



Creating Local Energy



Banister House Solar Report

Banister House Solar is the first community owned solar energy project in Hackney and the UK's largest community energy project on social housing. Repowering London and Hackney Council have worked to develop this project alongside residents of the Banister House Estate and local energy advocacy group, Hackney Energy. Funding and support for the project has been provided by Hackney Council.

Based upon Repowering London's award winning model for the Brixton Energy series of community energy solar co-ops, Banister House Solar also brings social, financial and environmental benefits to the Hackney community.

Key achievements:

Environmental:

- The 102 kWp solar array will generate up to 82,000 kWh of clean energy annually. This equates to 679 tons of CO₂ prevented from being emitted in the atmosphere over the life of the project.

Social:

Empowering communities and promoting local leadership

- 91 meetings held in the Banister House Community Hall providing mentoring and guidance on establishing a community energy Society.
- Five Hackney residents have taken leadership roles in their community
- 4 of the 5 directors live on the Banister House Estate.
- Local advocacy group Hackney Energy has been set up and galvanised around the project. 7 local members of the group have also taken on development roles within the project.
- 22 estate residents have invested in the project.
- Confidence and community spirit has increased amongst those involved.

Outreach and engagement:

- Every door at Banister House has been knocked on at least twice
- Residents have engaged in discussion about the community energy project and attended community energy events
- 97% of residents surveyed support the scheme.
- Delivered 2 solar panel making workshops

Addressing fuel poverty and increasing awareness of energy efficiency:

- 106 energy surveys carried out.
- 15 home energy audits delivered to residents of the Banister House Estate to help increase energy efficiency and reduce energy bills.
- Three energy efficiency advice sessions held.
- Two train the trainer energy efficiency workshops delivered.

"Before I started this project, all I could think about was how to get off this estate, but last year, over many months of the project, I was delighted to see my two older children and some of their friends become part of Repowering's 30 week internship programme, where every week they were engaged in learning – and getting paid. As they learned, I learned too and participated in a variety of free workshops that ran on the estate, including draught busting and energy saving... This project is something I feel is a really worthy cause that will benefit us as a community and provide further opportunities for our young people in the long run." - **Leila Fortunato, Banister House Estate resident, Banister House Solar Director**

Opportunities for young people

Repowering provides a paid internship programme over 30 weeks. This is followed by paid work experience installing solar panels on the roofs alongside professional installers. 20 young people from the estate have been involved in the paid internship programme and 10 have completed the 30-week programme.

The internship programme includes sessions on the following:

- Understanding the finance, IT, technical, legal, engagement and media elements of community energy project
- Training and support to secure Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards and working at heights certificates
- Five interns have taken part in paid work experience installing solar panels on the roofs of the Banister House Estate
- Advice on CV writing to help them progress into further work or education

Interns have already successfully used the skills, experience and confidence gained through the internship to secure jobs and higher education:

- Interns delivered presentations to the House of Commons and executives at Barclays Bank
- Victoria Omobuwajo has continued education in the Prince's Trust's 'Get into Facilities Management' programme. She has also been shortlisted for the 'Solar Media Intern of the Year' award and has become Secretary of the local energy advocacy group Hackney Energy.
- Aisha Fortunato has secured an internship working for a housing association in their sustainability department.

"I decided to join this project to learn about solar panels, to gain better communication skills, to learn to work with different people and to help me get an apprenticeship in the future. I think the draught proofing and energy efficiency work in the project is important" – **Lanre Alafe, Graduate of the Repowering Paid Internship Programme**

Financial:

- **£142,500** has been raised via a community share offer to fully fund the installation of the solar array on Banister House estate.
- **4%** average annual return on investment and a **50%** SEIS tax saving will go towards investors in Banister House Solar
- **£28,000** will be raised for the Banister House Solar community fund over the 20-year lifetime of the project.
- **£20,000** Estimated lifetime savings for Hackney Council on energy bills

"Hackney Council are delighted to be a part of this inspirational project. It is very exciting to have London's biggest community-owned energy project here in Hackney that will provide clean, renewable energy for the Banister Estate over the next 20 years." - **Clr Feryal Demirci, Hackney Council Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Sustainability**

