



Creating Local Energy



North Kensington Community Energy

Repowering London: NKCE Phase I Final Report



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

SUPPORTED BY

MAYOR OF LONDON

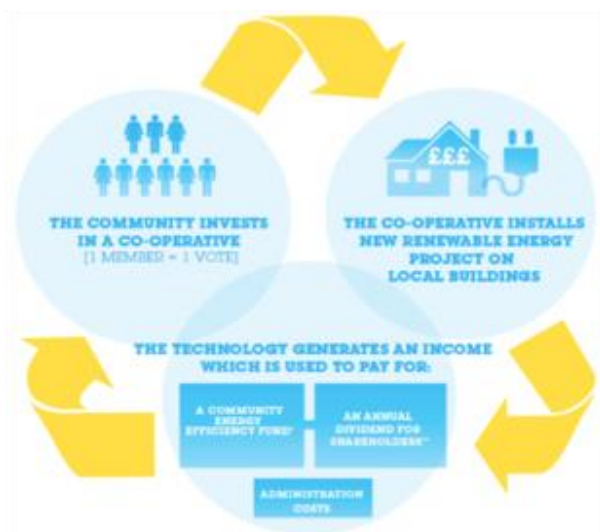


2. Summary

North Kensington Community Energy (NKCE) –developed by Repowering London in partnership with locals and with funding from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the Mayor of London and blowUP Media – is the borough’s first community owned renewable energy project.

The project is based on Repowering London’s award-winning model piloted in Lambeth and Hackney, bringing social, financial and environmental benefits to the Kensington and Chelsea community.

The Community Energy Model:



Key achievements:

- Co-operative established with local residents taking leadership roles, including directorship.
- **16** local young people took part in the paid Youth Training Programme over 40 hours.
- **86.27 kWp** solar array installed on three local buildings of community importance.
- **643** tonnes of CO₂ emissions reduced over a 20-year span
- **£83,000** capital funds raised through community share offer.
- **£28,000** will be generated for the Community Fund.
- Partnership developed with the **Westway Trust**. This includes NKCE receiving £10,000 of investment from the charity and plans for future installations.

Phase 1 of the NKCE project has seen the creation of a borough-wide community benefit society with the aim to slash carbon emissions and create a resilient, empowered community. The society’s 144 members raised the £83,000 needed for the project and helped to install **306 solar photovoltaic panels** on Avondale Park Primary School, Thomas Jones Primary School and the Dalgarno Community Centre, in North Kensington which:

- Generate a source of renewable energy and provide income, employment and community empowerment to the residents of the North Kensington;
- Provide a modest source of income for all shareholders in the form of annual 3% IRR payments;
- Create a Community Fund of approximately £28,000 for use in the Borough



Dalgarno Community Centre

We installed 158 solar panels on the roof of the Dalgarno Community Centre, producing 42.84kWp – 52% of the building's annual electricity needs – and saving 20.6 tonnes of CO₂ a year, or 412 tonnes over the lifetime of the project.



Thomas Jones Primary School

We installed 88 solar panels on the roof of the school which represents the electric capacity of 29.97kWp, –35% of their annual electricity needs – saving 11.2 tonnes of CO₂ per year, or 225.2 tonnes of CO₂ across the lifetime of the project.



Avondale Park Primary School

We installed 60 solar panels the roof of Avondale Primary School which represents an electric capacity of 13.86kWp – 11% of their annual electricity needs – saving 7.6 tonnes of CO₂ per year, or 149 tonnes of CO₂ across the lifetime of the project.



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3. Environmental

- The 86.27 kWp solar array will generate up to 69,800 kWh of clean energy annually. This equates to 643 tons of CO₂ prevented from being emitted in the atmosphere over the life of the project or 32 tonnes of CO₂ less per year. This is enough to power 233,000 kettles or half a million games consoles!

4. Community outreach and engagement

- 3,500 flyers and 150 posters distributed to local shops, cafes, libraries and community spaces.
- Three community engagement events delivered at: the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea town hall, Imperial College and the Dalgarno Community Centre.
- Two school assemblies delivered at local primary schools.
- Two engagement presentations delivered at local schools for parents.
- One seminar delivered to the Centre for Environmental Policy at Imperial College.
- Regular stalls and flyer distribution at local farmer's markets, Portobello Road market and the Portobello vegan night market.
- Public facing office and engagement space for one month, donated by local charity The Westway Trust.
- Two free solar panel making workshops delivered in a local community centre.
- Flyering and promotional day with innocent drinks sales team.
- Engagement event with the Westway Trust for Clean Air Day.
- Online communications support from This Is North Kensington, Kensington Mums, Sam Coniff Allende (Be More Pirate, Don't Panic), Grace Blakeley (New Statesman, Institute for Public Policy Research), Ethos Magazine, RBKC Council and the Westway Trust.

