

CiviBRM, 09 June 2026

# Raising funds through community shares

A case study in collaborative development

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Jon Halle



# Agenda

- 1** What is community energy
- 2** Who are we
- 3** The community energy sector
- 4** CiviShares and CoShares
- 5** How it all started
- 6** Co-operation in practice



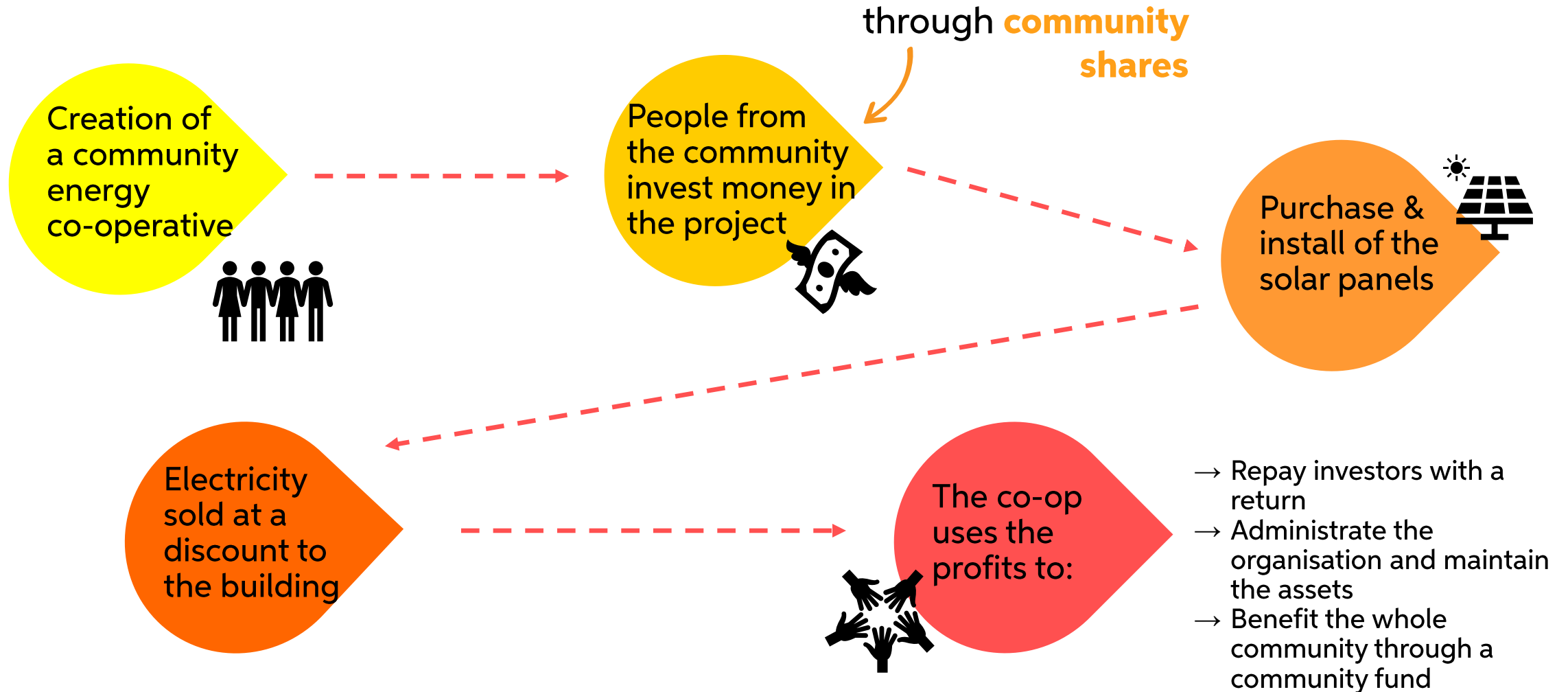
# What is community energy?

A group of people coming together to generate, own, manage, or reduce consumption of energy.

