



Christmas Newsletter

2017

2017 has been quite a year for SE². We turned 13 but have so far avoided too many temper tantrums and slammed doors... Read on to find out what we have been up to!

The SE² Seminar

We hosted our 6th annual seminar/social on Hallowe'en: cue a myriad of opportunities to face our gremlins and exorcise some old ghosts. We were joined by 20 or so colleagues from across the sustainability industry, each challenged to bring with them the policies that they were either glad to see the back of or would like to resurrect from the dead. The debate was lively and far-reaching, covering everything from fiscal incentives to driverless cars. Rather unsurprisingly, the Green Deal featured heavily: the biggest cheer of the evening though was for the reanimation of the Code for Sustainable Homes. Mrs May should take heed...

(Thanks too to [Conor Boyle](#) for our spooky illustrations!)



Rachael's Sabbatical

If you have regular contact with SE² then you may have noticed Rachael was rather quiet this year. She took an opportunity to spread her wings and joined Southern Housing as their Head of Sustainability on a 12-month contract (though is now very happily back in the SE² fold!). It was an enriching experience, getting operationally involved in so many of the areas she's been working with stakeholders on over the last ten years. Some of the most rewarding work was launching the Sustainable Workplace Strategy, committing the Group to corporate carbon reduction targets for the first time (check out Rachael's blog about it [here](#)), and rewriting their Environmental Strategy (due for publication early 2018). She also managed the fabulous [Home Energy Advice Team](#) (harking back to her EEAC days), was involved in the procurement of the development and asset management frameworks, developed a renewables asset database, and tried to get to grips with communal heating - something she will continue to support Southern Housing with into 2018.

Meanwhile Liz ran SE²!

Supporting new strategies for London

Despite moving to Somerset, Liz was very much in demand in London! She contributed stakeholder engagement and research expertise to the Mayor of London's thinking on fuel poverty and on smart energy, working with some great partners including the GLA, ACE, CAG Consultants, the Centre for Sustainable Energy and Energy for London. The commitments coming from the Mayor of London around energy and fuel poverty are very exciting, and Liz will be helping to coordinate a new Energy for Londoners Smart Collaboration in the New Year (email liz.warren@se-2.co.uk if you want to know more!).

Going "under the hood" of local fuel poverty referral schemes

This year also saw the publication of *Health of the Nation*, a research study which looked in detail at local fuel poverty referral schemes. The project was funded by Eaga Charitable Trust and carried out in partnership with Lewisham Council. We explored how fuel poverty schemes are set up, managed, resourced and funded. We gained some great insights into the importance of continuity in building trusted referral relationships, the impact of stop-start national policies on the local delivery landscape, and how schemes measure and monitor what they do. You can find the research report, and supporting guidance for practitioners and policymakers at <https://www.eagacharitabletrust.org/health-nation-analysis-cost-effectiveness-success-factors-health-related-fuel-poverty-schemes/>

Tackling the retrofit challenge

The retrofit market has operated in fits and starts over recent years, often responding to grants and incentives rather than seeking out self-sustaining business models. Energiesprong, a Dutch start-up, promised to deliver something different. Liz provided them with stakeholder engagement and facilitation support as they developed relationships with housing providers, industry groups and policymakers, exploring ways in which their model of rapid, low- to zero-carbon retrofit could be brought to the UK market. Liz also facilitated an international session in Paris (pictured) and enjoyed the chance to get all touristy. Energiesprong have recently completed their first ten retrofits in Nottingham, and are destined for greater things in 2018.



Supporting the development of heat networks



Heat networks have been one of Liz's geeky obsessions since she first started working on the Community Energy grant programme back in 2002. This year, she's been working closely with the Heat Network Delivery Unit at BEIS, running a series of capacity building workshops for local authorities developing networks, and helping to bring together UK and international supply chains, investors and technology providers to encourage investment in the UK market. She's also coordinating the forthcoming [Vanguards District Energy Network event](https://vanguards-developing-your-business-case.eventbrite.com) on developing the business case for heat networks; the event is designed for public sector organisations and will be held in Leeds on 31 January 2018 (see more at <https://vanguards-developing-your-business-case.eventbrite.com>).

Transforming the heat system

Continuing the theme of heat, Liz has been working with the Energy Systems Catapult on stakeholder engagement and communications to support their Smart Systems and Heat programme. The programme is exploring the types of consumer offers, business models, data services, applications and technologies that can support the decarbonisation of the UK heat system. It's been great to have the chance to look ahead and to think about new approaches which may seem bold now, but which could become the everyday in future. You can read more at <https://es.catapult.org.uk/projects/smart-systems-and-heat-ssh/>

Helping the ADE celebrate 50 years

As you know, we've been working with the Association for Decentralised Energy for 10 years now, and we were thrilled to be part of the team delivering their 50th anniversary celebrations, starting with a Parliamentary Reception in January and running through to the [Heat and Decentralised Energy Conference](#) in November. The highlight though was undoubtedly the 50th Anniversary Awards and Gala Dinner, hosted this year at the Science Museum - a true celebration!

"Congratulations on an incredible event held yesterday. That was the best conference I have been to; with a beautiful venue, perfectly executed programme and interesting speakers."

A happy Heat and Decentralised Energy 17 delegate

Farewell to Kathryn



In August we said goodbye to Kathryn after nine years. Kathryn joined us as Office Manager to coordinate all our administrative activities, and to provide support to a range of projects. It turns out she did so much more. With a team of consultants who were often on the road, Kathryn provided a home for us all. She's been unfailingly cheerful and always willing to work the extra hour to get the job done. The sound of her (slightly wicked) laugh echoed around SE² Towers and kept us smiling when things got tough. Little did we expect that she would also be SE²'s cake-maker-in-chief. If you've attended an SE2 seminar in the past couple of years, or if you came to our 10th birthday party, you'll have indulged in her epic cupcakes. She's such a cake whizz that she's started her own business - [Crumbs by Kathryn](#) - from her home in Grantham, as well as becoming the in-house baker at [The Picture Café](#) - do pop in if you're ever passing!

We'd like to wish all our friends and clients a very merry Christmas and a happy (but not too busy) New Year. We look forward to seeing all you soon!

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