



CROYDON COMMUNITY ENERGY

● Potential New Site Guide ●

Answering your questions about community energy

Updated March 2026



About Community Energy



What is community energy?

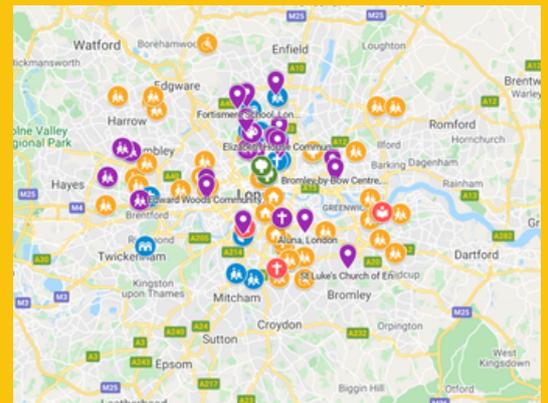
Energy that is created by and run for the benefit of local communities. It creates energy that is sustainable and better for the planet, while also providing money to invest back into the community.

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 are now over 50 community energy groups in London! Our closest neighbouring groups include:

South East London Community Energy (SELCE), CREW Energy, SE24 Energy, Brixton Energy & Lambeth Energy



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 previously secured over £90,000 of grant funding from various funders to help us with our work.



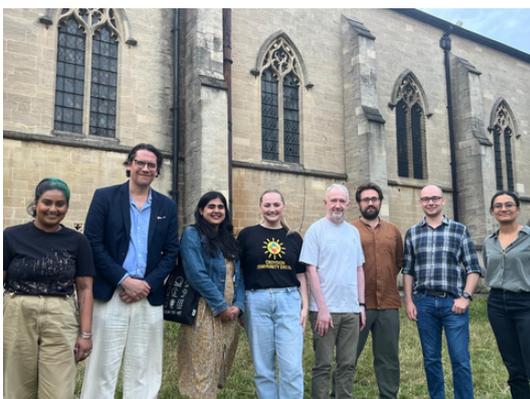
Our Vision



Develop renewable energy projects and deliver energy education to empower our community.

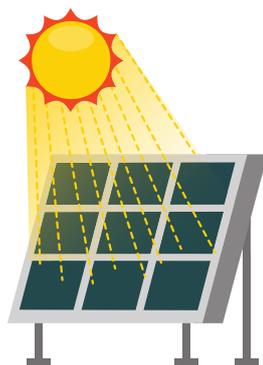
Our Purpose

We exist to ensure Croydon is contributing to the nation's net zero goals to combat the climate emergency, whilst empowering people through energy advice, skills and education.



Our Goals

- Deploy renewable energy to at least 10 sites by 2030
- Complete 4 community share offers by 2030
- Establish a network of energy efficiency champions that will grow annually by 5 people
- Deliver energy efficiency advice to 100 households by the end of 2025, and 500 by the end of 2027
- Ensure all of our membership know the benefits of community energy for Croydon through a structured onboarding process
- Directly employ 5 people by 2030
- Use Croydon based businesses where possible and at least 25% of money spent will be with a Croydon based business by 2030
- Meet with key councillors and our MPs at least twice a year
- Become a trusted community energy provider in Croydon



Meet the Team

Tim Coombe
The Chair



Tim has long been a supporter and advocate of the Community Energy model and has been involved in Croydon Community Energy almost since its inception. He has also been a climate activist and advisor to Croydon Council when they ran a Citizen's Assembly on the Climate Crisis. His career has been in Software Engineering which has given him experience of project governance and conflict resolution. More recently he has been the Volunteer Manager for CCE.

Connie Duxbury
CEO



Connie has worked in the energy industry for over 9 years in a range of roles, as an energy analyst to smart metering, running energy tenders to now working in her dream career supporting the community energy sector as the Community Renewables Manager at Yunity. She is a passionate climate activist and has led the organisation since it started in late 2021. She is also the chair of Community Energy London, the membership body for community energy groups across the capital.

Sam Dickinson
Legal Director



Sam is a New Zealand-qualified senior energy lawyer working in-house in London, with additional interests in financial modelling and commercial negotiations.

He has worked as a lawyer for Ofgem, and is currently a senior lawyer at a key delivery partner in the UK's delivery of Net Zero through the CfD scheme).

Chris Galpin
Fuel Poverty Director



Chris is a retrofit expert with experience managing volunteers and leading campaigns. He currently works for a climate NGO providing expert policy advice and campaigning for lower energy bills. He previously spent 6 years in the civil service in various energy roles. He is passionate about social justice, and ensuring climate action is delivered in a just way which benefits those most in need.

Meet the Team

Risham Waseem Marketing Director



Risham is a digital storyteller, social media expert, and communication and advocacy strategist, originally from Pakistan but currently based in London. Her expertise lies in creative and innovative 360-degree communication strategies that make use of a combination of new and traditional media spaces. Recently she created a 5 part podcast that addresses the issues of climate crises with UNESCO.

Will O'Sullivan Finance Director



Will is a passionate supporter of the cooperative model, having lived in housing coops around the UK. He currently works for a think-tank that promotes Paris-aligned renewable energy investments. He's looking for ways to finance projects to convert operating coal plants to renewables.

Tolu Osinibi Project Director



Tolu has been an active CCE volunteer, helping promote the first community share offer that enabled the installation of solar at our first two sites. Now as Projects Director, he brings hands-on project delivery experience from operating and maintaining the Kent Enviropower Waste-to-Energy facility, leading feasibility work, and managing a £200k fuel tank and pipeline project from design through commissioning and operations – alongside three years in technical and cost assurance roles across government, supporting the UK's first CO₂ Transport & Storage networks.

