



## Annual Report 2020

This is the annual report for Lambeth Community Solar for the period 1st January to 31st December 2020. LCS was formally registered in 2018 (Registration no. 7797). Our mission is to lead Lambeth towards a green, sustainable, and inclusive future by installing community-owned solar panels on the roof of its schools and community buildings.

In 2019, we have been supported by Repowering London to install 145 kW of community-owned solar panels on two schools in the borough. The technical feasibility and due diligence work was funded by the GLA's London Community Energy Fund.

In 2020, the COVID-19 crisis has paused our engagement activities and led us to focus on building our site pipeline and planning our projects and funding for the next couple of years. This report outlines our work and impact throughout the year.

### Building our site pipeline

In 2020 we have been making connections and building relationships with several sites across Lambeth, to explore opportunities for solar panel installations:

- Michael Tippett School
- Rosendale School
- LJ Works
- Myatt's Field Park Old Depot
- Remakery
- Max Roach Centre
- Marcus Lipton Community Centre

Working in partnership with Repowering we secured grant funding from the London Community Energy Fund to:

- Finance a third of LJ Works solar panel install costs
- Finance the project development costs for the Myatt's Field Park Old Depot, the Remakery, the Max Roach Centre and Marcus Lipton Community Centre

### Generating renewable energy

We installed the 83 kW of solar panels on the Norwood school in November 2019, and 62 kW on the Elmgreen school in March 2020.

Across 2020, our solar panels have generated 120,942 kWh of clean, green electricity. This is enough to power 48 inner London homes for a year. The renewable energy output in 2020 saved 28 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. The panels are showing a higher yield than expected, which means they have generated more electricity per kW than in our forecasts.

There have been delays in installing the export meters for both Norwood and Elmgreen, due to issues with the existing metering arrangements and the challenge of accessing the schools during term time. Norwood's meter was installed in April, and Elmgreen's meter in July. Consequently, our income from the sale of electricity on site is lower than expected for the year. However, we expect to

see in the next couple of years a higher income from the sale of electricity than forecasted (due to the higher yield), which will make up for this loss.

The lockdown has had only a limited impact on the electricity demand from the schools, who have shown a high on-site usage across the year.

## Community involvement

2020 has been a quiet year on community engagement due to the COVID-19 crisis. The directors have met regularly with Repowering London to appoint a chair, treasurer and secretary, and discuss plans and strategy for 2021.

In December, Repowering has been awarded funding from the National Lottery Climate Action Fund to support the growth and development of LCS, with a target of 1 MW of solar panels installed in the borough by 2025 including supporting 20 community buildings to reduce their energy demand through behaviour change and retrofit measures

To this purpose, Repowering is currently recruiting a Lambeth based Community champion. Starting in June 2021, they will help grow and develop LCS into a lively and vibrant co-op, and build connections with a wide range of local groups and potential sites.

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, we are pleased to have recruited new volunteers to the co-op with an amazing and diverse set of skills. We have also received pledges from 15 individuals to invest in our future community share offers, for a total of more than £15,500.

## Financial accounts

The accounts for the financial period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 which accompany this report show that:

- We have generated a total income of £13,065, which is £3,400 less than forecasted
- Our expenses for the year are of £23,681. These include a one-off expense of £10,000 development costs paid to Repowering, partly covering their costs to market the share offer and complete the due diligence (technical and legal) to proceed with the installation
- We have therefore made a loss in the year of -£10,616, but are expecting higher income than forecasted in the next couple of years
- We are proposing to pay £2,744 to shareholders as return on investment (representing a 3% return on investment), and to set aside £200 for the Community Fund

## Our partner Repowering London

Lambeth Community Solar is proud to be part of the Repowering family of energy co-ops. In 2020 the Repowering co-ops have collectively:

- Installed our largest solar PV array (138kWp) on the Westway Sports Centre as part of North Kensington Community Energy
- Provided employment to 2 locally rooted community champions in Lambeth
- Supported an empowered network of 45 volunteers and 677 investor members
- Engaged 100 children, 176 young people through workshops and assemblies
- Supported 32 residents through direct one to one energy advice saving £4,242 on their electricity bills
- £5,000 of community funds were distributed to local groups to provide essential supplies of food and fuel vouchers to support residents through the pandemic

- Successfully installed a battery at Elmore House, Brixton Energy Solar 1. It is the first 'communal' battery to be installed in a block of flats in the UK, and the first where stored solar energy will be allocated on a virtual basis to residents

This work is only possible with your support. Thank you for investing in our vision of community energy, and for being part of the change.

### **Any questions?**

If you have any questions about this report and the accompanying accounts, please email [info@repowering.org.uk](mailto:info@repowering.org.uk).

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