

YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



ABOUT REPOWERING

Repowering London is a not-for-profit organisation that specialises in creating local sustainable energy projects. We support communities to develop, own and manage renewable energy projects that generate social, environmental and financial returns for the communities in which they are based. Our work is unique in its delivery of a comprehensive programme of social works alongside renewable

energy power stations on deprived inner-city social housing estates. Repowering has delivered four award winning community energy projects totalling 669kWp installed capacity, including both the first and the largest community-owned solar installations on inner city social housing in the UK.



OUTLINE

The Repowering London youth training programme is a paid scheme covering sustainable energy, social enterprise and community development. The programme is offered to young people (16-19 year olds), who are lacking opportunities and role models and who may feel alienated from greater society, disengaged with education and uncertain of the future. The programme can be carried out in parallel to development of community energy projects in the local area, and includes presentations from industry specialists and knowledge sharing.

The course itself runs for a total of 40 hours giving participants insight and experience into the world of low carbon and green economy through solar panel making, visits to renewable technology sites, discussions with industry figures,

community engagement and surveying, social media and brand building, co-operative business models and marketing. There is a large focus on energy efficiency and environmental awareness which supplements the school syllabus by looking at climate change and ideas around energy saving in the home.

Upon completion, trainees will be awarded AQA certificates and receive careers advice, to boost their employability and confidence.

The training serves as one of the front lines to inspire and influence action at the home and beyond to combat fuel poverty, a major concern in these communities.



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THE PROGRAMME

Sessions will be held at convenient times and locations to be confirmed with the trainees. These are usually one evening per week, some Saturdays and some days during the half-term or holiday breaks. The programme will normally run over 1-2 months.



PHASE 1

ENERGY STUDIES (PART 1)



- The energy system and how it works
- Renewable technologies
- Solar panel making

PHASE 2

BUSINESS STUDIES



- Money systems and local currency
- Community business models
- Financial modelling & solar feasibility

PHASE 3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- Community engagement
- Door knocking
- Survey analysis

PHASE 4

COMMUNICATIONS



- Promotional materials
- Social media
- Advocacy

PHASE 5

ENERGY STUDIES (PART 2)



- Energy Efficiency Training
- Fuel Poverty
- Home Energy Audits

PHASE 6

WORK EXPERIENCE



- Work experience placement in a sector relevant to the trainee
- Can include experience installing solar equipment

PHASE 7

CAREER & FURTHER DEVELOPMENT



- Support into further opportunities
- Interview skills and CV support
- Links with other organisations



RECRUITMENT

We target 16-19 year olds, as well as those just beyond the age bracket who have been long term unemployed. We recruit through existing community group contacts, educational institutions, environmental groups, youth groups, and at other Repowering events. We aim to recruit a diverse group of young people who are willing to learn and lack future direction. All applicants will be assessed through initial forms they will fill in, and interviews carried out a few months prior to the programme, themed around sustainability and community, with a focus on team work, and giving a background into the work Repowering is doing.



ACCREDITATION

The Repowering training has been aligned with content from AQA unit modules, meaning trainees are given the opportunity to have their achievements formally recognised with a certificate issued by AQA upon successful completion.

AQA modules are internationally recognised and taught in more than 30 countries around the world. The training will therefore assist the trainees in gaining employment through assuring employers of their competence in a range of sustainability based subject matters.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Repowering has developed a Social Return on Investment (SROI) framework to assess the impact of our programmes. As part of the framework we have developed pre- and post-surveys that help demonstrate participants self-assessed perceptions of knowledge, experience, confidence and well-being prior to taking the course, as well as after.

Since 2011, Repowering has trained 82 young people from across communities in London. The programme had very positive feedback from participants, with 91% of those surveyed in 2017 saying that the programme met or exceeded their expectations of the programme. Participants also rated their confidence in key outcome areas before and after the training programme. Results showed a significant increase in confidence in all areas, especially 'Knowledge of renewable energy' and 'Finding work in the environmental sector'.

LEGACY

Repowering encourages participants to maintain a level of involvement with the organisation beyond the course. Using the professional networking platform of LinkedIn participants will be able to affiliate themselves to the organisation online. This will involve online communication and invitations to events and encouragement to be involved with mentoring of future trainees.

Over the years, the young people who have come in contact with Repowering's work have had many good things to say about community energy, and have continued to be connected with the organisation.



ABOUT REPOWERING LONDON'S TRAINEES

Asant Agyare, Age 24, Energy Garden Intern

Asant took part in the Energy Garden training bringing urban gardening and community energy together in a 50 hour programme across London. Since completing the training Asant has been accepted onto an Urban Development Planning Masters at Sheffield Uni.

"For me a sustainable future sort of includes us having our urban and natural spaces living in harmony together. At the moment climate change is a pretty huge issue and I think being able to balance our urban setting with the natural environment is really key."



Victoria Omobuwajo, Age 21, Banister House Solar Project Trainee

Victoria is currently secretary of Hackney Energy and is also working part time with Athena Electricals installing solar panels. She also delivers solar panel making workshops for Repowering London

"Environmentally friendly innovations have always interested me because they benefit the whole world. I enjoy being part of this project because I know that the little we are doing to improve our direct energy usage is

improving the atmosphere worldwide. I grew up in and love being from Hackney, the current changes to my local area have been extremely impressive and have opened many neighbours' and my eyes to a world of opportunities out there. As well as doing the training programme I have been joining all the co-operative management meetings because I am so keen to be part of this project!"



Aisha Fortunato, Age 17, Banister House Solar Project Trainee

Aisha has secured an training working for a housing association in their sustainability department.

"I decided to get involved in this project as I saw it as a good opportunity to help the community. I see this as a great opportunity to

make a change and an impact on my estate. I would like to see this project save money for the estate and bring residents together to benefit us all. In the future I would like to be either a youth worker or a journalist. I want to make a change in my community."



Kemal Callender, Age 19, Brixton Energy Solar 3 Project Trainee

Kamal is currently completing an apprenticeship programme with Crossrail and delivers workshops for Repowering London.

"I lived on the estate for 5 years and am studying level 3 electrical

installation at Lambeth College. I am interested in all sort of things, from astronomy to energy. I would like to be a chartered technician. Working with Repowering through this training has been truly empowering experience."



TRAINEE VIDEOS

To see videos of trainees from different Repowering projects and hear them speak about their experiences please follow the links:

North Kensington Community Energy Youth Training Programme:
<https://youtu.be/Nzqg-WZcc6Q>

Energy Garden Internship:
<https://bit.ly/2IL7PVR>

Victoria's interview about Repowering:
<https://bit.ly/2px6Z6g>

Vauxhall Energy project:
<https://bit.ly/2pwYgSF>