

FINANCIAL INNOVATION

RETROFIT LOAN FUNDS

We have two big ideas:

- Establishing Retrofit Works, a co-op of local contractors. This makes retrofit cheaper and better.
- To make energy efficiency pay we must pilot a model for investment. The model we have is for an Energy Equity release scheme for home refurbishment. How will we gain the right level of trust?

COMMUNITY ENERGY GENERATION

Key innovation: ESC has set up a campaign using the 1066 brand to install 1066 solar roofs but the campaign is broader than that.

We also set up a new community share co-op to raise £1.066 million. Maybe **£2.066 million**.

Our biggest challenge is to work in partnership with two municipalities so that both our community investors and our councils will benefit with reasonable returns on capital (4%). The business case must work but the community must trust this partnership and want to be shareholders. Governance is key.

ENERGY INNOVATION

Energy Local is a genuine game changer for the energy market. As we transition to a more flexible distributed generation system with a smart grid, smart meters and demand side management the opportunity to match local generation with local demand to benefit everyone is finally here.

It is a chicken and egg situation though and dependent on technology and support from the regulator and the grid network operators.

T2 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We made a real breakthrough this year with our Energy Café events. We learnt again (as we really knew this already) that to organize an energy-saving event will not attract many people.

If we organise a community event instead with singing, a SWAP SHOP, free café and community chef demonstrating how to make delicious meals from old bread, then it really works. The problem is we then get too many people.

