

CEL members meeting 28th Jan 2021

Attendees:

Afsheen Rashid - Repowering	Gus Alston - Stonegrove Corn Trust Barnet
Alban Thurston - Crew Energy	Martin Narraway - PUNL
Alan Jones - SE24	Matthew
Alex Hartley - SELCE	Mike Smyth – Energy4All
Andrew Flagg - Element Energy	Nick Hartley - Brent Pure Energy
Anna Gorbacheva	Pamela Harling - Wolves Lane
Andy Rolfe – Energy4All	Paul Hallas - SE24
Dan	Romilly Leeper
Derick Velloso -	Sal Wilson - Stokey Energy
Duncan Law - Community Energy England	Sobia - Transition Ilford
Helen Mayer - Hornsey Labour	Sydney Charles - Highgate Soc Sustain living
Elaine Trimble - Cally Energy	Syed Ahmed – Energy for London
Elizabeth Ainslie - Islington Council	Talal Karim - Finsbury Park Trust
Janet Boston - Hornsey&Wood Green Labour	Tanuja Pandit - PUNL
Jenny Vuglar - Vine Housing Group	Toby Costin - Crew Energy
Kathy Smyth – Schools Energy Co-op	Vicky Phillips - Habitats and Heritage
Giovanna Speciale - SELCE	Victoria Ward - Aldgate Solar Power
Glynn Thomas	Zach Wishart - Energy 4 All

Agenda

1. GLA Funding for CEL Project Officers,

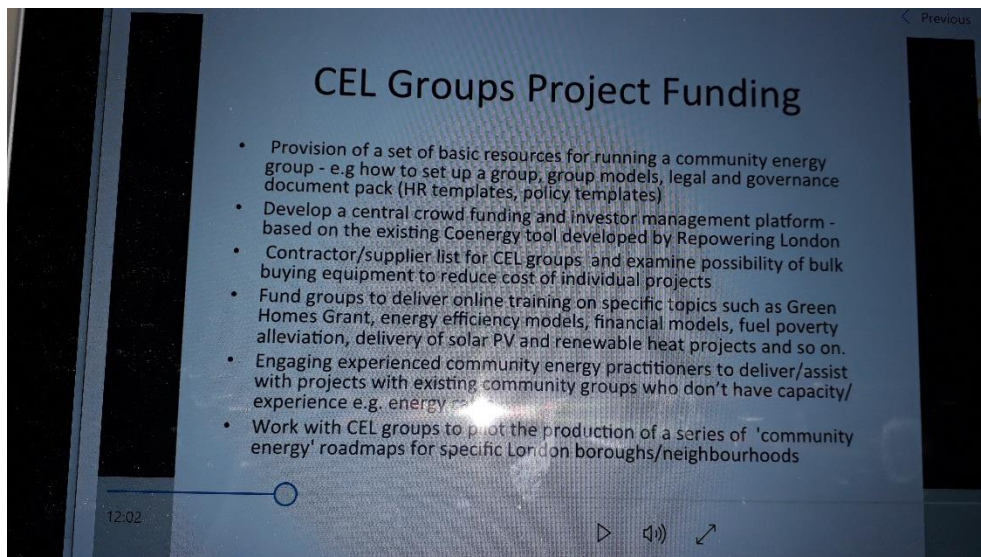
Syed updated the meeting on the **Accelerating the Deployment of Community Energy across London** project. This is being funded from the Mayor's [Green New Deal Programme](#). The programme includes funds for CEL work as part of LCEF4. The bulk of the work is supposed to be delivered by end March so the CEL Board have been recruiting 'CEL Project Officers', subject to official approval of the funds. The four officers will work as a team to swiftly provide enhanced tools for CEL member groups.

CEL has also been awarded funds from National Lottery Community Action Fund (CAF) within the Repowering/Energy Gardens bid, for a CEL Officer for 2 days a week over 4 years, and the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund are likely to provide match funding to increase the number of days for this post. Recruitment for a new CEL Officer will start soon.

2. Funding CEL Groups for Projects

The funding from the GLA is also expected to include up to £40K for projects that CEL member groups could deliver and be paid for. There will be a mail to the member groups very early in Feb with descriptions of the projects. Member Groups will be asked to submit simple 2 page requests against the projects, saying what they propose to deliver. An independent panel will assess the requests and commission the work. Again for completion by end March.

Janel Boston suggested that one type of project could be for fuel poverty projects to work with food banks.



3. CEL 'Community Energy and Climate Emergency' project

Elaine Trimble is writing a report on this and arranging 3 events with Local Authorities in London and 1 events, in conjunction with CEE, outside London, possibly Manchester. This work is being funded by the MCS Charitable Foundation.

4. London Community Energy Fund 4 (LCEF4) update

The GLA have received 40 applications to LCEF4 and expect to keep to the timetable and notify bidders by mid Feb.

5. Energy White Paper and Community Energy England 2021 look ahead

Duncan Law (CEE) reported that this was tied up with the Spending review that has been delayed. Despite allocating large sums to 'unicorns' such as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) mention of community energy has disappeared. He noted that Kwasi Kwartang is the new BEIS Secretary of State. CEE will be rewriting a parliamentary briefing on community energy. Having good case studies and cost/benefit analysis will be important to influence policy makers.

Duncan reported that the Green Homes Grant was proving to be catastrophic including poor service from the American administrators ICF. Syed said that the scheme included £1.5bn for vouchers and £.5bn for Local Authorities led schemes, where London LAs got £12m in first tranche to alleviate fuel poverty. The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) was making progress, though the administrators Salix, have also caused problems with applicants eg schools not given sufficient time to take up awards and contradictory advice about deadlines. The Social Decarbonisation Scheme and Schools Retrofit Scheme have yet to be announced.

