



# CROYDON COMMUNITY ENERGY

## ● Potential New Site Guide ●

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**Answering your questions about community energy**



# About Community Energy



## What is community energy?

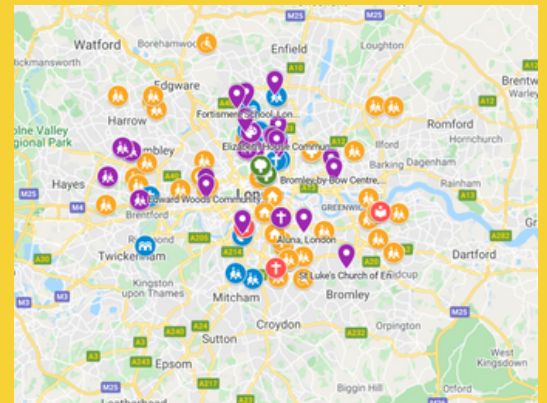
Energy that is created by and run for the benefit of local communities. It creates energy that is sustainable and better for the planet, while also providing money to invest back into the community.

Energy generation involves communities installing renewable energy generating projects in the local area, this can include harnessing solar, wind or hydro power.

## Community Energy in London

There were already 27 community energy groups in London - but not one in Croydon - so we set one up! Our closest neighbouring groups include:

- South East London Community Energy (SELCE) - covering Greenwich, Lewisham, Forest Hill
- CREW Energy - covering Merton, Wimbledon, Wandsworth



## Who are Croydon Community Energy?



We are a group of locally-based people, many of us with experience and expertise in the energy sector or in environmental policy, keen to use our skills to benefit the community.

We are members of the official organisations below which support us in our work. We have also secured a grant funding from the Mayor of London's Community Energy Fund to help us with our work.



# Our Mission



Our mission is to implement **renewable energy generation** and **low-carbon technologies** in the local area, to both cut greenhouse gas **emissions** and **energy bills**, driven by community ownership and empowerment.

# Our Goals

- Developing renewable energy and renewable heating projects in Croydon
- Reducing the carbon footprint of the local area
- Involving people from the community in our projects
- Creating community ownership of renewable assets
- Supporting the local community's progression to a low carbon economy
- Promoting and offering retrofit & energy efficiency advice to the local community
- Offering climate action education to the local community, especially in relation to energy





# Board of Directors



## Connie Muir

### Founder & Director

- Energy supplier & consultancy
- Works with Croydon Climate Action
- Experience with public engagement



## Titilope Adeoye

### Director

- Mechanical engineering
- Public sector environmental management
- Community energy experience

## Tim Coombe

### Director

- Software engineering
- Climate activist & volunteer
- Keen musician!



## Jibs Ahmed

### Director

- Mechanical Design Engineering
- MEng in Sustainable Energy Engineering



## Katherine Linsley

### Director

- Public sector
- Community Energy London
- Passionate climate activist



## Deren Tumkaya

### Director

- Engineering
- Experience with solar panel installation
- Working towards chartership



## Gareth Simkins

### Director

- Solar Energy UK
- Former environmental journalist and consultant
- Primary school trustee



# Typical Solar Project Pathway

## 1. Registering interest

We have an initial conversation with a potential site about us and the model.



## 2. Initial site visit by CCE (1-2 weeks)

CCE goes to the site to familiarise ourselves with the site, make introductions and meet with decision-makers to answer any queries.



## 3. Desktop survey (1-2 weeks)

Using their energy bills and modelling, CCE does a remote feasibility study to indicate likely number of panels needed for site's consumption and any financial savings.



## 4. Initial structural survey

CCE will organise a brief initial structural survey to ensure the project is suitable for moving to the next stage.



## 5. Legal documents (8 weeks+)

We will draft and send legal documents, such as a Heads of Terms agreement and initial lease for the sites to start instructing legal advisers and get fully on board with CCE.



## 6. Solar installer procurement (4+ weeks)

At the same time as legal documents, we will run a procurement exercise to choose a solar installer for the projects.



No obligation for site to continue with the project until this point

## 7. Full site survey (1 day)

A structural engineer from the chosen supplier will perform all the necessary checks & calculations for the project.



## 8. Permissions (8 weeks+)

CCE will contact the relevant building/land owners to obtain planning permissions needed from the Council or otherwise.



## 9. Fundraising (3-6 months)

Once everything is in place, CCE will launch the community share offer! For further info, see next page. This will also involved marketing and spreading the word to get as many people involved as possible.



## 10. Installation (up to 3 weeks)

The lovely new panels will be installed and you will benefit from cheaper, renewable energy!

