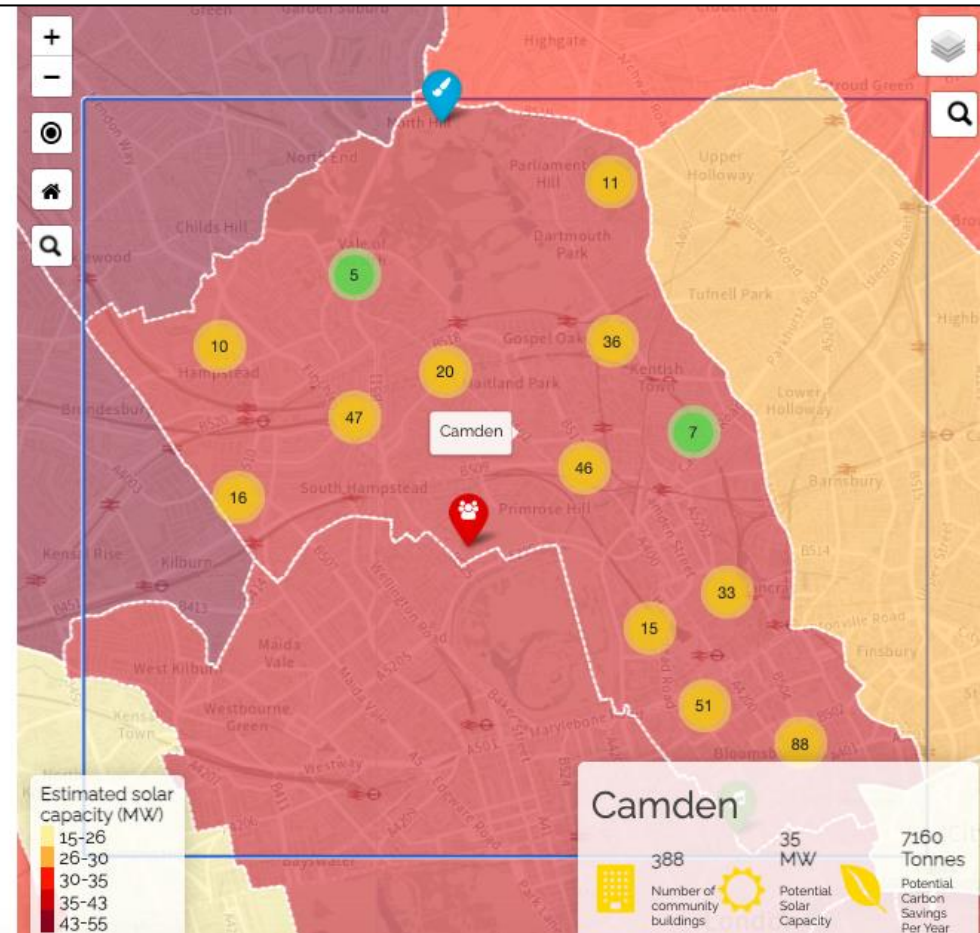
- ✓ Explore data in an interactive table (see screenshot below)
- ✓ Download data in CSV or Excel formats
- ✓ Filter data in the table and on the map by building category

Once you become a member, we will send you a login for your group

Clubs & Community Centres
Theatres, Concert Halls & Cinemas
Places of Worship
Museums, Art Galleries & Libraries
Leisure Centres
Education
Medical
Other

CSV Excel Show 25 entries

Address	Building type	Solar		Heat		Energy Rating	
		Est. Installed Capacity (kW)	Est. Annual Output (kWh)	Est. Viable Area (m ²)	Est. Annual Heat Demand (kWh)		Est. Peak Heat Demand (kW)
Academy High Street, London	Education	370	347,494	3,022	1,386,022	750	C
Cineworld, Unit 29, Wood Green Shopping City, High Street	Theatres, Concert Halls & Cinemas	228	212,966	3,024	1,202,856	603	D





A Vision For Community Energy In London

#1000ProjectsBy2030

March 2023

