



Newsletter

Summer 2015

Summer is upon us and it's been a busy six months at SE² Towers. Not least, of course, there's been a General Election. Announcements are just beginning to creep out such as the disappearance of zero carbon building requirements (tucked away on p46 of July's [Productivity Plan](#)) and more recently the [demise of the Green Deal](#). It'll be interesting to see what the [Bonfield Review](#) holds in store. This, alongside the deep cuts expected in the [Spending Review](#) later this year, could mean yet more "interesting" times for energy efficiency.



What the Government may have in store for our industry will be the topic of conversation at the [SE² Seminar in September](#) - to which you are all cordially invited! 2015 will be the 4th year we've hosted a seminar: they're a relatively informal affair, based on the idea of a 'pub debate'. It's good fun and we usually get a crowd of about 40 like-minded environmentalists who have plenty of views to share - it's also great for networking! You can get a feel for the event by checking out the blog from 2013 at <http://www.se-2.co.uk/blog/se2-seminar-2013-community-collaboration-and-cash>.

This year the seminar will be on Wednesday 9th September from 6-8pm (followed by networking), hosted at [The Castle](#) (very near Farringdon Station). If you'd like to join us, just drop Kathryn a line at kathryn.todd@se-2.co.uk - it will be lovely to have you along!

At SE², we are passionate about helping communities and organisations find real solutions for a sustainable future. We believe people are the key to change; it's why we focus on organisational change and stakeholder dialogue, communicating the impacts of climate change and influencing what's done about it.

So what else have we been up to...?

A breath of fresh air

Community energy has been an important theme of our work over the past year. Many community energy groups face the same barriers as they develop their projects: how to incorporate, building a financial model, understanding their legal responsibilities, engaging potential customers. Working with [DECC](#) and [Community Energy England](#), we scoped an information hub which will help community energy groups address these issues, based on the experiences of others. We are now developing this hub in partnership with [Project Dirt](#) and [EST](#). We're also looking in more detail at the legal aspects of community energy projects, helping [Pure Leapfrog](#) develop resources and support for the sector.

If you're involved with climate change in the North West of England, you'll have encountered [CLASP](#). It's a great network of public sector organisations, businesses and the third sector, discussing and sharing experiences of mitigating and adapting to a changing climate. CLASP has recently become part of the [Climate UK](#) family and its funding has changed. We were commissioned to review CLASP to date and to help shape the future direction of the network, based on the information and support needs of its members.

Creative spark

We're delighted that our work with [Reading University](#) has continued. In February, we worked with six major buildings on campus to engage students, faculty and staff with energy consumption and opportunities for savings. Infographics, questionnaires, a lot of post-its and even more chocolate helped us to have conversations with hundreds of people over the course of the University's Green Week, giving us insights into how buildings are used which we are now using to shape a programme of energy saving initiatives.



We have always worked closely with policymakers to help shape energy efficiency frameworks and schemes. And we have always tried to keep our feet firmly planted on local ground, to see how those policies translate into local action. In the past year, we worked hand in hand with [Osborne Energy](#) to deliver a **Green Deal Communities project in Lewisham, Bromley and Bexley**. Our role was marketing: identifying target audiences, crafting key messages and coordinating marketing activity to encourage uptake of solid wall insulation and other measures in the three Boroughs. We won't say it was easy, but the project has gained some real momentum and taught us a lot! A key lesson for future policy: building markets and creating customer pull take time, so let's have policy for the long-term!

Bringing people together



We have been involved with **district heating** since we set up SE² and it's been great to engage with the sector again over the past year. We have been working with district energy guru [Michael King](#) and the University of Edinburgh to run a series of events for the [Vanguards District Heating Network](#). The events combine site visits, networking, a packed conference agenda and a lively social scene: more importantly, they help local authorities and other public sector organisations learn from each other and from industry experts to implement best practice district heating schemes. After trips to Exeter and Leicester, we're now planning where to go next!

This summer has also seen us run a **heat pump training roadshow** for DECC alongside our great team of trainers: [David Matthews](#), [Robin Curtis](#), [Emma Burlow](#) and [Arnout Andrews](#). We ran 15 events in 8 locations over 4 weeks, processing over 700 bookings and offering places to more than 500 trainees. We've also been working closely with DECC's appointed IT team at [Leicestershire Health Informatics Service](#) to transform the face-to-face training into online e-learning modules. The results are now ready for the world to see at <http://heatpumpstraining.org/> - do let us know what you think and help us to spread the word!



As well as organising events, we've been facilitating them too. In May, we ran a workshop for the [GLA](#) and the [London HECA Forum](#) to look at fuel poverty delivery across the capital: how is it being resourced? What challenges and barriers exist? And how could support be best channeled and coordinated at a pan-London level? It's all good preparation to help influence the new London Mayor - whoever that may be.

Trusted delivery



The Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE) is one of our longest standing clients and we're thrilled that our relationship with them continues to flourish. As well as the [Heat Conference](#) (taking place this year in London on 25th November), we also worked with them earlier this year to event manage their Winter Parliamentary Reception and the launch of their [Invisible Energy](#) report. The event was extremely well attended and addressed by the then Secretary of State Ed Davey MP.

We have several other ongoing projects which help keep us in touch both with policy and activities on the ground. We're thrilled that our contract to be the secretariat for the [London HECA Forum](#) has just been renewed for a further three years. Alongside our role as the secretariat of the [London Boroughs Energy Group](#) (LBEG), this puts us at the heart of local authority thinking on energy efficiency and management across the region. Since 2011, we've also held a contract for the copywriting of reports that emerge from the work of the [Concerted Action for the Energy Efficiency Directive](#) (CA EED), giving us insights into the development and delivery of energy efficiency policy at an international level.

This year, we have also been more closely engaged with the [Centre for Refurbishment Excellence](#) (CoRE). Liz has been a Fellow of CoRE and a member of their training team for a while, and has recently been working with SMEs in Kent to build their capacity to win retrofit tenders. We've joined CoRE as corporate members now too, giving us access to insight and expertise from some of the UK's finest retrofit minds. In April, both Liz and Rachael spoke at CoRE's Retrofit Live conference, Rachael on demand management and Liz on community energy.



So all it leaves us to do is to wish you all a relaxing summer and invite you to stay in touch. We hope you'll be able to come to our seminar in September. If you're not able to make it, we're always very happy to meet people for a cuppa and a slice of cake so do drop us a line!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

More information about our work is available at www.se-2.co.uk
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