

CEL members meeting 25 March 2021

Attendees

Sydney Charles	Toby Costin
Syed Ahmed	Paul White
Christine Tate	Tim Minshall
Zach Wishart	Elaine Trimble
Kanatta Kyazze	Gus Alston
Fiorella Fronzi	Jane Lewis
Alan Jones	Glyn Thomas
Pamela Harling	Mike Smyth
Jenni Tyyska	Fran - Stokey Energy
Derick Velloso	Vicky Philips
Conor Cowden	Dan Epstein
Paul Hallas	Sal Wilson
Tanuja Pandit	Victoria Ward
Alex Hartley	Martin Narraway
Afsheen Rashid	Giovanna Speciale

1. Priority Service Register (PSR) presentation by Christine Tate - Works at Partnerships for Good to bring together partnerships and deliver programmes for disadvantaged groups. Recent work with UK Power networks. The PSR has lower uptake in London. Christine has been working to get the message out and encourage further uptake.

- May be on PSR for a number of reasons: mental health, medical equipment reliant, hearing, visual or speech impairments, long term illness, pensionable age, have children under 5 and more.
- Companies providing the PSR provide extra help to vulnerable consumers and support them when there are power interruptions.
- Free service - all energy and water companies must provide PSR.
- Other benefits - access to a priority phone number, text and voice alerts, tailored support e.g home visits, hot meals, updates for friends and family, notifications of extreme weather, can offer free hotel accommodation if heating down, transport, telephone access, hot drinks, put people in touch with experts on energy bills and savings tips, and provide emergency kits for medically vulnerable.
- When someone signs up to the PSR through UK Power Networks, UK Power Networks can sign you up with others as well - energy and water companies. Will provide bills in the best format for you, free gas safety check, support to get meters read.
- Sign up online via form. Individuals will receive a pack on the PSR and contact details inc 24 hour phone number for updates.
- Christine is looking for help in spreading awareness of PSR i.e. posts on social media, mentions in newsletters etc, mentions on websites.

Questions and answers

- Why is PSR uptake low in London? *Diff demographic, less disability generally, less older people needing help, lots of ethnic groups missing out on communications.*
- What funding could CE groups apply for to help boost PSR funding? where did things get to with a joint utility PSR sign up process get to? i.e the energy provider, UKPN and Water. *Data sharing issues. Working with gas network co, other suppliers energy and water, Doing best to help consumers sign up and sign up for all. Bit piece meal still and might take time.*
- Why is there a separate link for .../commenergy, do we register as community energy groups or is it to track our impact? *Working with new partners and set up new links for different channels to see how people are coming in, can feedback the results if helpful.*
- DNO going through their 5 year review/ reviewing biz plans, are they adding to these with info found? Yes.

- What about auto referring to WHD and visa versa with PSR? *UK Power Networks will refer consumers to partners.*

CEL to post slides and contact details on CEL website.

2. LCEF Phase 4 - Congratulations on all successful funding. Also great to see a number of projects on places or worship.

Groups introduced their projects. All details found at

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/london-community-energy-fund#acc-i-62962>

Further comments:

- SE24 - had help from SELCE and CREW, who provided service contracts. SE24 happy to share templates and do mentoring amongst other groups. Schools with LEDs can make significant savings.
- CREW - Looking at how to make heat pumps viable now non domestic RHI is coming to an end.
- Stokey Energy - Would like help on PPAs, match funding, crowdfunding, social media, getting people with time and knowledge. Need help with money, admin and legals..
- SELCE - able to capitalise on legal documents and PPAs they already have.
- Power Up North London - re thinking heat pumps project because of the end of the non domestic RHI, wondering how to make it viable. Interesting blueprints and case studies to come out of the work.
- Dan Epstein - Can groups help each other and share knowledge/ have a directory?
- CEL to pull list together of contractors. Encouraging more sharing and cross over.

3. GLA update -

Re LCEF - Send project invoices to Emma Grey and Matt Thomas instead of going to TFL, don't worry if have done already. Will be in touch with confirmed purchase orders.

Planning to run a fifth round of LCEF later this year.

4. Sydney Charles - Presented The Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts Project (C.H.E.E.S.E.) which is a Bristol-based not-for-profit CIC that aims to reduce domestic energy losses, at low cost/ free to people in poor housing conditions and in fuel poverty. They also offer groups kits to go to homes and show people where their cold spots are and what can be done to improve efficiency. Can also be used in court as evidence of damp. Looking to franchise.

