



ENERGY PLUS ACADEMY

Addressing climate change
through community action

Welcome to The Energy Plus Academy!

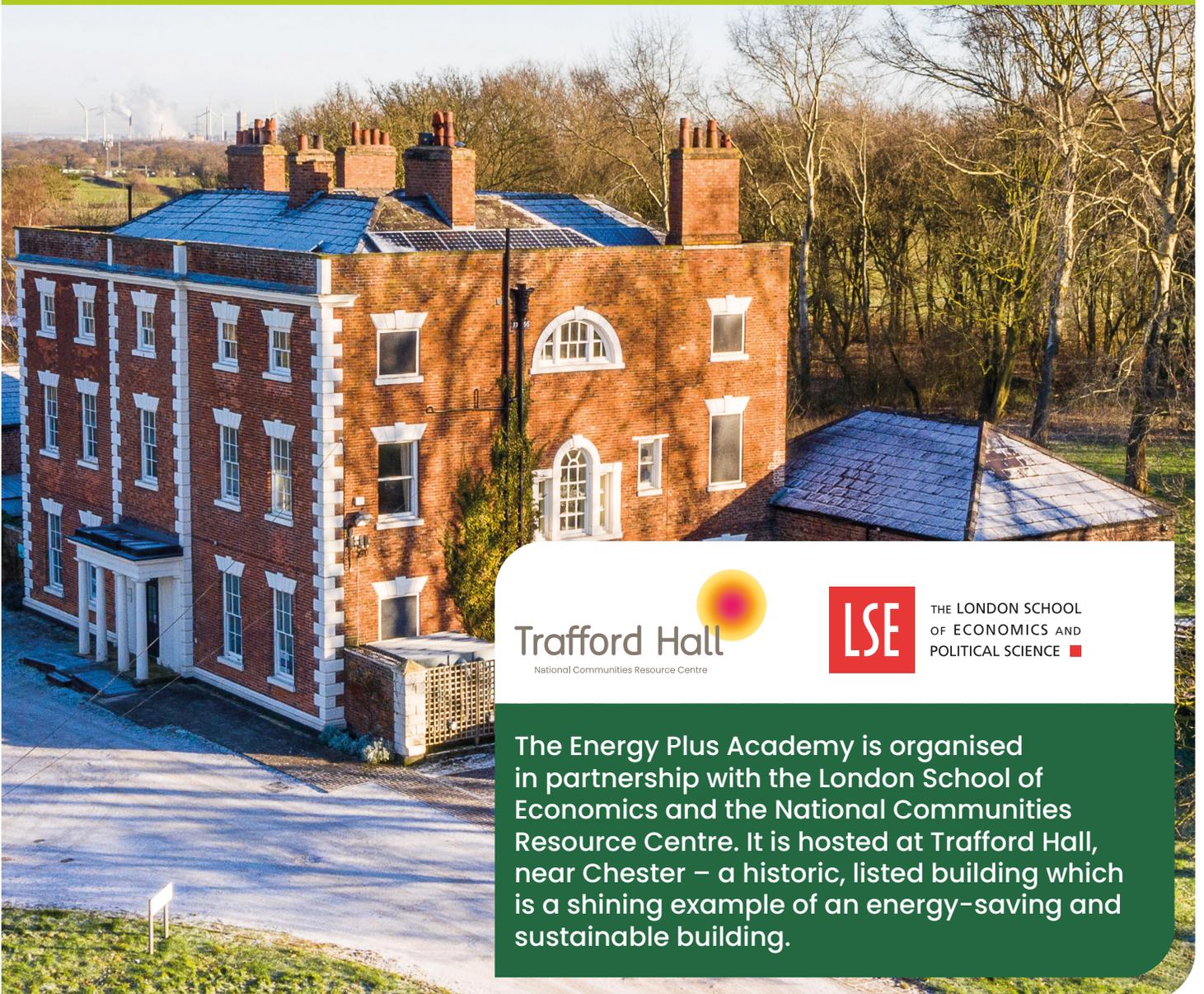
The Energy Plus Academy aims to:



Address the planet's most important problem – climate change – through ideas and action.

Bring groups from different organisations across the country together to develop practical ideas to tackle climate change.

Empower and equip participants with the skills, motivation, and know-how to take action and make real change in their communities.



 **Trafford Hall**
National Communities Resource Centre

 **LSE** THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

The Energy Plus Academy is organised in partnership with the London School of Economics and the National Communities Resource Centre. It is hosted at Trafford Hall, near Chester – a historic, listed building which is a shining example of an energy-saving and sustainable building.

