

Building a Repowered Community in the Borough of Newham

For more than a decade Repowering London has been empowering people to take control of their energy future. Now, with £1.5m in support from the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) we will be showing and sharing how to build a 'Repowered Community' that runs on locally generated, low carbon energy – beginning in the London Borough of Newham.

The Repowered Community is Repowering London's clean energy neighbourhood model. It strengthens communities by delivering clean energy

hand in hand with long-term local services and benefits. These benefits range from skills training to lower energy bills and funds for local investment.

Key benefits of our model



Our projects are co-created and we work hand in hand with the wider community.



We can use the best technology to suit the task – whether solar generation, low carbon heat or energy efficient retrofit.



By making homes healthier and less expensive to heat we can end fuel poverty and reduce urban health deficits.



People are prepared for a rewarding and resilient future with employability support, energy efficiency tools and advice.

We are developing a **construction toolkit** to allow every urban community in the UK to become a Repowered Community using our model. This will let them generate low carbon, affordable energy that is locally used and owned.

So that it will reach the widest possible audience, the toolkit will be free to download from the Repowering London website, the websites of Community Energy England, Wales and Scotland, and from other partners.

We will deliver:

- A scalable structure for people-led change that brings together communities and Councils
- A long-term finance model for large-scale urban community energy projects
- A holistic business model that creates paid employment for local people
- A model that can be repeated across the UK
- A community share offer raising £200k of investment
- Reduced energy costs for up to 750 households:
 - Retrofit support for 200 homes
 - Community-owned heat generation assets for 50 homes
 - Local electricity supply to 500 homes

Our project partners

Community Energy Newham

will support community engagement, co-design, test and review the toolkit.



Dark Matter Laboratories

will lead the system design process that will determine a governance structure for developing locally led, low carbon infrastructure projects.



London Borough of Newham

will provide access to sites, input to business models and support outreach to residents.



London South Bank University

is leading development of the community heat project and will provide input into the technical toolkits.

Why do we need the Repowered Community?

The UK energy system is not working. Some 13% of UK households are in fuel poverty, our houses are some of the worst-performing in Western Europe when it comes to energy-efficiency, and there is little evidence that current national government retrofit schemes work for our poorest households.

Meanwhile, privately owned energy companies are extracting greater levels of income from our communities to generate ever-growing profits, fuelling increasing levels of inequality. At the same time, they are delivering a declining service to customers, reducing trust in the energy sector.

Newham is well aware of the effect of this system and the need to pursue net zero policies. It is the third most deprived Local Authority in London, has London's highest fuel poverty rate and is one of the London boroughs most exposed to the flood and overheating risks that come along with climate change. Our project is directly aligned with the Borough's Just Transition Plan. A just transition to net zero, bringing with it a decentralised energy system, is an opportunity to address these problems.

NLCF research has shown that genuinely democratic governance models for energy infrastructure will help share the benefits more fairly and build a more just transition. The Repowered Community offers a demonstrable model for locally owned energy with the scale and resilience required to tackle the Climate Emergency effectively.



In a very simple example, the Repowered Community process can look something like this.

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