

# energise

Summer 2019

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## Futureproof launched with Bristol Green Doors open homes weekend



Householder, Eric (arm raised), showing the external solid wall insulation on the rear elevation of his home

## Futureproof: Making low-carbon home improvements the natural choice

Householders across the city opened up for Bristol Green Doors on a sunny weekend in May, showcasing how they've made their homes more comfortable, cheaper to heat and kinder to the environment.

Twelve homes across the city opened their doors, and some 500 people were shown round by friendly householders happy to share their knowledge and experience of installing a range of low-carbon

*Continued* ►

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# How to accelerate local progress towards carbon neutrality

From passing a climate emergency motion to a meaningful programme of action

**T**he roll-call of local authorities which have passed motions declaring a climate emergency grows day by day. What started in Bristol last year has spread like a benign virus through council chambers across the land, encouraging councillors of all parties to commit to taking urgent action to cut carbon emissions rapidly to virtually zero.

So what needs to be done locally to turn this fresh political commitment into meaningful programmes of action and

*The following article by our Chief Executive, Simon Roberts OBE, is adapted from one published by UK100, the local government leadership network for clean energy.*



participation which genuinely accelerate local progress in cutting emissions?

A typical response would be for a council to commission a swathe of analytical work detailing how the newly adopted emissions target (typically carbon neutral by 2030) might be achieved. The consultants are called in and everyone waits to find out what the plan is - usually a list of technological choices like how many homes must be retrofitted or how many electric vehicles are needed to meet the target.

But such exercises rather miss the point.

The problem is not that we are unfamiliar with the actions which need to be taken; it's that the individuals, communities, businesses and organisations in any local area are not yet doing enough of these actions to cut emissions fast enough. There are reasons for this, and it is those reasons which must be tackled to accelerate progress.

Another approach is therefore required if these well-meaning climate emergency motions are to generate meaningful – and, above all, effective – programmes of local action.

## Stimulating the great acceleration

This approach involves treating climate emergency motions as principally a call to accelerate the pace at which we're collectively making all the changes we already know are required to cut emissions: to scale up, speed up and start up the things we know need to happen and know how to do. And to give up doing things which are incompatible with the local area becoming carbon neutral.

Immediately the focus becomes how to recruit the initiative-takers, enrol the key institutions and businesses, and reach

“ This approach involves treating climate emergency motions as a call to scale up, speed up and start up the things we know need to happen and know how to do.

beyond the council to build a partnership of the willing to contribute to the great acceleration.

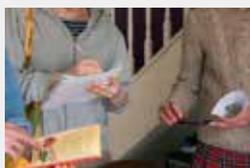
Local authorities differ in the extent to which such wide-ranging and inclusive partnerships are already in place or emerging. But nurturing these partnerships is undoubtedly a necessary condition for success for the society-wide

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improvements from hemp insulation to solar panels, passive heating, green roofs and lots more. For details see [www.bristolgreendoors.org](http://www.bristolgreendoors.org).

Between them, the participating homes covered everything from low cost refurbishments to ambitious whole-house retrofits, so there was something for everyone.

Bristol Green Doors is a successful and innovative initiative which was founded in 2010. CSE took it over earlier this year and it is now part of Futureproof ([www.futureproof.uk.net](http://www.futureproof.uk.net)). This is a new market transformation project that aims to stimulate local supply and demand for low carbon retrofit by connecting interested



The Bristol Green Doors weekend was attended by around 500 people, all keen to find out more about low-carbon refurbishment. None of this would have been possible without our fantastic team of householders and volunteers.





Bristol school students striking against government inactivity on climate change, 15 February 2019.

transformation inherent in achieving carbon neutrality.

Within such partnerships, each individual or organisation needs to concentrate quite specifically on what they are going to do *next*; these 'first next steps' start from where the individual or organisation finds itself and serve to change something so that more can be achieved. The steps must be possible without someone else (typically national government) taking action first. Of course, there's a need to look at what others with power need to do to make action by everyone easier, cheaper, quicker, better, more inclusive – and lobbying for this could be one of the 'first next steps'.

