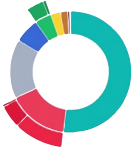


energise

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Launch of community carbon footprint tool

Our new community-scale carbon footprint tool, Impact, has already proved very popular with the town and parish-level communities for whom it was built.

The aim of Impact is to give towns and parishes usable data on their carbon emissions that is easy to understand, easy to share, and gives a clear idea of main 'impact areas' – those places where focused community-based action can make the biggest contribution to cutting local emissions.

"We know that local authorities are working on climate emergency plans, and that carbon footprinting at these larger spatial geographies is commonly commissioned" said CSE's project lead, Annette Lamley.

"We know also that many concerned individuals are already using the wide range of personal carbon footprint tools available on the internet. But we identified a real need for carbon footprinting at the small community scale which takes into account the lack of specialist knowledge among community groups and the lowest tier of local government. Impact fills this gap. And as well as being clear and useable, it will also give you pointers, once you understand your community's impact, on what to do next."

Impact has most recently

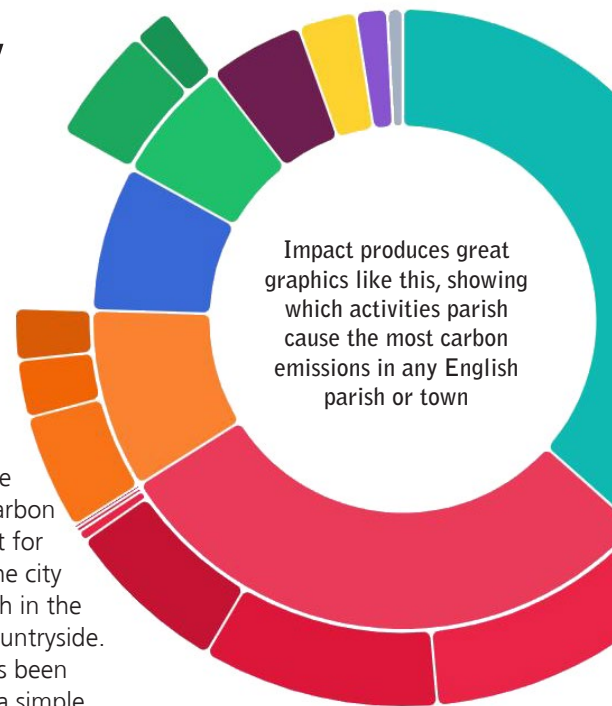
been used by CSE and Winchester Action on Climate Change to produce a carbon footprint report for each ward in the city and every parish in the surrounding countryside.

The tool has been designed with a simple user interface and dynamic visual representation of data that's easy for a layperson to interpret.

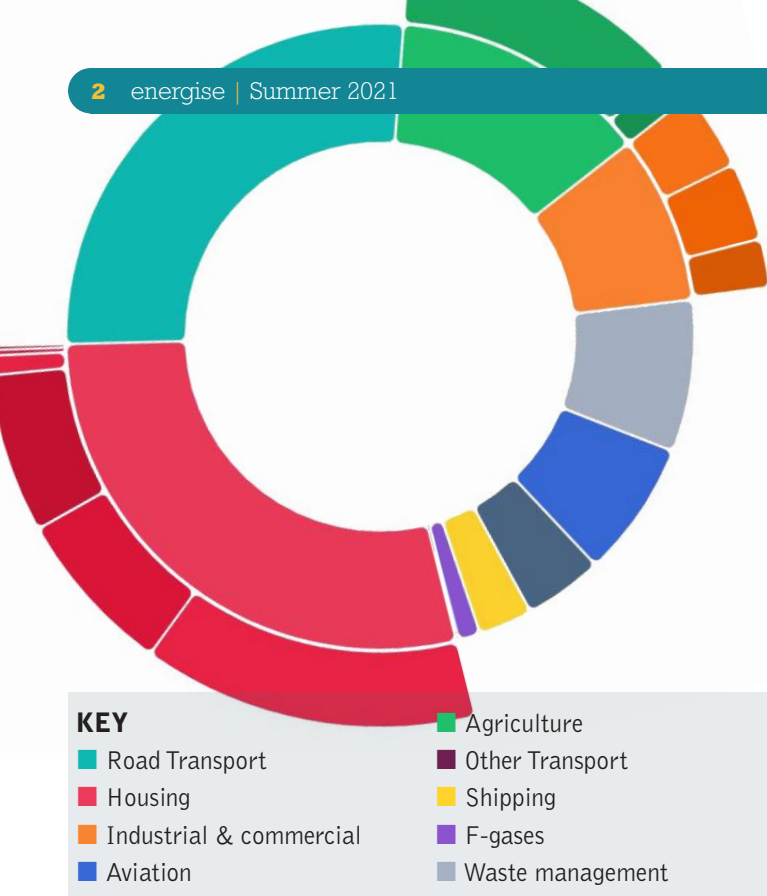
It uses two different but complementary approaches to carbon footprinting: territorial-based reporting and consumption-based reporting. Both of these look at where our emissions come from, but they calculate this in different ways.