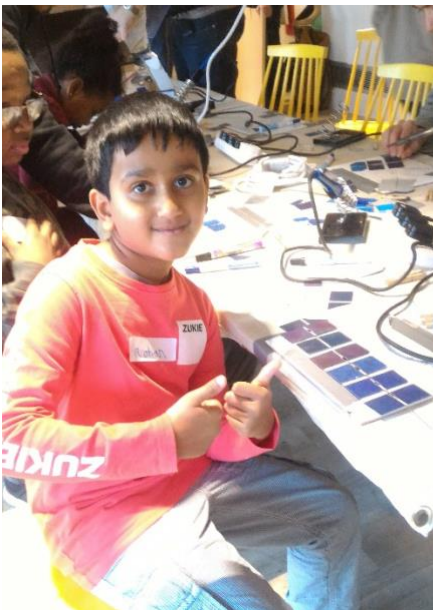




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- Three Solar Panel Making workshops and energy advice session delivered in the borough.





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5. Local Leadership and Empowerment

- 23 open meetings held across the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, including engagement events at the RBKC Town Hall and Imperial College.
- Five Kensington and Chelsea residents have taken leadership roles in their community.
- 14 volunteers from across London have volunteered their time.
- 44 (30 % of total investors) residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea have invested in the project.
- Confidence and community spirit have increased amongst those involved.

Community meetings / mentoring sessions

During phase I of the project (June 2018-May 2019), we held regular meetings across the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, open to the public and widely publicised. The meetings allowed interested members of the public to find out more about the project, get involved and form a development team to steer the project. The project now has a development group of 10, of which five local resident members have volunteered to take on directorship roles.

These mentoring sessions, where everyone has the opportunity to share their views and opinions, are fundamental to Repowering's co-production approach. They are a place where information is shared and decisions are made by consensus. In each meeting attendees take on different roles and responsibilities within the project and receive mentoring and guidance on establishing a community energy society.

We embed strong engagement principles that include being positive, respectful, responsible, honest and responsive. These values have been critical in keeping the group focused.

Local leaders

An ad-hoc group of volunteers from the local area and across London have come together through our regularly held meetings. Through this process four community members have chosen to become volunteer directors for the project.



Geraldine Cawthorne, RBKC resident, NKCE member and future director

"I'm over the moon that:

- Community renewable energy, in the form of NKCE, is now up and running on three sites in the borough AND is fully funded;*
- By becoming a shareholder, I have been able to DO and participate in something that moves things forward environmentally and at local level, and give material form to values I have always believed to matter;*
- In addition to the many environmental benefits, the project also promises a community fund that will be decided and administered at community level, and achieve more good things;*
- I have been able to connect with other likeminded people across the borough and beyond whom I might not otherwise have met.*
- We have proved the first project, and can now look ahead to other possibilities. Today I mentioned the project to others working sustainable in another borough – they are so keen to know now, and I'm looking forward to help taking this forward."*



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Building Partnerships

The NKCE project has created opportunities for local organisations to work together and support the introduction of community energy in the borough. These relationships have been key to the success of phase I of the project and we are continuing to work with these organisations to develop our shared goal of creating a low-carbon borough in the centre of London.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

- The development of NKCE has been a joint project between Repowering and the Council's Climate Change Team.
- The project has received support across the Council, including assistance from the Council Executive, Children's Services, Corporate Property and Housing.
- The Council have provided ongoing resources for the project including legal support for schools and community centre, materials printing and communications support.
- The Climate Change Team and Repowering are developing educational workshops to deliver in local primary schools.
- The Climate Change Team is providing ongoing support for the development of the NKCE project.



Councillor David Lindsay, Lead Member for Healthy City Living, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council

"Kensington and Chelsea Council is committed to increasing clean locally generated energy within our borough and I, as Lead Member for Healthy City Living, wholeheartedly believe that this is a wonderful opportunity for us to create a greener and healthier borough. Not only will this project reduce carbon emissions, tackle climate change and generate more renewable energy but will also provide green employment opportunities benefiting the local community and our borough. Furthermore, profits from the scheme will be spent directly within the area."

"It's so easy as we go about our daily lives to forget that we can make a positive difference and I believe this project represents a chance for the Council, along with our partners, to make a real difference, inspire future generations and help tackle one of the biggest issues of our time being Climate Change."

The Westway Trust

- Local charity the Westway Trust has been a strong supporter of the project. The Trust has funded activities and donated resources.
- The Westway Trust invested £10,000 in North Kensington Community Energy phase I.
- The Westway Trust donated the use of a 'Pod' on Thorpe Close off Ladbroke Grove for one month.
- The Westway Trust has funded two solar panel making workshops in the Bay20 community centre



Marie Monaghan, Associate Director of Community Engagement and Environment, Westway Trust

"This is an amazing opportunity to produce energy locally which is community owned and to generate income to support local activities."