Chioma Nwosu Secretary



Chioma brings strong organisational and communication skills to help keep our organisation running smoothly. A master's student in Sustainability Management and Innovation at the University of Westminster, she is passionate about environmental protection and practical climate action.

Typical Solar Project Pathway

1. Registering interest

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



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.



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.



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.



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 involve marketing and spreading the word to get as many people involved as possible.



2. Initial site visit by CCE (1-4 weeks)

CCE goes to the site to familiarise ourselves with the site, make introductions, meet with decision-makers to answer any queries, and our issue solar site questionnaire



4. Initial structural survey

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



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.



8. Permissions (8 weeks+)

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



10. Installation (up to 3 weeks)

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

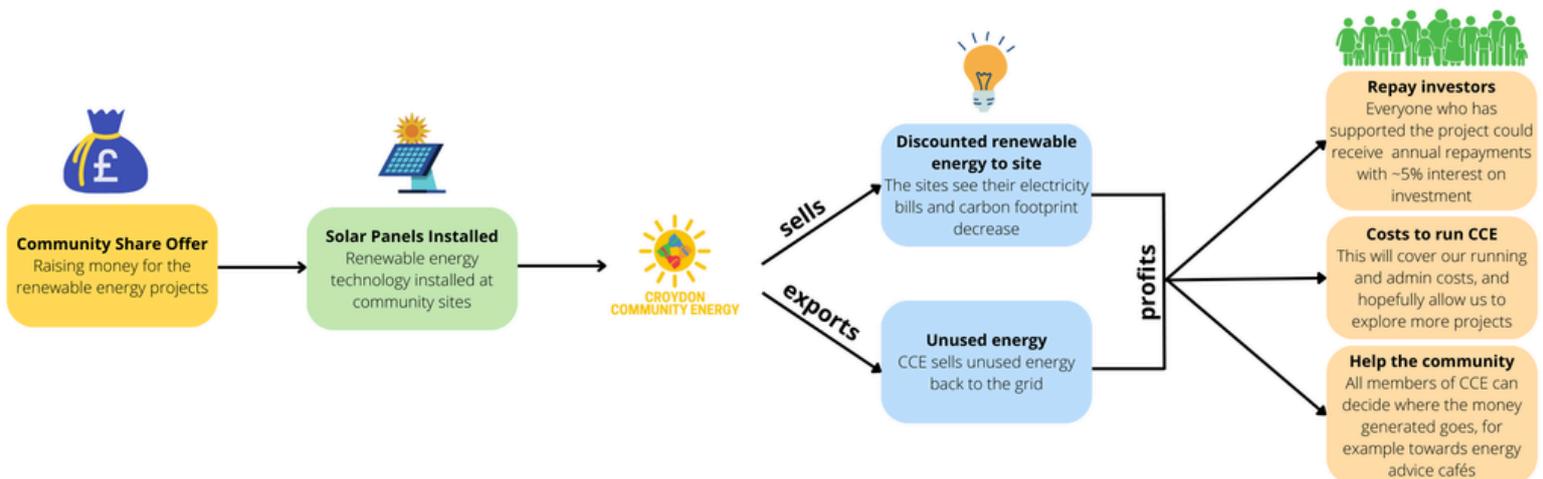


Maintenance & Beyond

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 projects on sites is through a **community share offer** - 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

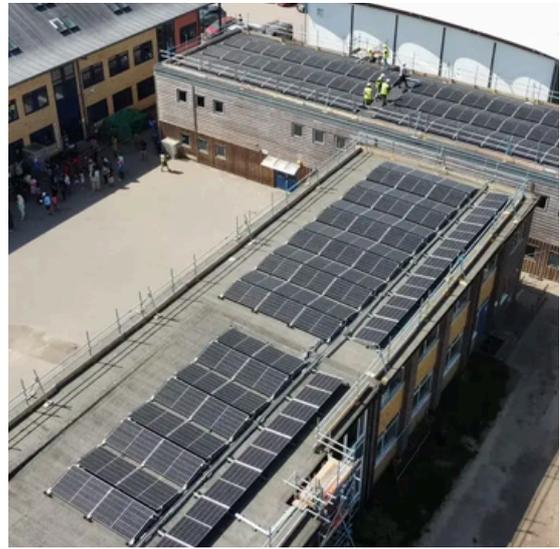
1. Anyone can make an investment from £50 up to £10,000+.
2. By investing, they also become a member of the project and get a say on where profits are spent in the community.
3. CCE uses the money to buy and install solar panels on the site.
4. The solar panels provide cheaper energy for the site, saving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

Live Solar Projects

We currently own and operate two live solar projects in Croydon.

Archbishop Tenison's School

In August 2025, we installed 96.3kWp on Archbishop Tenison's School in Croydon. This is in partnership with Joju Solar who designed the system and completed the installation.



Good Food Matters

In September 2025, we installed 13.65kWp on Good Food Matters in New Addington. This is in partnership with Joju Solar who designed the system and completed the installation.





Frequently Asked Questions

Who owns the solar panels?

Croydon Community Energy would own the panels for 20 years, which allows us to sell the energy generated to the site for a heavily discounted rate. We can then hand them over to your site after 20 years to keep!

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.

Will there be disruption to my operations during the install?

We will work around you to install when suits you best, including evenings and weekends. Disruption will be minimal and the electricity would be switched off for one hour or less in most cases.

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

Yes, in the winter (and sometimes summer!) the panels won't be able to provide the entire consumption due to the weather, 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

www.croydoncommunityenergy.co.uk



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Croydon Community Energy is the trading name of Croydon Community Energy Ltd which is registered as a Community Benefit Society under the Co-operatives and Community Benefit Society Act 2014 (Society number 8759).