- Installing solar panels on a school
- Improving the energy efficiency of a community centre
- Installing LED lighting in a sports centre



# What is community energy?



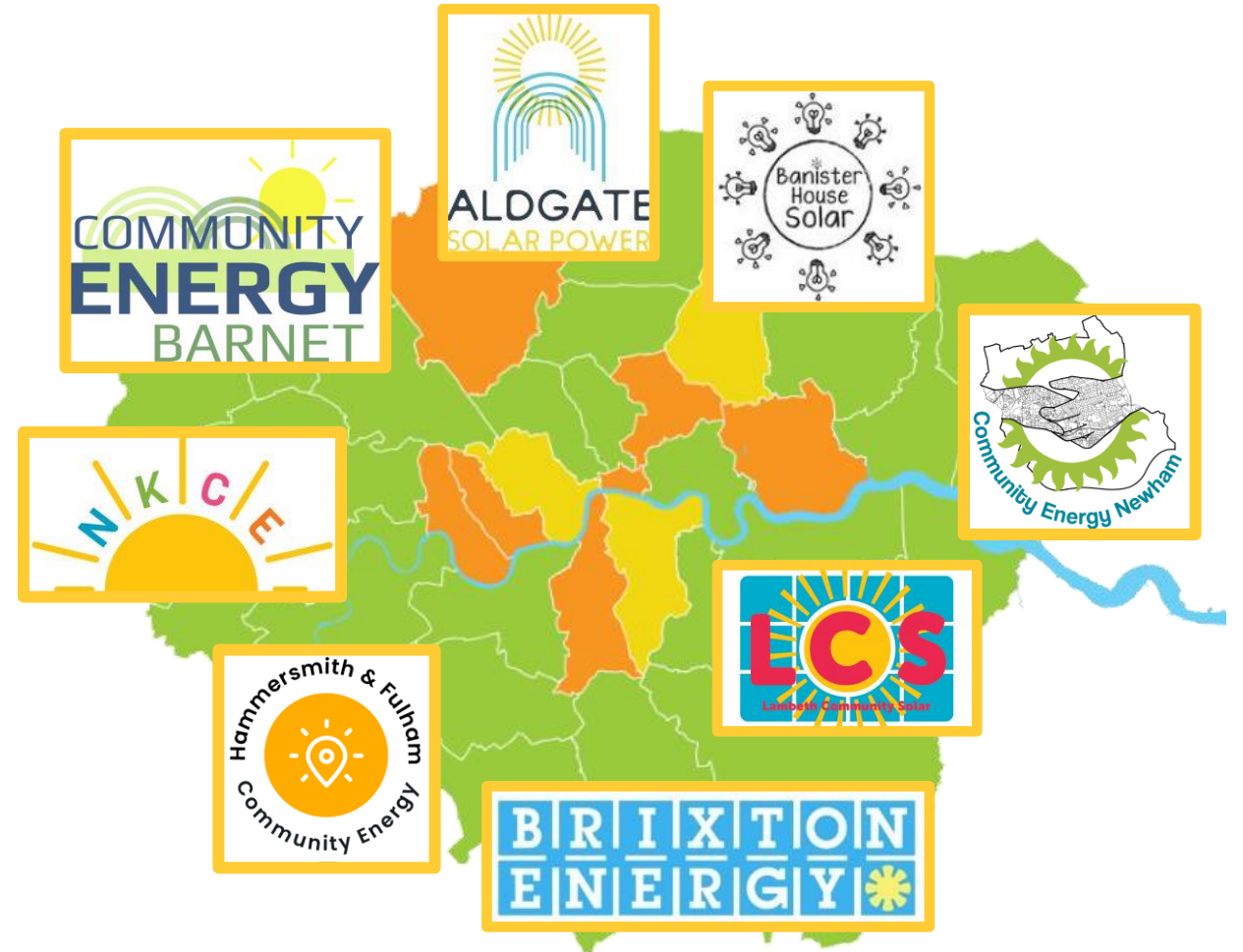
# Who are we



Repowering London is a not-for-profit community energy development organisation that puts **people at the heart of the energy system**.

We empower communities to plan, fund and build their low-carbon future.