Mike Smyth talked about the Future Homes suggested policy, which was not as good as the zero carbon policy abandoned a few years ago. By 2025 new homes should not be connected to the gas grid. It has now been decided that Local Authorities will be entitled to set better carbon/energy standards than the National ones.

The response to the consultation and the invitation to the follow on are at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-and-national-model-design-code-consultation-proposals>

Syed said that the Fuel Poverty Strategy for England should be launched in the next few days.

6. Committee on Climate Change's Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget

Syed Ahmed recommended that members read the [Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget](#) . It was authored by Louise Marix Evans, who has considerable experience of community energy. It looks at the responsibilities and powers of Local Authorities and notes the finding from the National Audit Office that Local Authorities have not been involved in the policies that affect them.

7. CEL 2021 priorities and Member Group updates

Toby Costin reported on [CREW Energy](#). They have just met their target for a share scheme for heat pumps. They are submitting PSDS bids for 7 schools in Wandsworth and 3 in Islington jointly with PUNL. Looking into a heat project for flats getting heat from river Wandle. They have also put in 3 applications to the LCEF4 funds. They have funds for a) energy cafes and Alex Hartley has trained 15 volunteers so far, b) to train up some energy advice assessors and retrofitters, c) some green walls for schools.

Glynn Thomas said Barnet Council had made no progress on their Climate Emergency plans. He also reported that the council plan on covering some small parks with ground mounted solar panels, sacrificing precious green space. He believed that CEL should get involved with the problems of air pollution and perhaps contact Labour for a Green New Deal who have very good people.

Mike Smyth reported for [Energy4All](#) which is working on a Hydro project in Scotland and an onshore wind project where they hope to gain community benefits.

Andy Rolfe reported on progress at Harrow and Ealing schools. He said that a Catholic school had dropped out, due to refusal by the Diocese, and noted that it is difficult to get the good calculations about Export, now that that is key income. Sydney circulated a link to a tool from Sheffield that predicts solar output by half hour at <https://www.solar.sheffield.ac.uk/tools/pvprofiler/> so predicted half hour usage can be deduced.

Pamela Harling said that, when the lockdown is lifted [Wolves Lane](#) hopes to have a community centre with energy cafes. It was confirmed that Haringey aims to have a Community Energy fund in its Climate Emergency plans.

Tanuja Pandit reported for [PUNL](#) that they had applied for 3 LCEF4 projects, including ground source heat pumps, retrofitting and a pilot to involve students in retrofit for schools. PUNL had been appointed by Islington Council to project manage three, Salix funded feasibility projects for decarbonisation of schools and was delivering these jointly with CREW Energy. Martin Narroway added that PUNL is supporting [Stonegrove Corn Trust](#) with solar feasibility and that PUNL

has entered into a partnership with Camden Council with funding to deliver solar and heat pump feasibilities across a number of sites.

Elaine Trimble reported on Cally Energy. As well as looking at solar on both sides of the Caledonian Rd they are developing an app that identifies when energy is 'clean'. They have had funding from Islington Council.

Kathy Smyth said that Bath and North East Somerset's approach to District Heating was brilliant.

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Poli> She wondered how CEL could best get involved in district heating and ground source heat pumps. And also suggested that a policy area to address is that of developers selling on energy rights to companies such as London Metropolitan – giving no opportunity for community energy groups and sometimes to the detriment of the occupants.

Mike Smyth wondered what the role could be for CEL re new build and Toby suggested looking at Next Gen work in Plymouth. Alban name checked William Orchard as a London District Heating person.

Paul Hallas reported that SE24 put in 3 bids to LCEF4, for schools, including 2 for LEDs which have an amazing payback. Note for CEL Project officers to cover LEDs. Alternatively a private consultant had put in bids for these from PSDS which would take preference over the LCEF if successful.

Alex Hartley reported that SELCE had applied for 6 projects across South London, including schools, community centres and Charlton football ground. They are doing a [Heat Pumps for your home event](#) on 10th Feb which has 80 sign ups. Alex delivered zoom courses for Crew Energy for ward based energy advisors and is working with Muswell Hill Sustainability Group on a person centric fuel poverty training course in Tottenham and suggesting collaboration on an 'Able to Pay' advice resource.

Afsheen reported for Repowering that they had submitted 5 LCEF4 bids, including 2 for Aldgate Solar Power and 2 for Lambeth Energy. Repowering has been active in addressing fuel poverty and worked with SE24 to provide fuel vouchers. They have provided case studies to NEA and have been working with UKPN on community projects and with Islington on the GreenSkies project. Victoria said more about Aldgate that they hope to install on schools in the City and involve the children.

Afsheen would like to see some kind of strategic approach from CEL on Fuel Poverty. Alex suggested themed working circles eg Fuel Poverty, policy etc. She reported that the project with MHSG and Living Under One Sun encompasses emotional and mental health aspects. Syed said that an Assembly Member was keen to address Fuel Poverty and could perhaps help.

Giovanna Speciale added that SELCE was working with Fuel Poverty Action who could be a good partner. They are also working on Future Fit Homes, developing a business model with BHESCO and Carbon Co-op to be shared.

Nick Hartley said that Brent Pure Energy was at the planning stage of a large PV installation.

Dan of Stokey Energy said they had put in 3 LCEF4 bids and enquired about procurement tendering practices and recommended installers. Giovanna has a pro forma that she will share.

DONM Thurs 25th Feb 6pm