A territorial footprint looks at all emissions that arise from activities within a particular

boundary, covering for example road and rail travel, industrial and commercial emissions and agriculture, and household energy use. The consumption footprint also looks at household energy use, but it differs from the territorial approach in that it considers the behaviours and the purchases of the people living in that area, including goods and services, much of which are imported from outside - like food, clothing,



Check out the Impact website: www.impact-tool.org.uk.

**KEY**

- Road Transport
- Housing
- Industrial & commercial
- Aviation
- Agriculture
- Other Transport
- Shipping
- F-gases
- Waste management

banking and medical services. Both approaches can provide useful information to help target local action.

Impact is focused on Town and Parish Council level, but there's a clear demand for this data at other levels, such as electoral ward. We're actively fundraising to be able to meet this demand, and if you'd like to contribute donations can be made **here**.

CSE developed Impact as part of our Climate Emergency Support Programme, working jointly with the University of Exeter's Centre for Energy & the Environment as part of

their South West Environment and Climate Action Network (SWeCAN) project. It has been reviewed and tested by councillors and clerks from over 170 different parishes to whom we are very grateful.

Impact was part funded through CSE's charitable reserve, the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy via the Midlands Energy Hub, and the UKRI Strategic Priorities Fund.

If you have any questions about the tool or suggestions for how it could be improved, you can contact the project team at impact-tool@cse.org.uk.

National Grid ESO supports Bright Green Future

To meet the global climate and ecological emergency, we need new leadership to emerge from every sector of society reflecting and embracing the diverse voices and concerns of all.

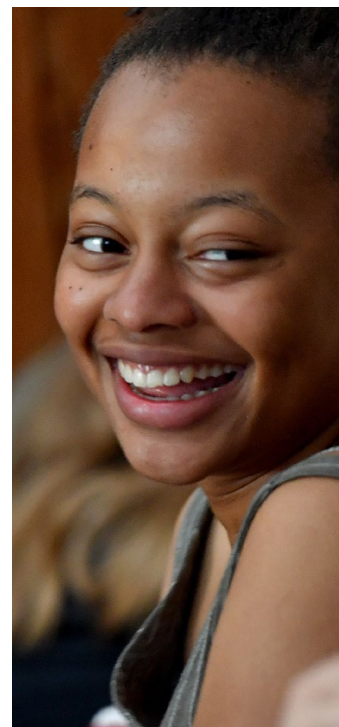
But within the environmental sector, Black, brown and other minority ethnic communities are poorly represented. In response our pioneering environmental leadership programme for 16-19 year olds, Bright Green Future (BGF), is developing a new generation of leaders from these communities. BGF aims to provide leadership skills, opportunities for self-development, future career prospects and professional networks.

As it heads into its sixth year, we are delighted to announce sponsorship from the National Grid ESO, an organisation making strides in the energy and environment sector with the ambition to operate a zero-carbon electricity system by 2025.