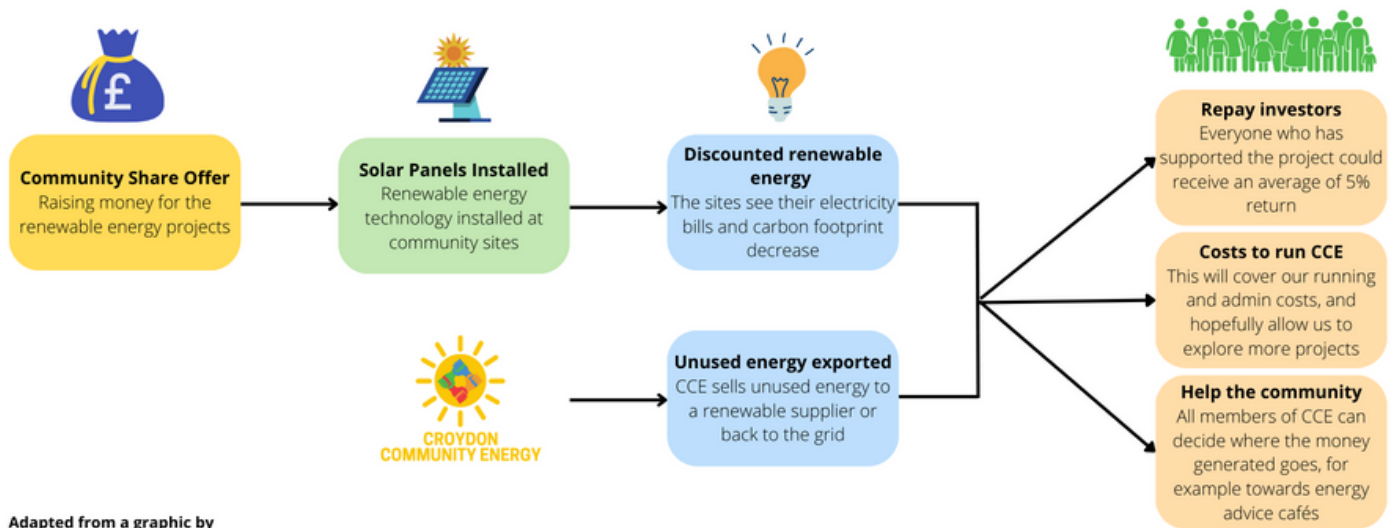


## Maintenance & Beyond

CCE is responsible for all maintenance work on the panels throughout their lifetime, and will provide regular updates & support throughout the contract.

# Solar Project Funding

The main way we will raise funding for a solar project on sites is through a **community share offer**, which is a user-friendly name for withdrawable, non-transferable share capital: a form of equity uniquely available to co-operative and community benefit societies. Community shares are a flexible and effective way to raise finance: an incredible 92% of all businesses who have used community shares are still trading.



Adapted from a graphic by Lambeth Community Solar

## How it works

1. Anyone can make an investment from £50 up to £10,000.
2. By investing, they also become a member of the project and get a say on where profits are spent in the community.
3. CCE uses the money to buy and install solar panels on the site.
4. The solar panels provide cheaper energy for the site, saving money that can be spent elsewhere.
5. Profits go to three things:
  - a. Paying back the investor's money and average 3-5% interest
  - b. Creating a community fund, which members can decide how to spend in the borough
  - c. Creating additional similar projects in Croydon



# ●●●● Frequently Asked Questions ●●●●

## **Who owns the solar panels?**

Croydon Community Energy would own the panels, which allows us to sell the energy generated to the site for a heavily discounted rate.

## **Who is responsible for maintenance/electrical issues?**

Croydon Community Energy are responsible for the installation and maintenance of the panels.

## **We don't own the building, will this be an issue?**

Croydon Community Energy is working with Croydon Council on lease agreements for their buildings. We will seek planning permission and other relevant permission (e.g. Dioceses) where relevant.

## **What happens with any excess energy generated that isn't used?**

Croydon Community Energy will sell the excess energy back to the grid and use the profits to fund further projects and community work aligned with our company mission & goals.

## **Do we still need to have a contract with an energy supplier?**

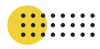
Yes, in the winter the panels won't be able to provide the entire consumption for the whole year, so an energy supplier will need to supply any extra need.

## **Can we get other measures such as heat pumps, LED bulbs and insulation?**

Croydon Community Energy will seek out grants for any extra measures that will cut carbon and make savings! As a Community Benefit Society, we are in a great position to access lots of different funding.

## **How long does it take to raise the funds through a community share offer?**

Once everything is going ahead, we will need to create a community share offer document and spread the word about the offer. It can take up to 6 weeks to get the document ready, then the offer will be open for ~3 months to ensure maximum reach.



## Contact Us

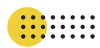


We hope this guide has been a useful introduction to our group and how we can hopefully work with you.

If you have any questions or want to arrange a site visit with Croydon Community Energy, please email:

**[hello@croydoncommunityenergy.co.uk](mailto:hello@croydoncommunityenergy.co.uk)**

**[www.croydoncommunityenergy.co.uk](http://www.croydoncommunityenergy.co.uk)**



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