

We're building a POWER STATION!



Hilary Powell and Daniel Edelstyn on their roof. Photo by Peter Searle

Energy bills are soaring. Poverty is rising. Climate breakdown is accelerating. It's time for every viable UK building to declare an emergency – and turn itself into a POWER STATION.

Nearly 20% of all UK carbon emissions are the result of energy we use in our homes. The only way we will only meet our targets with “near complete decarbonisation of the housing stock” (UK Committee on Climate Change) is to insulate and change to renewable energy sources.

Many households want to insulate, add solar panels and even change the way their heat systems work but they don't know where to start and since the slashing of the feed in tariff, the rate of adoption of solar panels has plunged. In short: **our government is failing to intervene at the scale and pace needed.**

Two artists, Hilary Powell and Daniel Edlestyn, got together with their community in Walthamstow, North East London (where 50% of local carbon emissions are from housing) and given themselves the power of Government and Central Banks to print money and unleash vital economic and imaginative stimulus.

The plan: to build a POWER STATION and in the process build community wealth through what they are describing as a “Grassroots Green New Deal in action.”

The method: to print money (a new currency called the ‘Greenback’), share knowledge in a membership site and crowdfund their way to success.

So far: they have just successfully crowdfunded £100,000 to build phase one of the Power Station – bringing solar panels to the first 35 houses on the street by sleeping on the rooftop of their terrace house for 23 nights through November and December.

Print money?! They've done it before - though not at this scale!



Daniel Edelstyn and Hillary Powell in front of Big Bang 2. Photo by Stav Bee

In their previous project '**Bank Job**' (www.bankjob.pictures) the artists set up a bank (HSCB – Hoe Street Central Bank) and printed money as both emergency currency and demand note – demanding and taking action on some of the most acute crises of our time. In that case it was used to buy up and literally explode £1.2 Million of debt – the aftermath of which can be seen as '**Big Bang 2**' in the exhibition *Defaced! Money, Conflict, Protest* at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (11.10.22 - 8.01.23) and their BFI funded film: **Bank Job**, which has played in some of the top festivals in the world.

Now, the heist continues - pulling a people-powered number on a finance and energy system unfit for people and planet. This time the artistic action fuels new infrastructure – including a solar panel installation across the rooftops of one street in London. This is both a template and a demand for this to be scaled up across every viable building in the country and beyond.

"If the government really had the interests of the people at its heart and wanted to address the climate crisis and provide energy security, wouldn't it concentrate on providing renewable, locally produced energy for all at scale and insulating all the housing stock."

There are 22,260,856 houses in the UK. **Installing solar panels on every house in the UK would provide 60.52% of our total domestic electricity consumption.** Between April and September, solar generation would exceed all domestic electricity consumption.

How much would it cost to fit every house in the UK with solar panels and battery storage?
The average retail price for a 3.16kW system with 5.12kWh battery storage is currently £6000. According to NEF every UK home could be retrofitted for £133.56bn - or the same price as the current renovations in the House of Commons and the Lords.

Meeting a significant amount of our electricity needs with cheaper domestic energy production would reduce our reliance on international energy markets, which can be volatile and raise prices significantly for consumers.

And it's not just one street – this is community action and wealth building with an ecosystem of local organisations featuring on the banknotes, sharing in the proceeds of their sale as artworks and involved in the project – Project Zero youth project, Barn Croft Primary School facing funding cuts, Organic Lea food growing co-op, HEET energy efficiency action, Eat or Heat foodbank, PL84U-Al Suffa kitchen and foodbank, Coppermill Swifts grassroots children's football, Waltham Forest Migrant Action and Stories and Supper changing the narrative around immigration - all working to build a fair society whilst battling current injustices.

This is a 'show and do' project building new infrastructures of care, imagination and power.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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Link to trailer for project on Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/703334594>

Bank Job

For more information on the team's previous heist see www.bankjob.pictures. The feature documentary film **Bank Job** that shares this action making a case for debt write off as part of a push towards economic equality premiered at Hot Docs and was nominated for Grierson and British Independent Documentary Awards 2021.

POWER membership

A community around the country is part of the project via a POWER membership site sharing the behind the scenes process of building the POWER STATION. We have over 10,000 free members and 350 paid members who support the project.

Power members both help fund the intensive research and production on this project and get to access to behind-the-scenes footage and knowledge.

Funders coming on board include Necessity, Future Fund for London, Andrew Wainwright Reform Trust, Together for Our Planet and London Community Energy Fund.

More information at:

Website: www.power.film

Membership site: www.membership.power.film/enrol

Youtube: www.youtube.com/powerartandfilm

Twitter: @bankjobpictures

Facebook: @PowerStationFilm

Instagram @Power.film.art

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