### We can't outsource change

But to leave it there – a list of recommendations for 'someone else' to deliver – would be to outsource change. It would ignore the role we can each play in our lives and in our work and through the influence we can bring to bear on others. And it would underestimate how that role, played well, can lead to more systemic changes that re-shape everyone's actions.

Achieving carbon neutrality needs people and organisations to make huge changes in their own practices and choices and in how they seek to influence others. By doing so they can set new norms of behaviour, drive new initiatives,

and secure wider participation. And they help to create the conditions in which others will find it easier to take action themselves and join in – including national politicians and regulators who design market rules and set funding priorities.

That's why at a Bristol Green Capital Partnership event in March, looking specifically at 'accelerating progress towards a carbon neutral Bristol', the 180 attendees from across the city were asked to make and share their own commitments to next-step actions "at home", "at work" and "in our communities".

We were putting into action the aphorism *'If not us then whom? If not now, then when?'*, much quoted by proposers of the climate emergency motions in different councils. Aside from a rhetorical flourish, the aphorism provides a useful starting point for building the meaningful programme of action and participation required in response to the climate emergency: start with the willing and focus first on what they will commit to do next to accelerate progress.

As well as being our chief executive, Simon is a non-executive director of Bristol Green Capital Partnership CIC.

UK100 is a network of highly ambitious local government leaders, who have pledged to secure the future for their communities by shifting to 100% clean energy by 2050.



homeowners and skilled building contractors.

Our main project partner is The Green Register which trains construction professionals from all parts of the industry to build better, more sustainable buildings ([www.greenregister.org.uk](http://www.greenregister.org.uk)).

CSE's Kate Watson is managing the project. "We know there are homeowners who are ready and willing to make low carbon improvements to their homes but can't find a builder they think will be sympathetic, while at the same time, decent local builders have enough work and don't see the need to skill-up to take on additional work.

"Futureproof will encourage builders to develop the skills they need and put

them in touch with householders looking to make low-carbon improvements.

"We want to see this kind of work become the straightforward, natural choice and help to ensure all home improvements contribute to achieving the highly energy efficient, low carbon housing stock we need."



Futureproof is grant funded by the Dept for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Other partners include Greenhouse PR and Bristol City Council's Energy Services Team.

40th anniversary, 1979-2019



Roy (like CSE, aged 40) and daughter, Isla, (5)

# Home truths about the big Four-0

Turning 40 in the same year as CSE, Roy Kareem, Bright Green Future Programme Leader, reflects on what this milestone means to both of us.

**F**or children, the world is a limitless source of curiosity and wonder. As we reach our teens, we're figuring out what we could become. By our 30s, we're finally getting the hang of this adult thing. By the time 40 rolls around we can really get going – in Carl Jung's words "Life really does begin at 40. Up until then, you're just doing research"

I joined CSE in 2017 and as we both turn 40 this year, it seems fitting that I help reflect on what this milestone means for us both. So here are a few truths I've found about turning 40:

**1) Your values become deeply ingrained in who you are**  
Unlike earlier in life, when

you're still establishing your core values, by the time you're 40, you know what you believe in, what's important to you, and you won't stand for anything less.

At the core of CSE's values is the understanding that achieving the low-carbon future we are working towards cannot be at the expense of some members of society, the burden of cutting energy use needs to be shared fairly. We believe 'energy justice' is one of the keys to unlocking mass public action to tackle climate change.

**2) People start coming to you for advice**

40 isn't old to the people who are in the club, but to younger people and those just starting out, you seem not only older,

but wiser. It's only now I realise that I've been working with young people in some form or another for over a decade, and that experience is valuable in everything I do from this point forward.

At CSE we believe that unleashing the capacity of others, rather than just trying to 'do it all ourselves', is

“**Achieving the low-carbon future we are working towards cannot be at the expense of some members of society, the burden of cutting energy use needs to be shared fairly.**”

the most effective way we can help to achieve the scale and speed of change needed. By communicating our insights and sharing our experience with policy-makers, we can improve the policies and practices which shape the energy choices and opportunities available to all of us working towards a low-carbon future.

