

Federation attracts its first £50k worth of funding and support

The Federation of Open Home Networks has attracted support from the Climate Change Collaboration, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), The National Energy Foundation and key industry player Andrew Warren, adding momentum to its efforts to attract new funds for existing Green Open Home networks.

At a meeting in March 2014, the Climate Change Collaboration (a group of four Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts) agreed to offer the Federation a total of £30,000 over two years. The money will support the Federation's aim to build sustainable financial support for existing green open homes groups including from national sponsors, grant funding and alternative income streams.

So far, the Federation has 11 member groups, together representing nearly 1000 green homes in the UK. One purpose of the Federation is to bring critical mass to the number of green open homes that can be reached through a single point of contact. This will be especially helpful to a potential sponsor, research partner or grant provider.

Federation Chairman, Andrew Warren, commented "With around 1000 green open homes represented, the Federation is now ready to approach potential national sponsors. There's real strength in groups working together to bring a much larger total audience within reach of sponsors."

Green Open Home Open Days are about inspiring householders to make their older homes more energy efficient, comfortable and sustainable. Visitors get unbiased user feedback from real homeowners of the type that you don't find in a sales showroom. This explains the very high levels of visitor satisfaction. Visitors leave these events with increased confidence of what they can do to make energy saving improvements to their own homes.

DECC, which has funded the growth of new open home groups in 2013/14, has also offered some short term funding support for the Federation. £6000 has been earmarked to support a schedule of agreed strategic and secretariat activities and £7500 has been distributed through the Centre for Sustainable Energy to help Federation members host open days later in 2014.

The National Energy Foundation (NEF) also invested £5000 and some additional staff time to support the formation of the Federation, supporting early meetings and approaches to funders.

At the start of the year Andrew Warren joined the Federation as its new Chairman. Andrew is a former Special Advisor to the House of Commons Select Committee on the Environment and became Director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy following its foundation in 1981. He is hugely respected in the retrofit arena and is already giving added impetus to The Federation's work.

The Federation will be working with the National Energy Foundation and the Centre for Sustainability Energy over the coming period to realise plans to help ensure a sustainable future for all Green Open Homes groups.

Ends 11/06/14

For more information, please phone Gordon Glass on 01908 256922 or email gordon.glass@nef.org.uk

Editor's Notes

Federation of Open Home Networks

The growing Federation of Open Home Networks is already a single point of contact for 11 groups and around 1000 homeowners inspiring others to green their homes. The Federation meets quarterly and liaises proactively with potential national sponsors, grant givers and research partners.

Co-ordinating and marketing a major annual event is hard work. Local Open Homes group leaders work fairly tirelessly to secure the local business sponsorship and local authority support that can cover the costs of open days. However, the pure time and effort required to raise quite small sums of money to cover costs can be exhausting. The idea of a Federation of Open Home Networks has therefore attracted a great deal of interest.

The Federation is already close to representing a critical mass of 1000 homes, which puts it in a stronger position to attract the following:

- National sponsorship deals
- Grant funding for work of national scope
- New income streams (eg. from lead generation)

The Federation encourages Green Open Home Groups who have already run an event and intend to run another to apply for membership, using the form on the website.

The Federation's current membership includes Bath Green Homes, Brighton and Hove Eco Open Houses, Energy Saving Trust, Faringdon Eco Trail, Lewes Eco Open Houses, Marches Energy Agency, Monmouthshire Eco Open Doors, Southampton Open Homes Weekend, St Albans Energy Saving Homes Weekend, SuperHomes and Transition West Bridgford's Eco House Group.

For more information, see the [Federation website](#).

Climate Change Collaboration

The Climate Change Collaboration is a group of four [Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts](#). The Trusts are: [Ashden Trust](#), JJ Charitable Trust, Mark Leonard Trust and Tedworth Trust. This group came together in 2011 to support pilot and research projects to find ways of reducing CO₂ emissions quickly. There is a strong emphasis of partnership and collaboration for any funded programme. Trustees insist that projects work together to share their learning with each other and more broadly with key stakeholders.

National Energy Foundation

The National Energy Foundation is an independent charity based in Milton Keynes, and has been at the forefront of improving the use of energy in buildings since 1988. NEF aims to give people, organisations and government the knowledge, support and inspiration they need to understand and improve the use of energy in buildings. The Sustainable Energy Academy merged with National Energy Foundation in March 2014, having worked closely together to deliver the SuperHomes project since 2007.

Andrew Warren

Andrew Warren is an extremely experienced Chairman, having fulfilled this role at meetings of the British Energy Efficiency Federation, Sustainable Energy Partnership, DECC Green Deal stakeholder advisory forum, the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes, plus the EU Task Group on Sustainable Construction and Energy Efficiency.

Andrew writes for several trade publications and has contributed articles to many international newspapers, including a column for the Daily Telegraph. He is a speaker at conferences on energy

and environment issues and has given oral evidence to many other Parliamentary Select Committees and to hearings undertaken by the European Parliament.

Andrew worked as a Special Advisor to House of Commons Select Committee on the Environment and became the full-time director of the UK Association for the Conservation of Energy having overseen its foundation in 1981.