



## CASE STUDY | GREEN SKILLS BUILDING

# CREATIVE ENERGY CLUBS

Creative Energy Clubs have been developed by Repowering London to explore how we can use community art and creativity to make community energy more engaging and inclusive. Our goal is to increase residents' understanding of the energy system and their creative confidence - and to get them interested and involved in their local energy co-operative.

### Seeding the idea

So far, we have run clubs in many of the boroughs in which we support community energy co-operatives, including Lambeth, Hammersmith and North Kensington. We have also included creative activities in our Summer School of Power & Organising in 2023 and run clubs in community libraries in Newham, as part of establishing Community Energy Newham.

### Project in brief



Use art and creative activities to make community energy more engaging and inclusive



Participants learn about the concept of community energy as a people-led alternative to our current energy system



People also learn about their energy rights and how community energy can help solve the climate crisis



Many participants have gone on to be engaged with Repowering London or our family of local co-ops

## How the clubs work

Creative Energy Clubs are half-day, family-friendly workshops that use the power of art and co-creation to bring people together and empower them to get involved in transforming the energy system. They include learning a new creative technique, such as collage, cyanotype, light art, drawing, textile or zine making. Built into the creative tasks are learning themes, which may be:

- How does the energy system work? How is the current system failing us and how is community energy one of the solutions?
- What are the root causes of the energy-affordability crisis and what can we do



about it? How can we campaign to create more energy solidarity?

- How does a community solar project come to life? Why is solar power well suited to an urban context?

## Examples of creative activities and outputs



- **Britain's energy system & solar lanterns** – participants learn about the actors of the energy system while making small solar lanterns using papier mâché techniques
- **Clay & co-operation** – participants learn about how community energy co-operatives operate while creating an aspirational village out of modelling clay
- **Sunprinting & solar power** – participants learn about how solar energy works while creating prints using the cyanotype (sun printing) process
- **Community energy conversations** – participants discuss energy change in an informal setting, alongside cyanotype and badgemaking activities

## What the clubs achieve

Participants in our clubs learn about the concept of community energy as a people-led alternative to our current energy system and potential solution to the energy crisis. The clubs are also an opportunity for residents to boost their creativity, learn about renewable energy, meet their neighbours and spend time with their children in an accessible, collaborative space.

The clubs have also been an opportunity to train our Community Leads and members of our Repowering London engagement team.

They have helped us map how to deliver energy advice and energy rights training and for our Community Leads to add energy creativity and community art to their community organising skillset.

Importantly, offering family-friendly activities suitable for younger children, as we do through Creative Energy Clubs, attracts a very diverse audience that would not necessarily attend a more formal gathering on energy or environmental subjects – a talk on climate change, for instance.