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The Kensington and Chelsea Foundation

- The Kensington and Chelsea Foundation donated £1,000 for the purchase of the solar panels through the “Green Shoots” fund.

Migrants Organise

- Local charity Migrants Organise has provided free work space.

6. Opportunities for young people

Repowering delivered a 40-hour paid Youth Training Programme from September to December 2018. Sixteen young people aged 16-19 from the Borough and surrounding area completed the AQA accredited course while being paid the London Living Wage for their time. The North Kensington Community Energy Trainee Programme was funded by blowUP Media via the London Community Foundation. Additional funding was provided Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

The training programme includes the following:

- 26 hours of classroom-based learning covering the following topics: Energy Studies, Business Studies, Solar Feasibility, Energy Audits and Communications.
- 14 hours of work experience. Placements were matched to student interests.
- Sessions held at the Esmeé Fairbairn Foundation, the Brixton Remakery, the Calthorpe Project and Brixton Energy Solar 1.
- Workshops included solar panel making, community engagement, social enterprise development and power and privilege.
- 5 guest speakers delivered sessions, 3 organisations donated time and resources

When asked “What personal changes have you noticed in yourself over the course of the training that you’d like to take forward and develop in the future?” responses from the trainees include:

“more confidence”

“more outgoing/vocal”

“more aware of the energy I use”

Another said they would like to “start a solar panel course”.

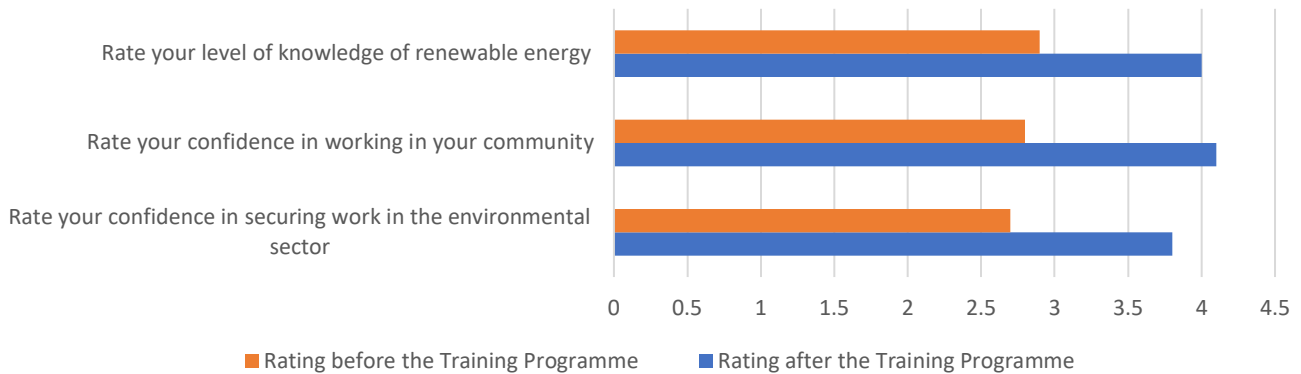




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Repowering London Training Programme: Social Impact Highlights



"The NKCE program, which is run by Repowering London, was a great learning experience and fun work experience., Those of us that took part learnt about sustainable energy and how to be efficient. My experience with Repowering London was very productive and interesting: we designed banners and posters for future events, as well as updating the website with photos and comments to make it more endearing to the younger generations.

A key aspect of my role at this organisation was to make their social media accounts more active, in order to attract more attention to the purpose of Repowering but also to increase the amount of awareness for sustainable energy in the lives of young people and adults.

This experience was introduced to me through MCWG and the YEP Job fair, where there were multiple opportunities to find what interested and suited me. For example, there were teaching and police cadet training opportunities. At this fair we had the chance to explore each station and Repowering London stood out the most with their AQA Accredited Course and also the paid part of the Work Experience. Essentially, as a result of MCWG hosting the YEP Job fair, I was able to get the work experience necessary to make my CV more professional and presentable, but also allowing me to gain the experience and independence to understand what is expected in a business setting."

Romaysa, Graduate of the North Kensington Community Energy Training Programme



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7. Financial

Community Shares

£83,000 has been raised via a community share offer to fully fund the installation of the solar array on Avondale Park Primary, Thomas Jones Primary and the Dalgarno Community Centre. The project has 144 investor members who will receive an average 3% annual return on investment.

Community Fund

Through income generated the Feed-in-Tariff – the sale of energy at a discounted rate to the sites and sale of excess electricity to the grid – £28,000 will be raised for the NKCE Community Fund over the 20-year lifetime of the project. This Community Fund will be used to increase environmental education in the borough and support clear air initiatives.

Local investment

Following extensive promotion across the borough and a reduced minimum investment rate of £50 for local residents who are either on benefits or under 25, local interest grew and 44 people from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea became project investors. Of those investors, the majority are from the North of the Borough.