This partnership will give our next cohort of students fantastic opportunities to learn about careers in the sustainability and energy sectors and the power to make a real difference.

BGF is made up of five different elements: training, local eco projects, work experience, summer school and mentoring. These elements ensure every young person in the

nationalgridESO



programme leaves with the skills and knowledge to make a difference in their own communities or further afield. Applications for the next cohort will be opening soon.

Black, brown and other ethnic minority young people are significantly under represented in the environmental workforce with 3.1% Black and brown people, compared to 19.1%

across the UK labour force as a whole.

Yet Black and brown students are more likely to say that an environmental career is appealing (57% compared to 44% of White British students), while 34% say they are discouraged by the lack of representation in the environmental sector.

Roy Kareem, BGF programme lead said: "Through BGF we will address these systemic issues and ensure that no one is left behind."

"We're excited about our partnership with National Grid ESO and looking forward to developing the Bright Green Future programme over the next year. Our students want more energy sector experience and to play a key role in the energy system transition to net zero. So ESO is a great partner and will bring lots of additional benefits to students who will get to work with ESO staff through mentoring, career webinars and events."

If your business is interested in supporting the programme, please contact jenny.coles@cse.org.uk

Advice line: huge increase in calls for support from people in cold homes

CSE has seen a 43% increase in enquires to our Home Energy Advice line over the last year. And our advisors have saved people in fuel poverty almost £3m (£2,761,712) off their energy bills, an average of around £190 per household.

As we all know, the Covid-19 pandemic caused financial hardship for many. More households are now classified as being in fuel poverty, meaning they are likely to suffer a cold home and face tough choices about how to spend limited budgets. Compounding this, lockdown measures meant more people they spent more time at home, adding to heating bills.

As a result, our Home Energy Advice line has seen thousands more households reaching out for support.

In all, CSE answered 21,604 enquiries

from 14,465 households in 2020-21. This compares to 15,646 enquiries from 10,093 households in the 12 months before that. Interestingly, there was also a significant increase in demand from single men, a new client group for us.

The misery of cold homes

Cold homes cause misery, ill-health and social exclusion. Currently more than 5m households in the UK can't afford to keep adequately warm in winter. In the latest estimates, around 10% of households in England were classed as fuel poor, 24% in Scotland, 12% in Wales, and 18% in Northern Ireland.

Ian Preston, Head of Household Energy Services at CSE said: "Being able to keep healthily warm at home is a basic human need. The fact that we've increased our support and reached new people is amazing considering the challenges of lockdown."

"Many other public advice agencies closed when lockdown hit, but we didn't, so people in need turned to us. One client referred to us as 'a light in the darkness' - someone at the end of the phone who genuinely cares and helps."

CSE adapts

When lockdown hit in March 2020, we adapted our services quickly, shifting our entire office-based telephone system to home working in less than two weeks. We took advantage of new funding streams released on account of the emergency, for example Ofgem's Energy Redress fund that made available financial aid for vulnerable people and Barclays' 100x100 fund which helped charities provide more support to those needing it most.

When face-to-face services and home visits were obliged to stop,

The advice line in 2020-21

We took many more calls from single men – a new client group for us. Before the pandemic, most support was focused on low income families, single parents, pensioners and people with health needs.

There was a significant increase in callers suffering from mental health issues, and more calls from people who felt suicidal.

Calls taking much longer, probably due to increased social isolation.