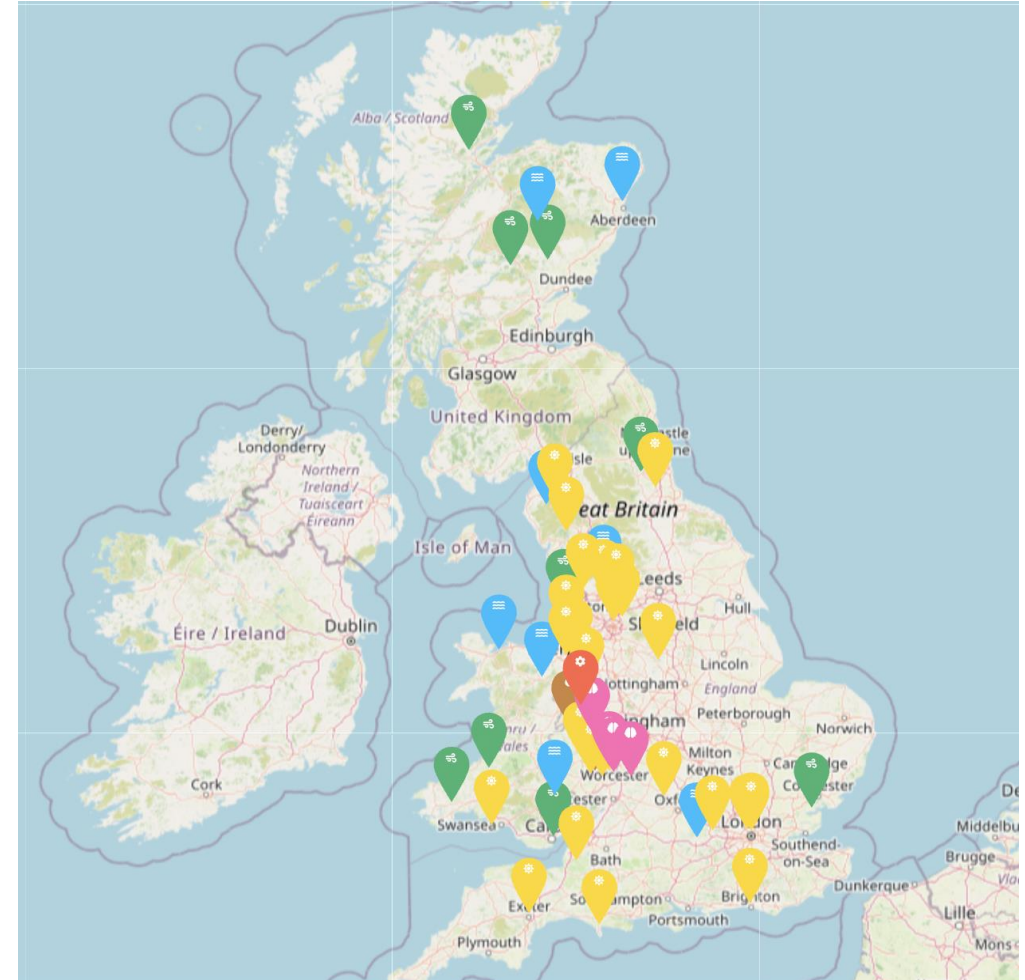
**We want to support all Londoners to participate in and benefit from the transition to a low-carbon society, with guaranteed access to affordable and secure energy, and opportunities for high quality jobs.**



# Who are we

Shareenergy helps communities to set up and own renewable energy societies across the UK, and across the technologies

- Not for profit co-operative established in 2011
- Incubated many successful groups including Big Solar Co-op
- Co-operative and collaborative ethos
- Providing consultancy & operational support



# The community energy sector

## Currently

- High admin costs and technical barriers to scaling operations
- IT systems: unaffordable & unsuitable for co-op structures and workflows
- Slowing down the ability of community energy groups to respond to climate and energy crises



## What we want to achieve

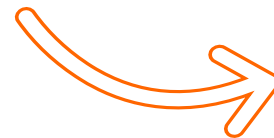
- Open-source suite of digital tools that streamlines core co-op operations
- Improved efficiency for daily operations with reduced administrative burden
- Enhanced user experience, accessibility and reliability
- GDPR compliant

# CiviShares and CoShares

How do co-ops manage  
community shares?