**3) You find it easier to focus on the good**

Earlier in life, it's easy to see all the things that aren't going the way you want and to dwell on what you haven't achieved. But by 40 your perspective is focused more on the things you have than those you've missed out on.

We can be hugely proud of what we have accomplished over the last 40 years and happy with what we continue to achieve.

We directly assist around 10,000 people a year with advice, benefits take-up support and energy efficiency measures – reducing their risk

of fuel poverty, and saving them a combined total of almost £1.5m.

We've trained, supported and empowered more than 50,000 young people, professionals, local authorities, councillors and community activists, helping them become influential actors in their own communities.

And we've stimulated national policy development in areas such as community engagement in sustainable energy, fuel poverty programmes and performance targets for local authorities on climate change.

**4) Friends start talking about retirement**

At some point in your 40s your friends will let slip that they're making retirement plans. But not me, and not CSE; we're both just hitting our stride.

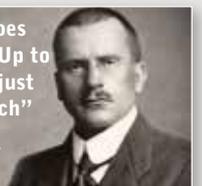
We've built up 40 years of experience, and we know what does and doesn't work. And we use this knowledge to inform and improve our own practice and that of others.

**5) You probably need glasses, whether you admit it or not.**

OK, so not all of the personal 'turning 40' experiences have their parallel in an organisation's life (my vision is still pretty good!). But retaining a clear and sharp view of what is happening and what needs to change to secure a genuinely sustainable energy future is as vital to CSE now as it ever has been.

“Life really does begin at 40. Up to then, you're just doing research”

CARL JUNG,  
1875-1961





Solar power features heavily in the business models of the five shortlisted organisations, as does the advance of electric vehicles  
[www.next-generation.org.uk](http://www.next-generation.org.uk)

## Five community groups get support to develop smarter energy business models

**F**ive community groups have been shortlisted to go forward to the preliminary research and development phase of Next Generation, our multi-partner project designed to create a step change in the development of genuinely sustainable, financially viable and innovative community businesses.

In total, 31 applications were received for Round 1 which closed on 13 January 2019. Round 2 opens in the summer, and guidelines for applicants are being written now.

The five shortlisted groups (see box) will be helped to test and strengthen their post-subsidy community energy business models over the next 2-3 months.



## 5 go through to R&D

**Green Fox Community Co-operative** (Leicestershire): A model for supplying locally generated low-carbon heat and electricity to schools in a better integrated and more cost-effective way.

**Low Carbon Gordano** (Bristol): A model for distributed solar and local trading in an urban context in which the local community owns and operate 1 MW of solar panels on 300 roofs in the city.

**Nadder Community Energy** (Wiltshire): An electric community transport business model for rural areas, working closely with a local community transport organisation and using locally generated solar power for vehicle charging.

**Brighton Energy:** A proposal to Brighton council to install community-owned PV linked to EV charge points at a leisure centre used by many commuters as an informal park-and-ride.

**Chester Community Energy:** A business model that finances the upfront costs of smart-lighting installations and enables community groups to repay the investment through the savings on their electricity bills.

More about all these groups at [www.next-generation.org.uk/round-1](http://www.next-generation.org.uk/round-1)

## Power Partners offers up to £20k for fuel poverty and energy efficiency initiatives

**S**ixteen not-for-profit organisations and community groups have been awarded sums of between £2,000 and £20,000 for initiatives that combat fuel poverty, improve the energy efficiency of community spaces or support people in vulnerable circumstances.

This is thanks to Power Partners, a £300,000 per year community investment fund from UK Power Networks, the company that owns and maintains electricity infrastructure in the South East, East of England and London.

Awards include: £20,000 for Citizen's Advice, Lowestoft for an energy efficient heating system and LED lighting; £11,000

for Forest Row Energy in Sussex to map fuel poverty and deprivation in the neighbourhood followed by targeted outreach; and £20,000 for a community centre run by Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust for solar panels as part of larger energy efficiency refurbishment (pictured).

