

YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



ABOUT ENERGY GARDEN

Energy Garden is a not-for-profit organisation that supports London's communities to develop, own and manage renewable energy projects and community gardens. Over the last four years, the Energy Garden team has supported 127 communities to transform 34 London Overground station platforms into thriving gardens and food-growing plots. Solar panels provide on-site renewable energy for lighting, water pumps and other small-scale station amenities.

Energy Garden will maintain renewable energy solar arrays across public and

private land, including rail, schools and local businesses. Excess energy not used on site will be sold to help Energy Garden fund its operations and social outcomes.

Our work generates social, environmental and financial returns for the communities in which they are based. Energy Garden is unique in its delivery of a comprehensive programme of social works alongside renewable energy and garden installations on transport infrastructure.



OUTLINE

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

The course 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.

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

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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

SOLAR INSTALLATION



- Health & Safety training
- Installation
- Launch event

PHASE 7

CAREER & FURTHER DEVELOPMENT



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



RECRUITMENT

The training programme is aimed at 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 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

Energy Garden uses 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, Energy Garden has trained 25 young people from across 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

Energy Garden 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 Energy Garden'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 INTERNS

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 Intern

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 Intern

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 intern

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."



INTERN VIDEOS

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

Banister House Solar:
<https://bit.ly/2DLsNjV>

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

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

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