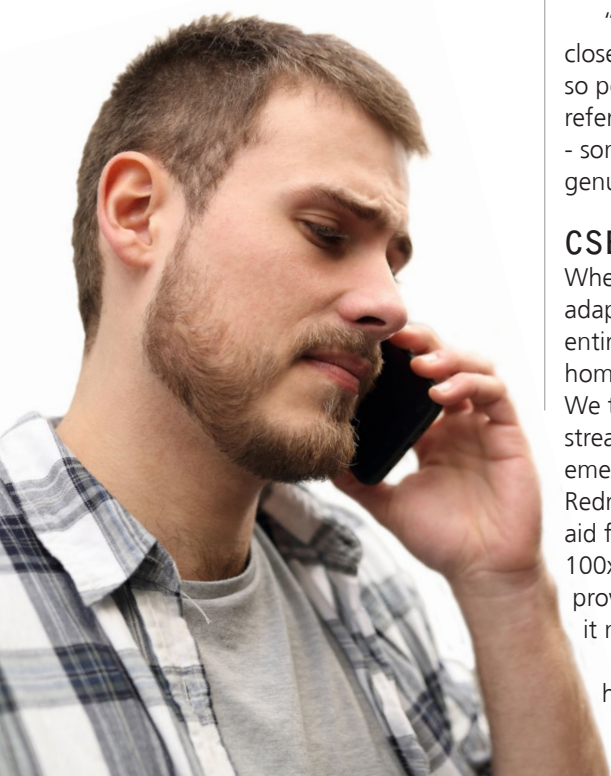
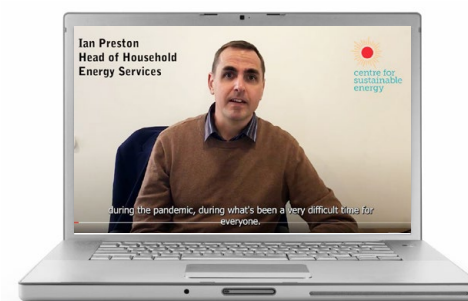
Normally CSE's advice line is busiest at the beginning of winter as people turn on their heating. In 2020-21, there was no notable peak, we were constantly busy throughout the summer.

We received twice the amount of referrals from local authorities and more word-of-mouth referrals than ever.



our advisors worked with clients in other ways, visiting people in parks and gardens, when restrictions allowed, and moving from hospitals to foodbanks to continue to reach vulnerable clients. We also introduced a variety of new measures to support wellbeing at work for frontline staff.

Ian Preston reflects on 2020-21 with a special thanks to his team and our funders at <https://youtu.be/Onsid0HycTo>



www.3dhub.org.uk

3D data to
decarbonise
in a decade

Data-driven decarbonisation

Pioneering platform offers free local data to help communities contribute to Birmingham's decarbonisation

The innovative 3DHub, built by CSE and launched in March, aims to use data to support community groups in Birmingham contribute to the city's carbon reduction.

It offers a range of data sets including open data on housing, travel, waste, energy, and emissions. The data includes statistics on regional and sub-regional fuel poverty, air quality, electric car charging points, buildings emissions, cycle routes and more. It's all fully anonymised and meets latest privacy guidance and legislation.

This data is specific to the Birmingham region and can be downloaded and used for free.

The website is easy to use, with some clever features to help with data visualisation. It's at www.3dhub.org.uk.

"The exciting thing is that we have no idea what people will use the data for. We're expecting to be surprised by the creative uses to which it will be put" said Bridget Newbery who is managing the

project for CSE.

The data hub is a significant part of 3D an initiative to help decarbonise Birmingham in a decade (www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1374). CSE will work alongside Birmingham City Council and the Birmingham Route to Zero Taskforce (R20 Taskforce) to support both city-wide and also local community projects using

data to help reduce carbon emissions.

Training sessions took place in April to introduce people to the website, help them navigate their way round, and share ideas about how the data could be applied.

Local funding available

In June we launched a funding 'competition' offering more help and money to community groups using 3D data as part of their efforts to decarbonise Birmingham and surrounding area. Ten community-based low carbon initiatives will share £100,000 between them.

Applications, which close on 18 July, can focus on a wide range of areas including behaviour change, air pollution, transport, energy and health.

Successful projects will support Birmingham's net zero carbon targets by using data from the 3DHub to understand the needs of communities. The ten winning groups will receive £10,000 each

▶ Example 1

A community group wants to install more solar PV.