Round 1 of this fund closed in April. A second round will open in the summer. Check our website or Twitter for details.

Power Partners is administered by CSE. Project manager, Ellie Stevens, said: "The grant scheme represents a sizeable investment in both income maximisation of vulnerable households – for example though tariff-switching or the provision of energy advice training – and energy



efficiency improvement of community spaces through the installation of measures like insulation and low-energy lighting."

For Power Partners eligibility criteria, Round 2 deadlines and guidance for applicants, see [www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1356](http://www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1356)

## Bristol Energy backs expansion of WHAM fuel poverty project

CSE's Warmer Homes, Advice, & Money project (WHAM) has been given a welcome £25,000 boost by Bristol Energy.

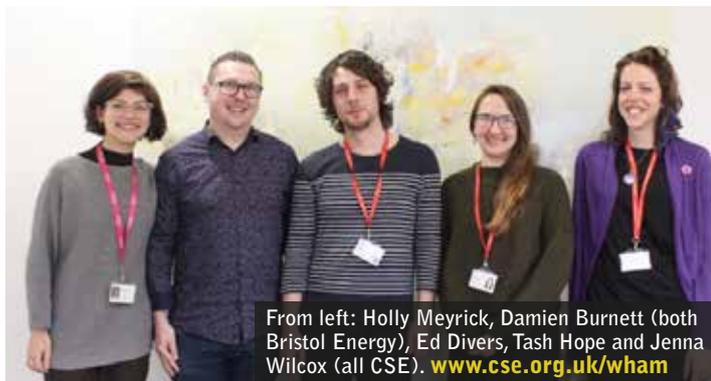
WHAM was set up in 2017 by CSE and Bristol organisations WE Care and Repair and Talking Money to assist people with energy advice, debt advice and home repairs – all of which can be drivers for fuel poverty.

The project focuses on helping people on a low incomes, single parents and

unemployed people living in privately rented homes.

Lisa Evans is the WHAM project manager. She said: "The grant means we can expand our team from two to three, and give more hands-on support to vulnerable householders. In our first year [2017] we worked with over 600 households, saving them £141,000 on gas and electricity bills and helping many of them clear debt that they'd accumulated.

Marek Majewicz of Bristol Energy said: "By working more collaboratively with Bristol-based organisations, we hope to be able to reach the people that most need our support. No one should have to live in a cold damp home and be inundated with debt."



From left: Holly Meyrick, Damien Burnett (both Bristol Energy), Ed Divers, Tash Hope and Jenna Wilcox (all CSE). [www.cse.org.uk/wham](http://www.cse.org.uk/wham)

## OBE for CSE chair of trustees

Many congratulations to Anne Obey, our Chair of Trustees, awarded an OBE for services to financial reporting and sustainable energy.

Simon Roberts said "This is richly deserved – a great tribute to Anne's steadfast leadership of our Board and her commitment to CSE as a

charity, as well, of course, as the very important work she does as Director of Financial Reporting at Nationwide."

For brief biographies of all CSE's board members see [www.cse.org.uk/trustees](http://www.cse.org.uk/trustees)



## Why CSE does what it does ...

This letter says it all. It was written by a woman we've been supporting through one of our fuel poverty projects, to thank Jon Parvin who leads our energy advice work in Dorset ...

*"I wanted to write to say a big thanks for helping me so much. I was in despair when I rang you with nowhere left to turn and didn't know how I would manage with a broken boiler.*

*All the staff [at CSE] are kind and helpful and Jon Parvin has gone out of his way to understand my very delicate health and take a lot of the burden of*

*communicating with all the parties involved off me.*

*I have not been so well treated by an organisation ever and it restores my hope that those of us who are alone and marginalised by poverty and ill health have not been completely abandoned.*

*A wonderful and much needed service ..."*

## Working with hospitals to make sure patients don't go home to cold houses

Every year, thousands of people in Wiltshire leave hospital and return to homes that are unhealthily damp and cold, with broken or poor heating systems. This puts their health at risk and in many cases means they end up back in hospital – an outcome neither they nor the health service wants.

