



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT



Royal Borough of Greenwich

Greening Greenwich Cooperatively

The Challenge

In 2014 a group of volunteers who were concerned about the escalating pace of the climate emergency and the injustice of energy and fuel poverty formed SELCE.

The SELCE model is simple; to produce, use and share energy, generated by cooperatively owned renewables, to serve energy efficient buildings and to benefit our most vulnerable residents.

Solution

248 local residents have raised over £500,000 in community finance to support the installation of solar PV projects.

“Community Share Offers” encourage socially minded investors to invest in solar and receive an annual dividend, whereby their investment is paid in full within 20 years. To date, their solar investment has avoided 59,703 kgCO₂e.

The scheme has now been extended to include LED lighting retrofit, which is designed to help community buildings combat the increase in energy prices.

Supporting Vulnerable Households

SELCE has used surplus funds from solar installations to help reduce fuel poverty by:

- Holding energy cafes
- Visiting vulnerable residents in their home
- Holding workshops for frontline workers
- Training energy champions

- Encouraging behavioural change
- Installing measures such as insulation and heat pumps

During 2021, SELCE supported 789 vulnerable households who are struggling to pay their energy bills.

They are proud to be part of a national network of community activists and co-operatives who are paving the way to a cleaner, fairer, brighter future for those households who are on the lowest incomes.



Greening Greenwich Business

In 2021, SELCE was allocated funding by the Royal Borough of Greenwich to support Greenwich businesses to develop sustainability policies, as part of a green recovery from Covid-19.

Through this programme, local businesses are supported on:

- Best practice
- Implementing sustainability strategies
- Energy and environmental audits
- Green action plans
- Financing solutions for retrofit to support LED Lighting, Solar PV, heat pumps, and insulation.

Over the last six months, dozens of local businesses have signed up for audits and are seeking ways to improve their environmental performance, to align their business to local and national policy on climate change.



Facing the toughest challenge

During the past year SELCE has set up a service to tackle one of the toughest challenges, decarbonising domestic buildings through energy retrofit.

Over 300 individuals have engaged with our Future Fit Homes project and 60 homeowners have benefited from our 1-1 sessions.

Homeowners have received thermal imaging surveys, energy performance certificates, co-ordination and advice on small and large scale deep retrofit projects.

SELCE is built on the dedication of volunteers and the goodwill of fellow co-operatives. They have thrived during one of the UK's toughest challenges and they have done this by working hand in hand with the Local Authority.

SELCE continues to support the Royal Borough of Greenwich's commitment to tackling the climate emergency and energy injustice. We continue to support our most vulnerable, making sure nobody is left behind.

For further information contact:

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