3DHub will help identify suitable sites using data on energy consumption, rooftop PV potential and conservation areas, and enable a targeted plan to engage local installers and home owners.



▶▶ Example 2

A health charity wants to install gym equipment in parks to encourage a healthier lifestyle.

They will use air pollution, health data and green spaces data from 3DHub to identify potential sites.



▶▶▶ Example 3

A foodbank is looking to start some vegetable growing projects for their customers.

Priority areas can be found using 3DHub data on food emissions and income levels. Potential sites will be identified using data on land use and open space.



to develop their low carbon projects.

Bridget said: "Local people can achieve the most change because they understand their neighbourhood and its residents better than anyone. We're looking for people with big ideas to create new ways to reduce carbon emissions across Birmingham."

Successful projects will use data in some way, either by targeting work in

specific areas of Birmingham, or by using data to inform projects and engage with communities. There are many possibilities (see box on p4 for examples).

If you have an idea for a project but are not sure how data would fit into it, or if you would like to find out whether you'd be eligible to apply, or just to talk through some ideas, please get in touch with us at 3d@cse.org.uk.

3D is supported by Birmingham council's Route to Zero (R20) Taskforce and **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability**, a global network working with more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development.



Climate Emergency Action Planning Tool

Helping local government find their levers of influence ...

Since launching our Climate Emergency Support Programme in late 2019, we've spoken to around 60 local authorities and 100s of parish and town councils who have declared a climate emergency and are looking at what actions to take now.

What we've noticed is that all too often the council officer tasked with pulling together a Climate Emergency Strategy, struggles to get buy-in from senior officers and politicians across a range of portfolios.

As Rachel Coxoon (pictured), formerly our Climate Emergency Support Director and herself an elected councillor, said: "In many cases, while support for a council's Climate Emergency Declaration was unanimous, the action plans they produced didn't demonstrate a holistic approach to what they could be doing but seemed rather to be a re-hash of what they'd always done. The radical and far-reaching reform that is inherent in the climate emergency declaration was lost.

"This led us to develop an approach in which rather than a local authority simply thinking about delivery through its normal functions and departments it systematically considers what levers of influence it could bring to bear on a series of 'change targets'."

The levers of influence we've drawn up include: Direct Control, Procurement & Commissioning, Place Shaping, Engaging, Convening and Showcasing.

So what does this mean in practice? Well, take the first



The radical reform that is inherent in the climate emergency declaration is often lost.



When responding to the Climate Emergency, local councils have many levers of influence they can pull



of our change targets, namely "Hugely reduced energy demand from buildings, including heritage assets".

When considering this target, it's common for local authorities to concentrate on their Direct Control lever, e.g. what they can do to their own buildings - insulating, upgrading lighting and so on.

But other levers are available, not least their 'Place Shaping' powers through which councils can set local planning policy to require developers to include more low-carbon features in their buildings.

And through the Engagement lever of influence, councils can use one of their biggest assets, their trusted brand, to raise householder awareness of domestic retrofit. Under Convening, councils might consider how they can support the development of local supply chains for retrofit, and finally under Showcasing, what can be done to celebrate

great work in this area? Are there good examples of retrofitted homes and buildings to promote?

By thinking about how to tackle the same change target from several different angles, using soft and less tangible powers alongside direct control, councils can build a more comprehensive action plan. And having politicians involved in this process helps officers build a mandate for a broader approach.

Action days

To promote this approach, CSE has been running Parish Climate Action Days in which groups of parish and town councils or larger local authorities, look at all their levers of influence, and comprehensively assess how these can be used to bring about the changes we need.

The sessions are quite structured, and the content of them is all available on a spreadsheet. While it's possible for an individual to work through every tab on the spreadsheet, a larger group will yield better results – and the spreadsheet contains guidance on how to run a workshop session.

Read more details and download the spreadsheet at www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2541

Interested in commissioning an Action Planning day for your council? Contact jess.knight@cse.org.uk



Photo: Laying district heating pipework in Bristol.

