

Thursday 26th September 2019, 6-8 pm

VENUE: City Hall, Committee Room 1

Minutes

Attendees

Syed Ahmed (CEL)
Sydney Charles (En10ergy)
Giovanna Speciale (SELCE)
Duncan Law (CEE)
Tanuja Panjit (PUNL)
Glyn Thomas (Banister House)
Afsheen Rashid (Repowering)
Alan Jones (PUNL)
Hannah Short (CEL)
Loic d'Assier (Calortech)
Alex Marsh (GLA)
Sylvia Baron (GLA)
Ceri Benyon-Davies (GLA)
Oliver Houlden (Amber Infrastructure)
Will Herlinger (Amber Infrastructure)
Mike Smyth (Schools Energy Coop)
Andy Rolfe (Ealing Transition)
Steve Shaw (Power for People)
Flossie Boyd (Power for People)
Andy Keelan (SELCE)
Pamela Harling (En10ergy)
Steve Burak (Fuel Poverty Action)
Lesley Giles (SELCE)
Andrew Amoah (Hackney Council)
Luisa Brotas (Hackney Council)
Rainer Zumbach (Inclusion & Community)
Luka Zumbach (Inclusion & Community)
Martin Narravay (PUNL)
Kara Blok (Inclusion & Community)
Phil Mason (Transition Leytonstone)
Debbie Mitcheres (Hackney Energy)
Ellis Owen (ADBA)
Sobia (Transition Ilford)
Shelagh Kirkland (Pure Leapfrog)
Callum Murphy (ICNF)
Judith Ward (Sustainability First)
Perry Mondesr (Hackney Energy)
Juan Gutier
John Kirk
John Walls

1. Welcome from the Chair, Syed Ahmed

2. Introduction to the Good Growth Fund with Alex Marsh of the GLA

Alex Marsh presentation on CEL website

Notes:

Good Growth Fund in its 3rd and final round

What we are looking for in the fund:

Empowering people

Making better places

Growing prosperity

→ also looking for projects that tackle air quality

*doesn't want all the funding just for central London

stage 1 deadline 14th October

stage 2 deadline mid-feb

Amounts to apply for: a few hundred thousand to £2 million

3. Introduction to the Mayor of London Energy Efficiency Fund (MEEF) with Oliver Houlden and William Herlinger of Amber Infrastructure

Oliver Houlden & William Herlinger presentation on CEL website

Notes:

Amber is a fund manager, GLA appointed Amber as the fund manager for MEEF last year

→ fund of £43 million

- MEEF is a debt & equity products vs. a grant → lending
- Focused on energy efficiency and wider regeneration

24% of the funds have been disbursed

Can apply until 31st of May 2023

Investment criteria:

- For every £7000 invested of GLA funds the project must save one tonne of CO2 per annum
- Energy efficiency must save a 20% energy saving

- Needs to be within the 32 London boroughs

- Should be around £1 million up, but can be flexible - and projects can be aggregated together

Projects are 10-15 years

ERDF has been underwritten by the Treasury (so no worries re: Brexit)

The capital all being blended together helps put it at a cheaper rate

4. Presentations by Mike Smyth of Schools Energy Coop and Andy Rolfe of Ealing Transition about their successful community energy models

Mike Smyth & Andy Rolfe presentation on CEL website

Notes:

Having professional support is important

Part of the Energy4All family

Won community energy organisation of the year

Often working in areas where there isn't very strong community energy organisation already

We focus on what is easy

→ Aim to minimize the soft costs where we can e.g. feasibility and maintenance

Barrier to get consent of some schools

Some councils are not very helpful

Close partnership between Ealing Transition and Schools Energy Coop

Start with loads of potential sites

e.g. in Ealing there are 92 state funded schools

→ narrowed down to 28 potential sights

→ Out of 28 quotes → 12 went ahead

Harrow work → Pre-registered 17 schools in a mad rush → Backed by Harrow Council etc

Helping schools save money and saving the planet → Build in summer holiday for least disruption

Hindu schools don't have the same bureaucratic inertia → very supportive of this work

Being able to access the LCEF really helped to unlock lots of the projects

www.communityenergy.london

@CommEnergyLDN

→ LCEF 1 enabled 7 installations from 10 surveys

License vs lease agreement

Leases much more cumbersome and expensive

Lease requires a lawyer

→ go for a license

Average return is 4.5% → aiming for this not to dip post-FIT

5. General Meeting

- **Local Electricity Bill (with Flossie Boyd/ Steve Shaw)**

Problem is that local supply of electricity is so difficult as to make it prohibitive for small groups to start up

