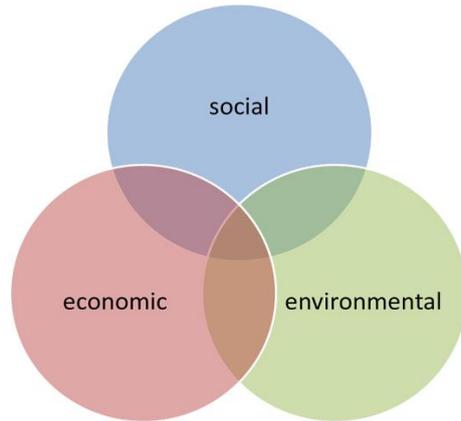


Social Power Partnership

Our overarching belief is that if Government renewable energy incentives are harnessed in sufficient scale they are capable of creating sustainable economic activity in addition to alleviating fuel poverty via free and reduced-price electricity.

Building on many years of involvement in addressing the issue of fuel poverty, we have created a flexible model which will tackle fuel poverty via community empowerment. Our involvement has not been limited to energy generation; we also have specialist expertise in energy efficiency and in community engagement.

Our solutions are based on the essential three pillars of sustainability



Social

Poverty Alleviation
Employment
Social Justice
Health
Equitable
Quality of life
Peace of Mind
Security
Sustainability
Inclusion

Economic

Energy Bill Savings
Job Creation
Economic Empowerment
Disposable Income
SME Expansion
Inclusion
Economic Enhancement
Wealth Creation

Environmental

Energy Efficiency
Reduced consumption
Reduced Carbon
Environmental Protection
Long-term Sustainability

To date nowhere in the UK has this fully integrated concept been attempted. Our Social Power Partnership, "SPP", is a template capable of delivering the largest renewable energy ambitions of Local Authorities, as it is comprehensive, scalable and flexible, capable of acting as the hub for all community energy aspirations. It goes beyond both the DECC January 2014 report, *Community Energy Strategy: People Powering Change*, and the Institute for Public Policy Research July 2014 report, *City Energy: A New Powerhouse for Britain*.



SPP is made up of Solcap Energy, Visible Energy, Quayside Media and local installers. Our members have strong knowledge, skills and expertise in engaging with communities, and more particularly within both the generation and efficiency of renewable energy.

Community engagement, capacity building and advocacy

SPP have an established history of being involved in community engagement activities and in the design and implementation of very successful community engagement strategies, including working with community representatives (“Energy Champions”) to initially engage, educate and advise households on energy efficiency so as to lower consumption.

This is an opportunity of profound change. One of our overarching objectives through harnessing renewable incentives is to seize the opportunity to create long-term jobs and capability. See earlier diagram of the three essential pillars of sustainability.

The jobs are all subsets of building capacity within the community. We also advocate scale so that further capacity can be built locally, such as logistics hubs to receive equipment in bulk direct from manufacturers and then assemble kits locally for specific properties. This logistics hub could be used additionally for other projects such as the implementation of energy efficiency measures. Our template has been built to support our advocacy that community power is a realistic opportunity that genuinely can be delivered, and in a greater and more effective manner than thought possible by most.

Deliverability including funding

Of the physical deliverability of community energy there is no doubt. Substantial private sector funding is available, with Solcap Energy currently having available funds to deploy. Private sector funds are selective and returns-driven, whereas SPP is the opportunity to deliver far more than simply financial returns. Private sector funding can sometimes frustrate these wider benefits.

Public Sector funding is also available. At the highest level there is Public Works Loan Board funding available.

We also advocate the opportunity for community members to invest in SPP itself, as a Community Benefit Co-Operative. This also helps many people hurt by dramatic reductions in interest rates paid by high street banks for deposits.

Application of creativity in vision

The members of SPP are drawn together by a shared vision of community power being a realistic deliverable proposition to support and transform depressed communities. We have developed and refined our joint vision based on our collective experiences and research. Our wider template goes beyond anything else we have seen presented or proposed by any local authority in the UK, by including both community energy generation as well as energy distribution, coupled with community investment and multiple energy plant ownership models.

The most powerful aspect of our blueprint is that SPP has the experience to implement and deliver it, creating jobs in an efficient financial returns manner, thus justifying PWLB investment.

Next Steps

Our blueprint is inspirational, will give relief and is also realistic and deliverable. We would welcome the opportunity to present and answer any queries and seek to be challenged to come up with solutions to cases in real life.

As examples, we are currently working to develop a renewable energy-orientated refurbishment of a “problem” listed status 18-storey block of Council flats, and were also recently asked by another Council to come up with a proposal for solar on their 19,000 roofs in a Borough Council portfolio. Our proposal can achieve solar and savings on all 18,000-plus roofs for 40 years along with creating apprenticeships and jobs. That proposal is under consideration at present.

Backgrounds

Solcap Energy

Solar Capital Limited t/a Solcap Energy was formed in 2011 and is a specialist business acting as a catalyst for more environmentally friendly living by proactively sourcing and funding renewable energy projects. Our aspiration is to be centrally involved in empowering all members of our society to become as self-sufficient as possible in our energy needs.