THERMOS was funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme. You can access the demo video [here](https://www.cse.org.uk/thermos).

THERMOS

From pipe dream to the future of district heating

After five years our multi-partner EU-funded THERMOS research and development project, led by CSE has come to an end.

But it leaves a valuable legacy in the set of free open source software that we hope will revolutionise the way that low-carbon district heating networks are planned and built and make a huge

contribution to the urgent task of heat decarbonisation.

THERMOS (developed by CSE programmers) optimises the planning of local heating and cooling networks by identifying financially viable routes for district heating networks by combining advanced address-level heating and cooling mapping with energy-demand estimations and machine-learning algorithms.

It also takes into account user-specific criteria such as the source of power being used, local energy costs, investment budgets, and the weight given to carbon emissions by the developer or local authority.

"THERMOS has filled a gap in the world of heat network planning and is being used widely around the world to identify optimal solutions for expanding existing networks,

or planning entirely new ones" said Martin Holley, Senior Project Manager at CSE.

Even though funding has finished, the THERMOS project partners have agreed to continue offering, developing and promoting the software and its services both to current clients (around 1,400 users from energy agencies, urban planning offices, universities, consultancies etc) and to future ones.

“It's made things so much easier for me during this difficult time**”**

WHAM is the innovative partnership project at the heart of our support for Bristol and North Somerset's most vulnerable residents. It gives advice on energy, money, benefits and carrying out home repairs and is recognised as an exemplar of multi-agency working for the benefit of clients.

WHAM particularly helps those on low incomes and those struggling to afford to heat their homes. Details of clients who need our help

can be passed on directly or via our online referral form by partners who include the Talking Money, We Care Home Improvements, Bristol and North Somerset councils, Citizens Advice, Bristol Energy Network and AMS Electrical.

Our recently published an impact report (www.cse.org.uk/wham) shows that from the launch of the project in Sept 2017 to January 2021, WHAM supported 2,220 households to the tune of £1,172,182 in case outcomes

- reductions in fuel debt, welfare benefits claims etc.

One of those we helped was Kayleigh (right) who said: "I ended up in financial difficulties when my income was drastically reduced at the same time as the coronavirus lockdown – I was in the high risk group. Health Watch told me about WHAM and after I got in touch, Joe from CSE contacted me and gave me a voucher for my electricity. Then together we negotiated with my energy supplier to get my debt recovery payments reduced to the minimum, and applied to E.ON to get the remaining debt wiped. It's made things so much easier for me during this difficult time."

WHAM caseworkers, partners and beneficiaries came together in March to look at the project's success and you can see a recording of the online event [here](https://www.cse.org.uk/wham).



“Lost opportunity”

Our response to proposed changes to the planning policy framework

Together with the Town & Country Planning Association, we led a coalition* that has submitted a joint response to the government's consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The central plank of our response (see www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2587) is that the proposed changes to the NPPF fail to address the seriousness of the climate emergency which the government claims is a priority.

“The planning system has a major role to play in shaping new development, transport patterns and energy systems that can deliver on the Government's net zero target and adapt to a dramatic increase in severe weather and sea levels” states our submission. “However, the NPPF consultation proposals simply fail to address it adequately which is a significant lost opportunity.”

This is a particularly striking omission in view of Britain's hosting of COP26 later this year, and one picked up by CSE's Dan Stone in his blog lamenting the failure of the government to bind the planning system into the UK's climate policy.

“The revisions to the NPPF fail to join the dots around the climate crisis” writes Dan. “In the really high-carbon areas (fossil fuel development, aviation) it's silent, while elsewhere (buildings,

renewable energy, transport) it lacks urgency. As others have said before me, we need to treat the climate emergency as an emergency.”

Our submission calls for clarity on the importance of climate change to sustainable development, and to set the 2008 Climate Change Act explicitly at the centre of the planning system.