What is Energy Plus?

Energy Plus is about the wider impacts of our intense use of energy, particularly fossil fuels such as oil, gas, and coal, on our environment and our climate. Everything we do is connected with climate change: the way we build, heat, and light our homes and buildings; how we travel; how we use land and how we treat our forests, fields, soil, and rivers; how we exploit the fish in our oceans, lakes, and waterways, and how we use water; and the pressures we put on wildlife, birds, animals, insects and bugs with human activity.

We rely on energy for almost everything we do, but as we burn energy, we create greenhouse gases that put a blanket of emissions around our planet causing it to warm, leading to climate change. The rise in temperatures and the damage to the natural environment that go with it threatens our survival, according to the government's top climate change advisers. Our Government and most European governments are so worried that they have declared a climate emergency.

The Energy Plus Academy

The Energy Plus Academy aims to bring together groups of people who are concerned about and want to tackle the effects of climate change driven by our over-use of energy. This includes housing professionals at all levels; builders and developers concerned about sustainability; professional organisations linked to the built environment; community groups and active residents concerned about the environment; environmental organisations; and educators of all kinds.

Through the Energy Plus Academy, we will organise a series of 24-hour Think Tanks around key themes, highlighting both how we are contributing to climate change and the ways we can combat climate change and reduce its impacts. Each Think Tank will help participants gather new information, share valuable ideas, and develop action plans to address environmental and energy saving problems in their communities and workplaces. Participants will learn how to make a difference and leave with a commitment and an action plan to do something to tackle climate change. Whether large or small, every action taken to combat climate change is important.



What impact will we have?

Through the Think Tanks, participants will expand their knowledge, build their motivation and confidence to take action, and link up with active groups already working to tackle environmental problems. Based on our experience to date, people will go back to their communities and workplaces motivated and confident with clear ideas and plans to bring about change.

We estimate that each Think Tank will attract 30 participants, from 15 groups or organisations. Assuming 10 of the 15 groups deliver a project or promote organisational change, this will create 50 new environmental projects or developments a year. With on average 10 people benefitting from each new project, each workshop will help 100 people take action to protect the environment, causing a ripple effect. We will record success stories, describing the pathways alongside the barriers faced and how to overcome them. Over two years, we will produce an Energy Plus Academy handbook, documenting what can be achieved and how to deliver ideas that work.

Who will benefit?

A wide body of individuals and groups working to tackle the climate change crisis will benefit from the Energy Plus Academy. Our special focus is on social landlords and helping to make an impact in the areas where they operate, working directly on energy-saving and environmental protection. Groups that will be interested include:

- Social landlords and some private landlords.
- Tenants, leaseholders, low-income home-owners.
- Community organisations, social enterprises, community land trusts, community energy initiatives.
- Developers, builders, planners, surveyors, architects.
- Energy companies and agencies linked to energy provision and renewable energy.
- Public bodies including parish and district councils, regulators, government organisations and civil servants.
- Organisations and individuals involved with environmental and climate change issues, including energy use (fossil fuels or renewables); energy-saving in the built environment; protection of nature and the natural environment; low energy travel (cycling, walking, public transport); greening projects; decarbonising human activity and development.
- The Energy Plus Academy especially welcomes and encourages participation from people with an ethnic minority background, and from other underrepresented groups.



Origins of the Energy Plus Academy

The idea of the Energy Plus Academy came out of LSE Housing's work in communities:

Estate and area
regeneration

Housing renewal

Fuel poverty

Energy saving

Environmental rescue

Community
involvement

Both landlords and tenants face major environmental problems in low-income areas due to a lack of joined-up thinking about how we build and its impacts on the environment: about how we maintain, manage, and care for what we build, and how we control pollution and other environmental damage. In the past, numbers of homes have dictated policy.



**WE SHOULD
STRIVE FOR A
ZERO-CARBON
APPROACH
IMMEDIATELY**

We now face a huge task. We must rescue and restore millions of existing homes and thousands of neighbourhoods, preventing millions of tons of carbon emissions leaking into the air. Where we add new homes to our existing stock, we must do this without using more land or emitting more carbon. These are huge challenges, but to reach zero carbon by 2050, we should strive for a zero-carbon approach immediately. To come near to this goal, we must tackle virtually everything we do that uses energy. This is the core idea of the Energy Plus Academy.

Housing Plus
Academy 

The Energy Plus Academy will operate under the umbrella of the Housing Plus Academy, which brings together frontline staff, residents, policymakers, to find solutions to major challenges facing the housing sector.