SELCE already part of scheme - feedback is kit does not work well outside, good technology but not cheap - £1k for kit and same to train someone. Can only do 6 months of the year and will only train new people when it is cold.

Equipment can be rented, and need to manage people's expectations.

5. CEL conducting 5 projects. -

The projects for CEL Member Groups

Project 1 Provision of a set of basic resources for running a community energy group. Suggestions include documents needed to set up a Group, toolkits etc to improve on the current Resources on the CEL web site
A) to take part in a workshop to help Angie with her project to inform and advise on a 'basic resources pack'. @£250 per attendee for 6 across programme.

B) to post an online questionnaire to help inform this project. @£100 per response for 15 across programme

1. Write a brief statement on expected contribution to deliverables. Max 300 words.

Project 2 Develop a central crowd funding and investor management platform. The Co-operative Assistance Network is being contracted to deliver a business plan, market research and funding material for an upgraded Coenergy product for the wider sector, requiring a CEL person to oversee.

£2,000 is offered to a CEL Group to provide a project manager to manage that contract, ensure it is delivered and to raise investment for the subsequent IT development work.

2. Write a brief statement on expected contribution to deliverables. Max 300 words saying who would do the work and their experience of delivery of a similar IT project.

Project 3 Contractor/supplier list for CEL Groups and examine possibility of bulk buying equipment to reduce cost of individual projects. Responding to a questionnaire composed by Lorraine about the Group's contractor/supplier experiences and ideas. **@£100 per response for max 20 across programme**

3. brief statement on expected contribution to deliverables Max 300 words

Project 4 Capacity Raising and the provision of support/advice across the community energy sector. The scope is very wide (detailed in the Outline doc linked to above) and covers the full range of technologies, advice approaches that support the Mayor's priorities of supporting jobs, poverty, inclusivity and recovery from lockdown. CEL is commissioning between 4-6 projects that will do this for **indicative awards of £4,000.**

4. brief statement on expected contribution to deliverables. Attach an application of max 2 pages with aims, deliverables, plan and timeline.

Project 5 London Borough community energy roadmap. These will set out vision for engagement with a council and improve the understanding between the CEL Group and Local Authority. @indicative £1,000 per Roadmap. Expected to be around 5 Roadmaps.

5. brief statement on approach to producing a Roadmap. Max 300 words.

Timeline

Tues 6th April - Applications submitted

Mon 12th April - Decision and notification by Bid Committee

Mid April - Projects to commence

Mid June – target completion

Queries to directors@communityenergylondon.com

6. AOB - Discussion on skills, knowledge and tool sharing. How can the various areas be divided out by expertise, what platform would be best to communicate on, maybe groups could do mini workshops on their areas of expertise for others.

Areas groups would like help on in comments:

- Alex H: Themes i.e energy advice, LCEF, generation projects, new groups, fuel poverty, policy, Retrofit, skills and learning, TEch talk etc... they could be on Slack, WhatsApp, CEL forum, Signal, LinkedIn group. Facebook group, Lumio so we need to find something that most people will go for, not having it decided for us.
- Scaling groups
- Afsheen Rashid: LED lighting
- Heat pumps - How to make the model work without subsidy
- Toby (CREW): Expansion funding is what CREW needs please Afsheen.
- Tanuja Pandit: Fuel poverty/energy savings workshops/cafes etc
- Giovanna: Needs: Heat pump projects - financing them in absence of RHI
- Sydney Charles: MHSG wants to help with fuel poverty and use expertise to help us
- Giovanna: Experience of supporting PSDS
- Alex H: Getting more traction as a solution for getting to carbon neutral
- How to get qualifications for community energy advice
- Mike Smyth Schools' Energy Co-op: If Toby can share how he gets heat pumps to work financially against gas without revenue subsidy would be good to know
- Alex H: Getting funding for a community energy CRM/app
- Skills, qualifications and careers in CE
- Developing a CE Code of Conduct
- Attractive professions to co-opt i.e solicitors, accountants, HT professional
- Marketing for share offers
- Social media utilisation
- Excel for CE groups

29 April 2021 next meeting.