→ This Bill is an attempt to solve the problem of high costs

We want this to be a means for renewables generation to increase

Main tactic that works is to build up grassroots pressure

Would love to hear about experiences as community energy groups

Going directly to local authorities

Private members Bill → presentation bill

Please get in touch with Power for People if your group would like to sign up or if you are interested in learning more or sharing your experiences on this

- **Update about the LCEF round #3**

Had lots of good quality applications → hoping that there will be sufficient funding to ensure that all eligible projects will get full funding

Also in talks regarding possibility of LCEF round #4

Outcomes for LCEF round #3 will be in October/ November time - hoping to get Sadiq Khan to do a site visit

- **CEL funding situation**

CEL running out of funding end of October, currently looking into where else we can apply

If anyone has ideas of other funds we could apply to – please let us know!!

Does anyone in the audience know of any companies we could link up with? Obviously not fossil fuel companies or banks etc., but any that have corporate social responsibility requirements etc. → if so, please get in touch

Have you looked into Corporation of London 'City Cash' → lots of funding and available money

Can also look into the Joseph Rowntree fund → sustainable futures

Funders don't want to fund anyone who hasn't had any funding before → Go for a small pot e.g. Awards for All and build it up → Small slugs of money to demonstrate our legitimacy

Funders rarely want to fund you for more than 50% of what you've had already

Look into parallel groups to find out how they are funded?

Reach out to Steve at Power for People for help

- **CEL AGM coming up 31st October**

AGM coming up 31st October in place of members meeting → will also be having speakers

Please get in touch with Hannah if there is a specific topic you'd be interested in hearing more about

→ we will have food for the AGM!

Also this will be a chance for people to stand for the different positions → you just need to nominate yourself on the day

- **Community Energy Awards coming up 18th Oct & half day conference - with open space**

Community Energy Awards are coming up on the 18th October

→ There are still sponsorship opportunities, so please get in touch if you know of anyone who might be interested

London is represented in nearly every category of the awards

Half day conference is called 'Future Models of Community Energy', and will be taking place nearby at ENA

There are still open space spots available → if you are interested, please get in touch

- **AOB (member news, upcoming events, things for the website etc.)**

Recording solar assets. While members are lobbying their MPs about the Local Electricity Bill, please also ask them to call for a national register of solar assets as per STA campaign.

<https://www.solar-trade.org.uk/sta-calls-on-government-to-cease-publishing-inaccurate-deployment-stats/>

“The energy sector will not be able to fully decarbonise unless it is certain of which forms of generation are contributing to the grid.” (Bleeding obvious but not a priority for constrained BEIS resources)

I also want to alert MPs that Ofgem is too short staffed to process FIT registrations which have been through the laborious community pre-registration process – thus impacting community groups’ cash flows. It is almost as though the Government does not value community energy!

Solar Together. <https://solartogether.co.uk/london/home> This is now open for home owners (and maybe small non residential building owners) in [12 boroughs](#) Brent, Camden, Ealing, Enfield, Hackney, Islington, Lewisham, Merton, Newham, Kensington and Chelsea, Sutton, Waltham Forest.

It has dropped the FiT bit from the claims from the previous rounds, but I have some reservation about the pitch it will make about savings. Hopefully they are pitching to people who want to reduce their emissions and maybe have electric cars, rather than previous claims about being a good investment. Though panel prices may be going down project and installation and EPC costs are still the same.

London Power. <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-announces-london-power>

London Power is the new energy white label that has been launched

- Energy prices will be always be fair, with electricity generated from 100% renewable sources
- Company will launch in December and is available exclusively to London households
- Any profits made by the Mayor will be reinvested into London’s communities
- Londoners are encouraged to register at www.mylondonpower.co.uk

Power Paired

Forum for the Future have developed a digital platform called Power Paired that aims to match make community energy groups looking for projects with Asset Owners interested in hosting renewable energy on their assets.

They have been piloting the platform during 2018/early 2019 and now have over 100 assets and 23 different asset owners registered with more assets being added all the time. The platform is completely free to use for community energy groups and is aimed at making it easier for groups to identify suitable sites and enter into partnerships with asset owners. Forum would now love to get as many Community Energy Groups as possible registered on the platform so that they can go out to asset owners and demonstrate demand for projects in their area.

Registration is free and very quick and easy via www.powerpaired.org. Any questions on the platform on project please contact r.lawson@forumforthefuture.org

Next meeting is the CEL Annual General Meeting Thursday 31st October, 6pm at City Hall