To address this, CSE's Elliot Clark spent a day a week at Swindon's Great Western Hospital, working alongside NHS ward managers, discharge

nurses, occupational therapists and social care services to ensure that, following their stay, patients going home to cold and damp houses are given help to make those homes better.

"It was a valuable opportunity to work alongside NHS staff and to support both patients and staff," said Elliot. "This kind of collaboration can reduce the impact of fuel poverty and hopefully reduce the numbers of readmissions in future.

"We signed lots of patients up to the priority services register of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks and Wessex Water – the two utilities in the Swindon area – and also to patients' energy suppliers. And to those most critically in need, we gave oil-



Elliot outside the Great Western Hospital in Swindon

filled radiators."

Cold and damp homes can make people ill and exacerbate existing health conditions such as diabetes, asthma and arthritis, and mental illnesses like depression and anxiety.

We made a video of one of the nurses at Great Western Hospital explaining why partnership working is so valuable. Watch it at [www.youtube.be/V5D9wEAY2w0](http://www.youtube.be/V5D9wEAY2w0)

The post was funded by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks and Wessex Water Health Engagement Project and was part of Warm and Safe Wiltshire, an energy advice project funded by Swindon and Wiltshire councils. Full story at [www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2336](http://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2336)



## Bright Green Future weekend in Liverpool

**T**hirty-five young people from CSE's Bright Green Future programme (we call them 'BGF-ers') enjoyed a creative, fun and empowering training weekend in Liverpool in March, hosted by the School for Social Entrepreneurs.

Training is a key element of the BGF programme that gives young people the tools and knowledge to become the environmental leaders of tomorrow. The aim of the Liverpool weekend was to introduce them to the wider aspects of sustainability, such as social enterprises, to get them thinking about their 'ikagai' (purpose) and enable them to match their values with sustainability.

The event was also an opportunity to connect with like-minded young people



from across the country and create a new network of powerful young change-makers.

The weekend began with a friendly welcome, good food and an introduction to our hosts, the School for Social Entrepreneurs ([www.the-sse.org](http://www.the-sse.org)). The room was soon buzzing with creative energy as the BGF-ers got stuck into their first workshop of the weekend, using social enterprise to achieve a UN Sustainable Goal of their choice.

Next day, our first stop was Squash Cafe, a social enterprise and Liverpool institution that promotes health education through workshops, events and training. We did multiple workshops and enjoyed a delicious vegan lunch.

A highlight for everyone was a workshop by Heather Knight of Urbed, the Manchester-based the design and research consultancy, who asked us to think about what community means to us and what makes a 'good' community. This led to an inspiring session in which the young people broke off into groups



and created their 'ideal high streets', where sustainability was a key focus with many banning cars and creating green roofs on all high street buildings.

The remainder of the weekend was filled with equally inspiring, empowering and energising stories of social enterprise, workshop sessions and a performance at the famous Everyman Theatre by 50 young Liverpoolians.

You can read more about the weekend in a blog posting by BGF-er Taryn on the project website (URL below):

"My eyes have been opened to opportunities and possibilities - the weekend gave me a glimpse into the alternative careers I could



enter into. I can do something that I love, something that helps people. I can do something that fulfils me. It'll take passion and hard work and creativity and risk-taking and setbacks but if I'm resilient and persistent and brave, I can shape the future I want for myself and others."

Clockwise from top left: Tristan of Hobo Kiosk giving us a tour of Liverpool's hip Baltic Triangle. This space, once a place where whales were butchered, is now a skate park and location for music video shoots; Down time at the Squash cafe; a happy BGF-er; CSE's own Fab Four - Rachel, Ellie, Charlie and Roy - by the Beatles statue; Blueprint for an 'ideal' high street.

More about the programme at [www.bright-green-future.org.uk](http://www.bright-green-future.org.uk)



40th anniversary, 1979-2019

## Scale up, speed up, start up

Our 40th anniversary year could prove to be momentous ...