How can people invest and  
become a member?



# How does it work?

## CiviShares

Issues

Issue	Society
ASP	Aldgate Solar Power
ASP One Pound Members	Aldgate Solar Power
BES 1	Brixton Energy Solar
BES 2	Brixton Energy Solar
BES 3	Brixton Energy Solar
BES One Pound Members	Brixton Energy Solar
BHS	Banister House Solar
Community Energy Newham Community Members	Community Energy Newham

CiviShares: community shares register  
'backend'

CoShares: co-op member platform  
'frontend'

**CoShares**  
powered by

### Community Energy Newham Phase 1

By Community Energy Newham

Community Energy Newham's first share offer is now open! Invest in the solar installations of three Newham libraries: East Ham, Beckton Globe and Stratford. Help us reach our target of £120,000. Share offer open from 24th February 2025 to 25th April 2025.

Before completing this form, you must:

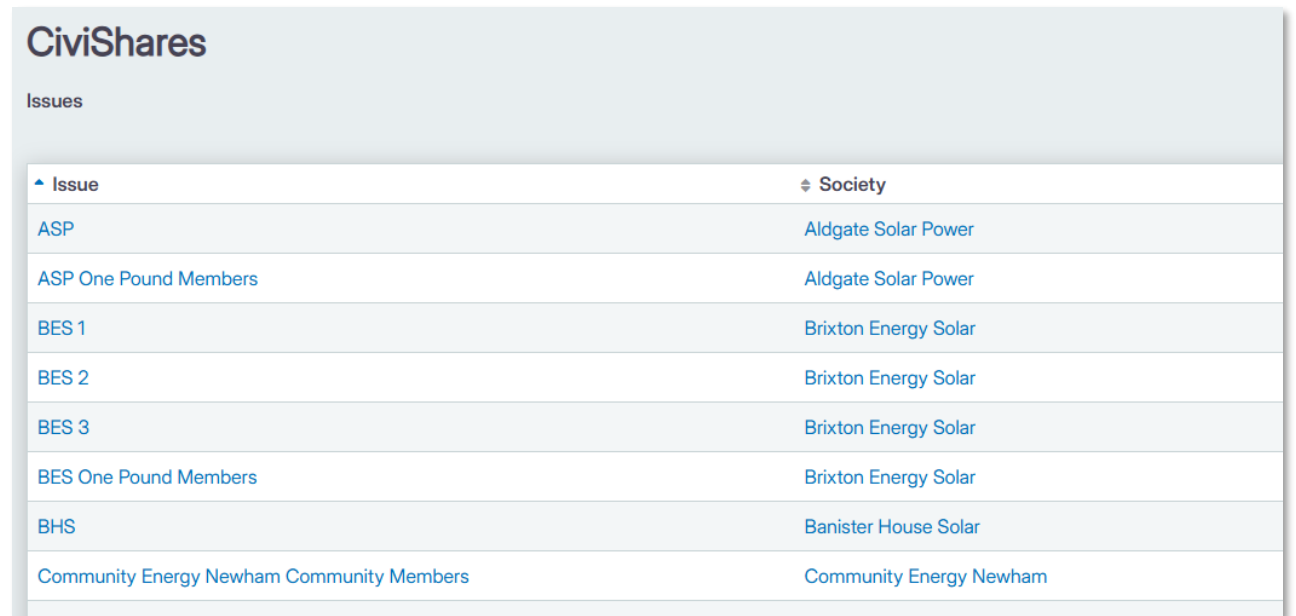
- Read the accompanying Share Offer Document and Business Plan
- Pay special attention to the *Risk factors* section
- Consider whether you need to take financial or other advice in relation to the *Terms and Conditions for applying for shares*
- Read the rules of Community Energy Newham available at [www.repowering.org.uk/invest-cen](http://www.repowering.org.uk/invest-cen)

**Read Share issue**

**Invest in this share offer**

# CiviShares: community shares register

- ▶ A CiviCRM extension
- ▶ Create and manage share offers
- ▶ Share registry management: members' details, financial history, bank details, share certificates, and more
- ▶ Accounting close and automatic calculation of interest and capital repayments
- ▶ Other CiviCRM features (marketing campaigns, reporting, pledging, etc.)