Solar Capital has raised and deployed over £10m and developed over 1200 domestic and commercial solar installations generating around 4MW. We also manage other installations not installed by ourselves, in total around 2,200 domestic sites and a dozen commercial sites generating around £17m in value. Solcap Energy is led by Angus Fraser and Stephan Hollingshead.

Angus Fraser is a Chartered Accountant and former partner with Ernst and Young. At Ernst and Young he specialised in business turnarounds which led to a number of senior executive appointments. He was CEO Europe and Asia Pacific of Premier Farnell Plc and latterly CEO of Hagemeyer UK and Ireland, £800m turnover, which trades as Newey & Eyre and WF Electrical. Angus has been active in the renewables industry for over 3 years and is currently engaged in developing solutions for Community energy projects, Commercial Solar PV installations and waste to energy plants.

Stephan Hollingshead has experience spanning finance and general management. He has experience of delivering projects at Scottish and Southern Energy and Inmans Electrical. Stephan has spent the last 3 years involved in renewables and recycling. At Inmans Electrical Stephan managed contracts with Councils, including Sheffield City Council, The Ministry of Defence, UK Universities and the NHS. Stephan is currently leading our engagement in biomass installations and funding.

Visible Energy Solutions Ltd

Visible Energy Solutions, "VES", led by Michael Baugh, is a consultancy that works primarily with Community Groups and Landlords for the purposes of accessing government grants, subsidies and specialist green finance for the application of energy saving measures and technologies to improve energy efficiency for residents.

VES has extensive knowledge of the requirements and needs of residents and landlords and can advise on and audit individual properties and portfolios. VES has engaged with stakeholders in Social Housing at all levels.

In March 2014 VES completed a consultancy project on a 'Sustainable Renewable Energy Partnership' strategy to support the Sustainable Housing Strategy for Carl Sargeant AM, the Minister for Minister for Natural Resources in the Welsh Assembly.

Having created and designed the pilot scheme Bristol Green Community Warmth pilot initiative, VES are currently active participants in the Green Community Warmth initiative. VES are currently working in Bristol with Bristol City Council on engaging with residents and landlords as a part of "Warm Up Bristol".

VES have educated Stakeholders in using government grants and funding such as ECO & Green Deal as a catalyst for targeted localised regeneration in impoverished communities. Central to this approach is the 'Three Pillars of Sustainability', social, environmental and economic, being at the heart of the initiative.

VES have also completed a project for Age Concern Eastbourne to set up and run energy community workshops, and are currently working with London Training Employment Network (LTEN) to assist with business sustainability, business analysis and identifying potential for business growth in the green sector, as well as supply chain opportunities. VES are also working with landlords nationwide to reduce the tenants' energy bills through auditing portfolios and accessing grants.

VES is an active member of the Britain's Ethnic Minorities Community Enterprise.

Quayside Media Ltd

Quayside Media Ltd "QM" led by Christina Zaba *"We support sustainability and positive social change"*. Quayside Media exists to create and drive public relations and community empowerment campaigns, delivering media training and producing media materials as needed, and working to build teams according to clients' requirements and the need at hand.

A specialist writer for the Guardian Newspaper, Christina has worked on community engagement campaigns at many levels. In 2013 she was **Director of Communications, Bristol Power Co-op** which proposed a new model of energy supply for deprived areas in Bristol, the project raised hundreds of thousands of pounds and succeeded in engaging community support to install solar panels on houses in Lockleaze, one of the most deprived areas of the city, giving residents more control over their energy costs and usage. The community engagement techniques were described by Minister for Civil Society Nick Hurd in a supportive letter as "gold dust".

Bristol will be the first UK city to become European Green Capital in 2015 partly because of these and related efforts. The communications campaign was shortlisted for the European Energy Awards 2013.

In 2012 Christina was **Director of Communications, A Mayor for Bristol**, leading Bristol to be the single city out of ten in the UK to vote for a change in city governance at the nationwide elected mayor referendums. The Quayside Media team worked closely with Westminster and created a very carefully targeted, city-wide and digitally led community engagement initiative built on trustworthiness and local credibility.



The 2012 Bristol campaign led into 2013 and Christina becoming **Director of Communications, The Bristol Manifesto**, a campaign to mobilize voters by giving them the chance to co-create, across the city, a manifesto for the new Mayor of Bristol, positively impacting voter turnout. Christina is a Board member of the University of Bristol/University of the West of England Civic Leadership Project.

Earlier, between 2005 and 2010, Christina was **Union and international officer, NO2ID**. Hailed by Conservative Minister Damian Green as “one of the most successful pressure groups in history” during the Commons Third Reading of the Abolition of the ID Cards Act 2006, this core group of around ten people created the country’s biggest single-issue civil liberties campaign. Christina personally worked on recruiting 7.5M people from the trade union movement, and she was adviser to the nationwide 2009 Guardian/Observer Convention on Modern Liberty.

In 2014 she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in recognition of her work with city communities.