The consultation is the first significant review of the NPPF since the publication of the IPCC report Global warming of 1.5°C in 2018 that revealed the extraordinary dangers of allowing a global temperature rise of 2°C. It is also the first since the climate change act was revised in 2019 to commit the UK to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. It is both surprising and disappointing that the NPPF proposals fail so spectacularly to march in lock-step with this.



“In the year of COP26, we should be doing better than this” Read what Dan Stone has to say about our response to the NPPF consultation in his blog at www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2589



The planning system has a major role to play in shaping new development, transport patterns and energy systems that can deliver on the Government's net zero target, but the NPPF proposals simply fail to address it.

Carbon reduction should be ‘first among equals’ ...

We are calling for **action on carbon reduction** to become the first amongst equals as a material consideration in the planning process, and for the following text to be inserted into Chapter 2 of the NPPF to provide after paragraph 9:

“Climate change is the greatest long-term challenge facing the world today. Addressing climate change is therefore the Government's principal concern for sustainable development. For the avoidance of doubt, achieving sustainable development includes securing the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. All planning strategies, and the decisions taken in support of them, must reflect the Government's ambition to help business and communities build a zero carbon future and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Accordingly, planning policies and all planning decisions must be in line with the objectives and provisions of Climate Change Act 2008 including the 2050 net zero carbon target.”



* The coalition comprised Town and Country Planning Association, Bristol Energy Network, Campaign for National Parks, CPRE, Cycling UK, Friends of the Earth, Green Alliance, Ramblers, Rights: Community: Action, SNRG, UKGBC, and Wildlife and Countryside Link. In addition, Mendip District Council, Eden District Council and the Association of Green Councillors added their name after consultation closed on 27 March.

Lessons in partnership working

Harriet Sansom on the internal legacy of Powering Up ...

Powering Up was a 3-year project looking at ways to kick-start and support community-led energy action in lower income communities.

We worked in three different places - small estates in Druffyn in Newport, Penhill in Swindon and Hamp in Bridgwater - and in each case partnerships with councils, agencies, schools



and voluntary organisations have been crucial to our engagement, especially as we were as unfamiliar with these communities and they were with us.

For details of what we did, see www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1338, but here are some of our key learnings:

Lesson 1: Identify useful partners early on through desk-based research, social media, and attending events.

Be thorough with your research – some smaller community groups have a very low profile! Try to find out

who has a close relationship with, and a strong on-the-ground presence in, the community you are hoping to work with, and what that relationship looks like.

Lesson 2: Make contact early, and stay in touch.

It's best to hit the ground running and get in touch with key partners early on; but you will inevitably meet more as time goes by and you get to know the community better.

We also recommend you keep making contact with potential partners – even if they don't respond at first. We have many examples in Powering Up of partnerships that looked like a dead end at the beginning of the project but which suddenly flourished two years in!

Lesson 3: Learn the relationship history.

You don't want to step on any toes or re-ignite old quarrels, so find out the history of relationships between communities and local organisations. Is there any risk of conflict by getting involved? Is there any baggage being carried that could disrupt your project goals?

Lesson 4: Do some research into previous interventions.

This may unearth valuable advice from stakeholders of past projects, and understanding what worked well and what didn't.

Powering Up was funded by the Friends Provident Foundation, and the dissemination of learnings and resources by The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

Supporting Boater and Traveller communities in Wiltshire

At the end of last year, the Government launched its £170m national Covid Winter Grant Scheme to support those most in need with the cost of food, energy (heating, cooking, lighting), water bills and other essentials.

Wiltshire Council was awarded around £1.1m and allocated some of this to the provision of fuel poverty support for the Boater and Traveller communities.

We were given the contract to deliver the support through our ongoing Warm & Safe Wiltshire project. This initiative has been running since December 2015 and allows people to access a host of support services through a single point-of-contact.

We partnered with homeless charity, Julian House,

to identify households to work with.

CSE's Paul Winney said: "The funding received from Wiltshire Council and our partnership with Julian House means we can deliver genuine help to the Boater and Traveller communities in Wiltshire, groups often affected by cold, damp homes and a difficult choice of going hungry or keeping warm."



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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