**W**ill 2019 be a genuine breakthrough year when we see a great acceleration in action to cut UK carbon emissions?

For all the policy deadlock and distraction in Whitehall and Westminster, there are signs that the sorts of things we've been doing for many years here at CSE may be about to become more widespread – even normal.

So we're going to stick our neck out and say yes.

Why? Two reasons.

The first is the growing roll call of local authorities which have followed Bristol council's unanimous vote in favour of declaring a climate emergency and aiming to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

This may prove to be a political tipping point, especially if the declarations inspire stronger action, sooner by more people – to scale up, speed up and, in some cases, start up the things we know

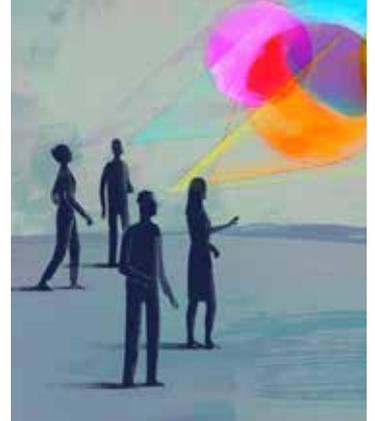
need to happen and know how to do.

What we must avoid is merely triggering a swathe of technocratic studies of how the target might be achieved – e.g. lots of work for analysts and consultants while everyone watches on.

The second reason for optimism is the many initiatives we're currently working on which will come into their own in 2019. There's a list of these in the longer version of this piece at [www.cse.org.uk/40](http://www.cse.org.uk/40).

Is our optimism misplaced? Possibly, but we've been a glass-half-full kind of organisation for forty years and we're absolutely not going to change now!

“ There are signs that the things we've been doing for many years here at CSE may be about to become much more widespread – even normal.



## Centre for Sustainable Energy

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We are an independent national charity that shares our knowledge and experience to help people change the way they think and act on energy.

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## Who's who at CSE

### Chief Executive

Simon Roberts OBE

### Research & Analysis

Joshua Thumim, Head of Research & Analysis | Dr Toby Bridgeman, Researcher | Mark Gibbons, Software Developer | Daisy Goaman, Project Officer | Andrew Gonnet, Software Developer | Dr Tom Hinton, Software Developer | Nicky Hodges, Researcher | Martin Holley, Technical Project Manager | Sunita Keswani, Intern | Annette Lamley, Project Officer

### Household Energy Services

Ian Preston, Head of Household Energy Services | Paola Aldana, Energy Advisor | Nick Clack, Fuel Poverty Advisor | Elliot Clark, Energy Advisor | Elliot Clarke, Intern | Ed Divers, Energy Advisor | Shareen Elnagy, Energy Advisor | Lisa Evans, Project Manager | Eleanor Hodges, Fuel Poverty Advisor | Natasha Hope, Energy Advisor | Samuel Kelly, Intern | Kath Lindsay, Energy Advisor | Pete McNeil, Fuel Poverty Advisor | Cora Paine, Advice Team Leader | Jon Parvin, Dorset Project Advisor | Sonia Pruzinsky, Project Officer\* | Karen Smith, Energy Advisor | Kate Thomas, Project Manager | Mark Tyler, Energy Advisor | Jamie Walters, Project Manager | Kate Watson, Project Manager (Retrofit) | Jenna Wilcox, Energy Advisor | Lorna Wilcox, Energy Advisor | Paul Winney, Project Manager

### Local & Community Empowerment

Rachel Coxoon, Head of Local & Community Empowerment | Megan Blyth, Project Worker | Rachel Haycock, Project Officer | Keith Hemphshall, Project Manager | Roy Kareem, Project Manager | Charlie Leaman, Intern | Graham McGrath, Planner | Bridget Newbery, Project Manager | Harriet Sansom, Project Manager\* | Ellie Stevens, Project Officer | Dan Stone, Project Manager

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\* On maternity leave

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