The screenshot shows a table titled 'CiviShares' with a sub-header 'Issues'. The table has two columns: 'Issue' and 'Society'. The data rows are as follows:

Issue	Society
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# CoShares: co-op member platform

- ▶ Developed in collaboration with Sharenergy and Pixel Lab, written in Vue.js
- ▶ Integrated with our share registry - CiviShares
- ▶ People are able to invest in our live share offers and apply as a co-op member
- ▶ Members can view current shares, past transactions (incl. investments made), update personal details and more

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[Read Share issue](#)

Invest in this share offer

CoShares powered by

- Home
- Buy Shares
- Transactions
- My profile

**Benefits for me**

£300.00 Current balance	£0.00 Pending
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**My Shares**

Community Energy Newham

Transaction History Filters ▼

All my approved transactions

7/3/25	+ £300	Community Energy Newham Phase 1
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[coshares.repowering.org.uk](http://coshares.repowering.org.uk)

# How it all started

## Brief history of CoShares

**2015** Sharenergy created v1 of CiviShares

**2018** André Pinho, Brixton Energy Solar volunteer, developed CoEnergy

**2019** Sharenergy started work towards open sourcing CiviShares to the wider sector

Community Energy

Project A - Rooftop Solar Schools

With your help we will install solar panels bringing huge benefits to the environment and local people.

This project will deliver

- 200 kW Solar
- £15,000 Savings for schools
- £30,000 Community Funds
- 10 Young people internships
- 26 tCO2e avoided

Apply for Shares

What you get when you invest

- 4% Average return on your investment
- 126tCO2e Do your bit for climate change
- Local Influencer Vote on where community funds are spent

Target £150,000 20 days left

Apply for Shares

DESCRIPTION IMPACT TEAM DOCUMENTS RISKS INVESTORS VIDEOS GET INVOLVED FAQ Partners

Project A - Rooftop Solar Schools is our newest project, it aims to install 200kW of solar panels in 7 buildings:

- 1 - St Martin's School - Sports Hall - 15kW
- 2 - St Martin's School - Main Building - 50kW
- 3 - John Smith School - Main Building - 20kW
- 4 - Francis Michael School - Pavillion - 20kW
- 5 - May's School - Main Building - 15kW
- 6 - Bovis Primary School - Main Building - 40kW
- 7 - Bovis Primary School - Secondary Building - 20kW

Product: Community Shares  
Technology: Solar  
Installed Capacity: 200kW  
Project Length: 20 years

Community Energy Track Record

- 100% Payout Performance
- 287.6 tCO2e avoided Annually
- £50,000 Community Funds

See our 7 reviews on Trustpilot

Powered by coenergy



Jon Halle <jon@sharenergy.coop>

to Graham

Graham

If we wanted to open source our work as CiviShares I reckon it would be brilliant for lots of coops... and us, potentially. What do you reckon, who would we work with, who might fund it? We could do in some code and effort of course. I think our core approach based on Civi is by far the best out there and I think we would be willing to take the pain of generalising code as part of a wider cooperative effort....

