



Winter Newsletter

2017

As we begin a new year, we've taken a moment to have a look back on what we achieved last year. Despite a worrying referendum result and an uncertain future for green business, SE² had a particularly busy year. 2016 saw us continue our work engaging people, training, researching sustainability issues and managing events and we remain committed to tackling fuel poverty and promoting energy efficiency in homes.

We also held our annual seminar in September (pictured right) - a great evening looking back over 20 years in the energy efficiency industry. We were joined by lots of like-minded friends and discussed our predictions for the future. Thank you to all who were able to join us!



"Perhaps the harder, but more important thing to do is to look forward, to have the vision to see what a sustainable future looks like and to have the passion and commitment to do something to make it a reality". Liz Warren, SE²

Here's a look at what we've been up to

Researching the cost effectiveness of fuel poverty schemes

SE² and the London Borough of Lewisham are carrying out a research project - funded by Eaga Charitable Trust - looking at the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of fuel poverty referral schemes. There is significant evidence about the link between fuel poverty and health. However, there has been little research into the most effective ways to develop and deliver fuel poverty referral schemes.

"The Health of the Nation" research project is exploring many aspects of fuel poverty schemes - from their objectives, to how they target support, to the services they provide, to their use of referral networks, to their costs - to try and tease out factors which make schemes more likely to operate successfully and to deliver value for money.

Stakeholder engagement at the University of Cambridge

During 2016, we worked with the University of Cambridge to engage stakeholders in a review of the University's Carbon Management Plan. Creating and implementing an effective carbon management plan takes action and commitment from across an organisation. The University recognised this and brought us in, alongside technical leads AECOM, to help make sure that its revised carbon management plan reflects the needs and priorities of academics, researchers, students and staff across the institution.

From an initial stakeholder mapping and prioritisation workshop, through a series of facilitated workshops, structured interviews and an online survey, we have gathered detailed views from over 140 stakeholders with roles to play in carbon reduction. We have been able to bring together disparate groups of stakeholders and identify shared interests and opportunities to work together; we have also tested a number of ideas for interventions - such as financial incentives and training provision - to understand which are more likely to be supported and delivered across the University.

Evaluating the effectiveness of construction industry training

SE² has carried out an evaluation of a series of training activities, guidance and resources produced by the Zero Carbon Hub. The resources explore issues related to energy performance, ventilation and overheating, particularly in new homes, and have been designed with a range of trades and professions in mind.

We have gathered quantitative data about the numbers of guidance documents downloaded and the attendance rate at training events. More importantly, we have also been exploring the qualitative impact of the resources: what difference have they actually made to practice in design and on site? Through a series of telephone interviews and surveys, we have started to pick out some real changes that have been brought about in business practice by the training and guidance available from the Hub. Too often it feels as though guidance documents spend their lives gathering dust; in this case, we have found clear evidence that the homebuilding supply chain has started to take real steps to address these important issues as a result of the training and guidance they have received.

HEAT 2016 and the ADE Awards dinner

We have been the event managers for the [Heat Conference](#) since it started in 2012, working with both the [Association for Decentralised Energy](#) and the [Energy Institute](#). We provide a complete events service, managing the venues, speakers, delegates and sponsors. We were thrilled to work on this prestigious event again last year. The conference, [Heat: from global agreement to local action](#), examined what a local, devolved future means for the heat sector.



The conference was followed by the annual ADE Awards Dinner. It was a spectacular evening at the very beautiful Natural History Museum. It'll be hard to top it, although I'm sure next year's event will be particularly special - as it forms a central part of the celebrations of the Association's 50th anniversary!!

Shaping the future of retrofit

We have a long history working on policy, programmes and projects to improve the energy performance of existing homes. We are now working with the [Energiesprong UK](#) team and NEF, as part of an Interreg funded project called E=0, to bring together housing providers and the supply chain to understand and co-create the market, institutional and policy conditions which will enable a bold new market for retrofit. Energiesprong's experiences in the Netherlands are inspirational; here's hoping we can bring the best of their expertise to benefit households across the UK.

Supporting residents at risk from the cold



We've been supporting the Healthier Homes scheme in Kensington and Chelsea since 2008, by raising awareness of the support available to local residents and building capacity within the public, health and voluntary sectors to identify people who may be struggling to keep warm at home. In recent years this has expanded into the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, again to build capacity in the voluntary and health sectors and to help coordinate local responses. Last year we ran another training programme for public sector frontline workers, charity staff, volunteers and anyone who works with local residents.

The training weaves together the related issue of cold homes, accident prevention and nutrition, identifying health and wellbeing impacts and building local capacity to recognise residents who may be facing issues. Our work encourages referrals to the Healthier Homes helpline. If you know someone in either of these Boroughs who may be struggling in a cold or unsafe home, please do get in touch on [0808 202 6204](tel:08082026204).

The [London Fuel Poverty Hub](#), a site we developed ourselves, has a borough-by-borough guide to which services are available throughout London. The site contains news, opinions and links to research papers that will help you understand the causes and effects of fuel poverty in the city and the impacts that it has on the lives of Londoners. If you work for a Borough and want to update the information we hold for you, please email Kathryn.

Rachael, Kathryn and Liz would like to wish all our friends and clients all the best for a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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