



You're a Champ

Lessons from PH Energy Champions' Programme



You're A Champ – Key Objectives

To encourage local people to volunteer in a project that addresses fuel poverty in a sustainable way.

To enable local people to connect and work with each other to solve a common problem.

To train staff/volunteers to carry out home visits, follow up advice combining installation of physical measures, energy & income discussion & wider referrals and signposting.

Energy Champions/Volunteers

To develop an innovative and sustainable approach to local engagement around energy by exploring alternative funding options e.g. Solar PV Community Benefit Society (90% of profits channelled back into community)

To offer support and advice to low-income families in Poplar and share practical tips on ways to save energy at home and reduce energy bills.

Projects run by Energy Champions

Energy-Saving Tips for the Homes

15 Advanced ESOL students trained as energy champions

Outcomes:

- 273 families provided with energy saving packs delivered at their doors.
- Families who adopted the energy plans saved between £75 and £120 p/a on average.
- 88% of residents tried the energy saving tips and 83% said they would continue to do so.
- 48 families have had smart electricity and gas loops installed enabling families to be more aware of their actual energy usage and are more conscious of adopting energy-saving practices.



Projects run by Energy Champions

Energy Best Deal – with UK Advice Bureau

Outcomes:

- Enabled 3 Energy Champions from among the 15 to receive training in facilitating energy saving workshops.
- The interactive workshops reached more local people (1 session a week x 20 participants/week x 8 weeks)
- Participants learned about available government support and how to maximise them.



Projects run by Energy Champions

Fuelling Connections – with Hubbub

A Facebook Page maintained by designated Energy Champions who uploaded energy saving/well-being tips and encouraged FB users to comment, ask questions and share their own tips.

Outcomes:

- active and useful online exchanges facilitated among local people around saving energy as well as reducing waste and recycling
- Connections and links among local people who have found a support network in times of need
- energy Champions gained confidence in communicating with peers and the community at large.



Projects run by Energy Champions

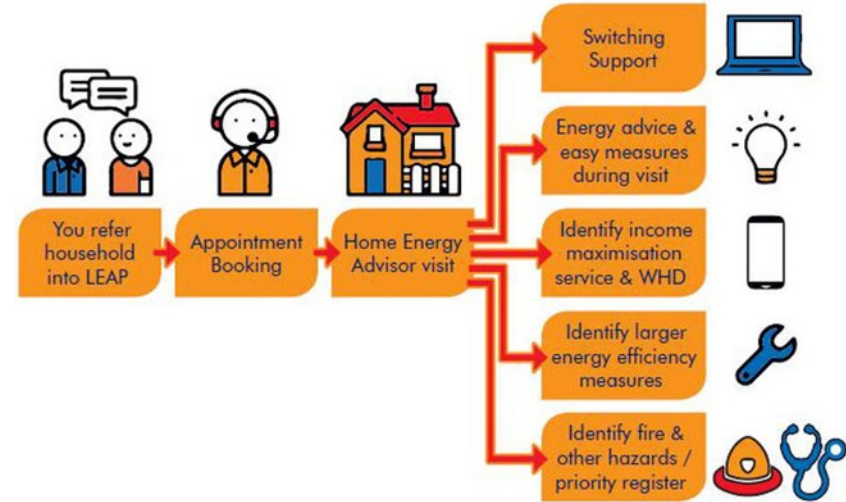
LEAP (Local Energy Advice Project)

With Agility Eco

LEAP is an innovative intervention which integrates energy efficiency into a broader financial and well-being programme.

Outcomes:

- 120 families referred to LEAP by our Energy Champions and benefited from the range of services offered
- Support from the Green Doctor and IncomeMax added £6k to one resident's annual income



Projects run by Energy Champions

Managing a Community Benefit Society

A former PH Board member became one of 3 Trustees that formed Geo-Capita, a CBS formed to purchase and install solar panels in 20 PH residential properties. He is joined by 2 PH staff.

The panels generate renewable energy & Income generated is channelled into the CBS to benefit the community.

Outcomes:

6,500 solar panels have been installed across our estates. The panels have delivered over £36,000 in energy savings for our residents, and are expected to generate £2m value of clean energy over 20 years.



You're a Champ – Lessons Learned

- Involvement and Champions' Training Enhances language skills of Advanced ESOL Learners
- Residents respond more to Champions who are from the same community as theirs
- Champions get to know their neighbours more and Q & A around energy saving tips and support are good starting points for friendly chats
- Door to door exchanges are more effective than just written materials dropped through letterboxes
- Home visits especially to older people's properties are very welcomed especially by those living on their own



You're a Champ – Lessons Learned

- Creating opportunities for people to become energy champions at different levels attract a wide range of people who are willing to share their spare time
- Being able to share tips online enables champions to reach more people in a short period of time.
- Knowing that Energy Champions are volunteers and genuinely want to help make people welcome them and listen to their suggestions.
- Volunteers get lots of benefits from being energy champions including: increased knowledge on how to save energy and reduce their own bills, being accredited, improving their CV, gained respect and acceptance in the community and feeling a sense of fulfilment having supported others, etc.

A vertical poster for 'Become an Energy Champion'. At the top, the title 'Become an Energy Champion' is in large blue font. Below it, a subtitle 'and tackle fuel poverty in your community' is in white text on an orange background. To the right is a cartoon character with a flame-shaped head, wearing a blue suit with a lightning bolt on the chest and a blue cape. Below the character, text explains that Energy Champions learn to reduce energy costs and keep warm at home, and that the course is 6 weeks (around 5 hours per week) and takes place online. A blue box contains the heading 'As an Energy Champion you will:' followed by six bullet points: 'Gain an accredited qualification', 'Learn how to save money on energy bills', 'Receive training to help you support others', 'Develop valuable career skills', 'Meet like-minded people and build your confidence', and 'Free to join' (which is in a dark blue box). At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'To find out more and register your interest, contact: empower@bbbc.org.uk or call 07432 600 614.' and 'Supported by the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme.' Logos for 'empower', 'East End', 'HARCA', 'Bromley by the Sea', and 'East London ageUK' are at the bottom.

Become an Energy Champion

and tackle fuel poverty in your community

Energy Champions learn how to reduce energy costs and keep warm at home, so they can help others to do the same.

This unique course is 6 weeks (around 5 hours per week) and takes place online.

As an Energy Champion you will:

- Gain an accredited qualification
- Learn how to save money on energy bills
- Receive training to help you support others
- Develop valuable career skills
- Meet like-minded people and build your confidence

Free to join

To find out more and register your interest, contact:
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empower East End HARCA Bromley by the Sea East London ageUK