Tue, 8 Oct 2019, 11:35



# How it all started

## Brief history of CoShares

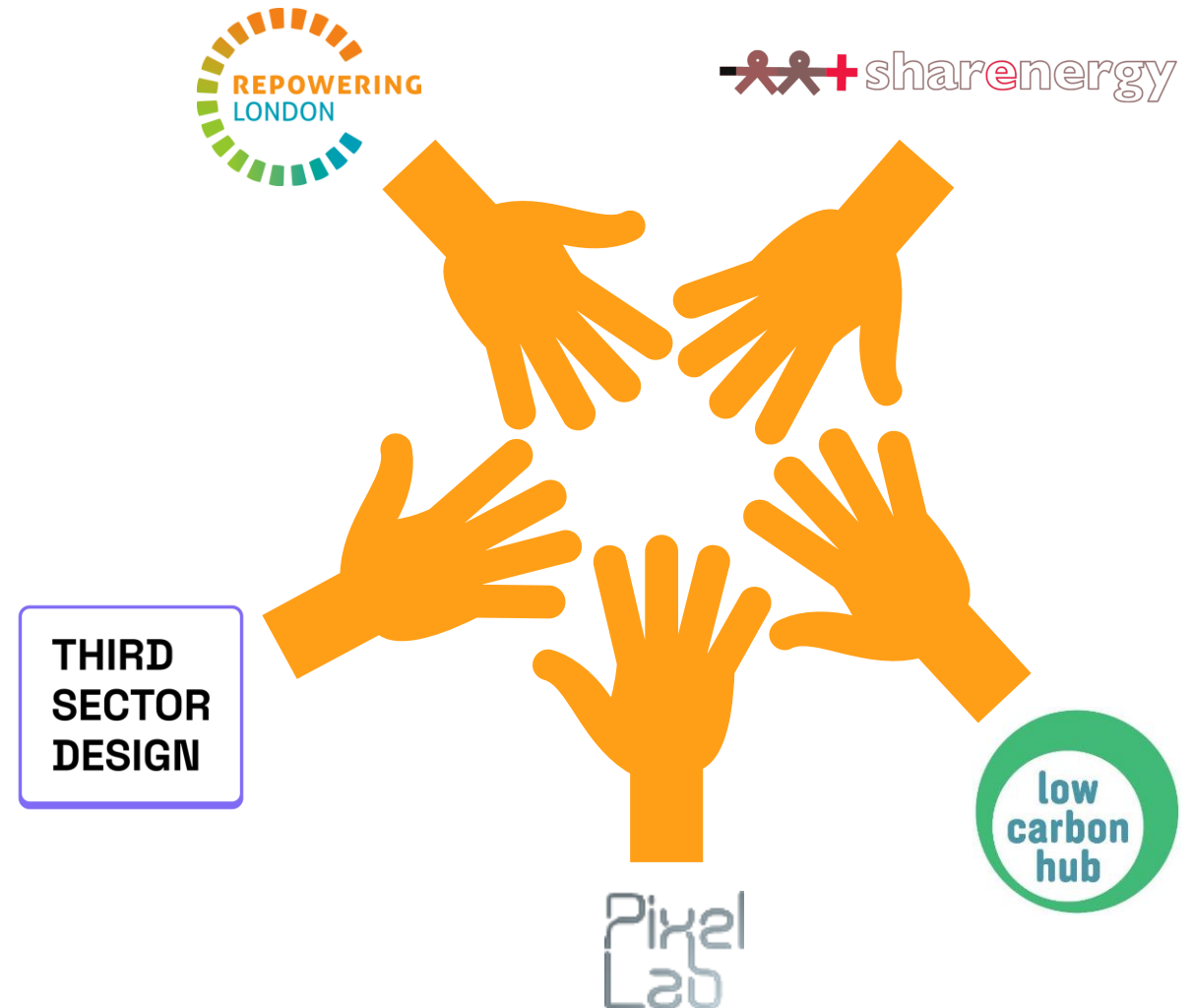
- 2023** | Third Sector Design and Sharenergy met and started discovery
- 2024** | Working consortium formed: CoShares prototype, CiviShares v2 released, Repowering onboarded to CiviShares
- 2025** | CiviShares 2.0 and 2.1 release, Low Carbon Hub and Sharenergy onboarded to CiviShares, CoShares launched with Repowering and two successful share offers held

# Co-operation in practice




Consortium formed for long term collaboration – using internal resourcing for the benefit of the wider sector

Unlocking Energy Redress funding (project started Jan 2026) – contributing directly to improving CiviCRM

Providing a beacon for open source thinking - even in our sector this is rare!



# To remember

-  CiviShares is open-source and free to download. Groups will likely need some help and training.
-  Open source ≠ Free to create and manage. Long term commitment to develop the extension and maintenance costs resources.
-  Be creative in finding ways to fund development costs

**We'd like to partner with other co-op support organisations!**

Talk to us at Repowering London, Shareenergy or Third Sector Design to get involved.

# Thank you!

## Get in touch:

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Jon Halle

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