



Annual Report 2023

During 2023, Banister House Solar has generated renewable energy and continued being an exemplar for green energy projects across the borough.

Generating renewable energy

- Up to the end of December 2023, the 102kWp Banister House Solar array has generated a total of **61,109 kWh** of electricity, compared to 70,400 kWh in 2022.
- The generation was enough to power 23 average UK homes for a year and resulted in saving **12.7 tonnes of CO₂ emissions** during the year, at the 2023 carbon intensity of the UK electricity grid.
- Looking at the performance comparatively for 2023, the average yield of the Banister House Solar array was **600 kWh/kWⁱ**, compared to an average of 724 kWh/kW for all sites managed by Repowering London. The performance has been reduced due to faults with four inverters. Excluding the faulty inverters the average yield is 766kWh/kW.
- Three inverters were initially assessed by Repowering in April 2023. Following correspondence with SolarEdge (the inverter manufacturer) it was determined that the faults would need further investigation by a SolarEdge registered engineer. This was completed in November following a number of cancelled visits. A fourth inverter was identified as faulty during this time. Spare parts have now been ordered for all of the inverters, with installation expected in June 2024 due to the lead time on the components. It is disappointing that it has taken so long to resolve the issues but Repowering have been regularly chasing the contractors.
- One issue raised by the contractor is a concern regarding the sizing of mains fuses on some of the solar installations. This is being investigated and the board will be informed as soon as there is a recommendation from the contractor.
- The remotely readable meters for recording the onsite usage were have been installed for all the systems at Banister House. These are fully operational and have been used to submit invoices to Hackney Council. The tariff for solar electricity during 2023 has been 36.1p/kWh, based on a 20% discount of Hackney grid electricity tariff of 45.1p/kWh.

Engaging with the local community

Our volunteer Directors remain active in the community and involved in the Repowering London family of co-ops.

We used our Community Fund to make a donation of £500 to NIA, a charity delivering cutting edge services to end violence against women and children. We would welcome

recommendations from members on other organisations or causes they wish to support in Hackney.

In the winter of 2022-23, Banister House Solar organised with Repowering London an 'energy support campaign' on the estate. Inspired by Lambeth Council's ['Free energy savings kit' campaign](#), we distributed 'energy support and tips kit' leaflets to residents, inviting residents to order an energy saving kit for their home. Only one family of residents registered interest and received an energy saving kit.

In May, Banister House Solar member Jan Kuiper organised with Sustainable Hackney a visit from students from the University of Erfurt, Germany. Eva from Repowering London introduced the 16 planning students to community energy and the Banister House Solar project. We also responded to a consultation by UCL researchers to build a local, bottom-up economic plan for Hackney.

Directors met at the end of the year to discuss engagement on the estate, how to raise awareness of the project and the Community Fund among residents, and how to recruit new directors on the board. Repowering London suggested to put up posters around the estate, advertise the director role on local volunteering platforms, and use the Community Fund to run an event or a door-knocking campaign.

The Banister House Solar directors wish to thank Ann Canaii, who is stepping down from her director role, for her significant contribution to the co-operative throughout the years.

Financial accounts and shareholder payments

The financial accounts which accompany this report show that:

- Banister House Solar generated a total income of £19,221 from which £8,253 are from the Feed-In-Tariff and £10,968 from the sale of electricity to Hackney Council to power the communal parts of the Banister House estate. This compares to £12,275 from the Feed in Tariff and £5,058 from the sale of electricity in 2022. This reflects a significant increase in electricity prices in 2023.
- It is proposed that an interest rate of 4% is paid on the share capital of £147,750
- It is proposed that £1,478 is set aside for the Community Fund. £276 has been donated by shareholders who have waived their interest payments, and £640 was spent in the year, which means the Community Fund stands at £10,211 at the end of 2023.
- Repowering admin costs were £2,900.

The Repowering London family of Co-ops

Banister House Solar is proud to be part of the Repowering family of energy co-ops. To date, the Repowering co-op family has:

- Installed 840 kWp of solar panels on schools, community buildings, and Council homes
- Raised £768,661 of capital finance for rooftop solar installations, from more than 650 investor members
- Allocated £206,750 of Community Funds to benefit local causes
- Generated more than 3,454MW of electricity and avoided more than 905 tonnes of carbon emissions so far
- Offered paid training opportunities for 155 young people

Activities delivered across the Repowering London family in 2023 will be summarised in our 2023 Impact Report, to be published soon on the [Repowering London website](#). Highlights from the year included:

- Formally establishing two new local co-ops, in Newham and Hammersmith & Fulham
- Installing 133kWp of [new rooftop solar capacity in Newham](#), on local libraries
- Pioneering a new £1.5 million fast-track financing pathway for community energy, [Repowering Finance](#)
- Delivering the first cohort of our bespoke education-to-work programme, [Voyage to Repower](#)
- Expanding our inclusive engagement toolkit, with the delivery of [Creative Energy Clubs](#) and the [Summer School of Power and Organising](#)
- Building our retrofit team and offer, launching the Future Fit Homes project in partnership with SELCE
- Running or participating in 53 community engagement events, and directly engaging with more than 1,650 Londoners about community energy topics

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.

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Directors, Banister House Solar Limited

ⁱ Excluding the community centre