Energy Plus
Academy 

For more information visit the LSE website:
www.sticerd.lse.ac.uk/lsehousing

Trafford Hall

Trafford Hall is home to the National Communities Resource Centre (NCRC) and will host the Energy Plus Academy Think Tanks. Trafford Hall is a 250-year-old listed building, with a rebuilt timber-framed, carbon-neutral training block, 'The Stable', and 42 eco-chalet bedrooms with turf roofs, timber walkways and maximum insulation. The Hall is a model of energy-saving and sustainable building. It relies on 100% renewable energy for heating and light, with completely organic grounds and gardens, and has halved its energy use since 2010. Other sustainable features include using low-energy materials such as pulped recycled newspaper for insulation, turf roofs, and retaining and reusing existing building materials to restore the buildings. Trafford Hall offers wheelchair accessible meeting space and accommodation.



Trafford Hall

National Communities Resource Centre

**Carbon neutral
accommodation
at Trafford Hall**

Upgrading a listed building to such a high sustainable and environmental standard is almost unique and Trafford Hall offers a beacon for how even the most difficult buildings can be made sustainable. Energy Plus Academy events will include a tour of Trafford Hall to allow participants to learn from its bold experiment. The Hall and grounds are an inspiration, a learning tool, and a showcase for how simple actions can transform our energy use. Since 1995, Trafford Hall has been a crucial resource for communities, and for the organisations that support them, working to make our society fairer and less unequal.

Sponsors

We aim to secure sponsorship for the Energy Plus Academy from organisations committed to environmental action and energy reduction to reach zero carbon as quickly as possible. The sponsors' support will help promote our work and demonstrate their active contribution to tackling climate change. Sponsors will form a 'Thinking Ahead' group that meets twice a year to develop practical ideas on how to achieve zero carbon.

We aim to recruit enough sponsors to support the work of the Energy Plus Academy via a partnership between Trafford Hall (NCRC) and LSE Housing and Communities. We plan to set up a pump-priming grant fund dedicated to starting projects which communities plan for their areas. After attending a Think Tank, tenants and community organisations can use the action plan they have developed, tested for its realism and practicality, to access a pump-priming grant. In this way, the Energy Plus Academy will have far-reaching and lasting impacts on communities across the UK. The grant applications will need two basic endorsements from local people holding recognised positions e.g. schoolteacher, church official, housing officers, local councillor etc.

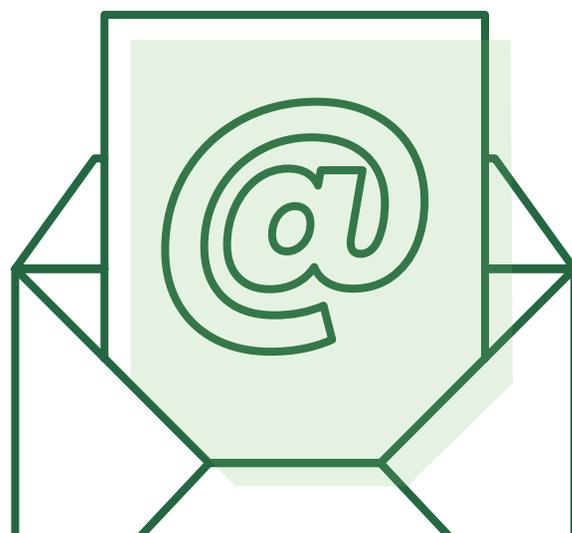
Next Steps

We plan to launch the Energy Plus Academy at Trafford Hall in early July We plan to run five Energy Plus Academy Think Tanks by March 2022 and a further five by March 2023. They will be open to all interested parties, and designed to set the agenda for tackling climate change through community action and through clear leadership from organisations with resources to influence outcomes.

- We will hold a one-day Energy Plus Academy launch event at Trafford Hall on the 1st July 2021.
- We will target organisations interested in sponsoring the Energy Plus Academy, aiming to find 5 sponsors by the end of 2021, and 10 by June 2022.
- We will set up a small grant fund to help early action groups get started.
- We will bring together a technical resource group to act as advisers, information sources and support for the work of the Energy Plus Academy.

For more information contact:

Eleanor Benton e.benton@lse.ac.uk
Jessica Rowan j.rowan1@lse.ac.uk





Trafford Hall

National Communities Resource Centre

www.traffordhall.com

Ince Ln, Chester CH2 4JP, United Kingdom