

Making Green Come True, 5 December 2020

Conference Pack

Programme

12:45	Arrive on Zoom
13:00	<p><u>Opening panel with Q&A and discussion</u></p> <p>Ruth London, Fuel Poverty Action</p> <p>Pauline Saunders, CIVALLI, supporting victims of failed cavity wall insulation</p> <p>Tracey Rogers, resident, Pembroke Park, Hillingdon</p> <p>Tony O'Brien, Trades Union Congress London East and South East Pensioners Network</p> <p>Stuart Hodgkinson, campaigning academic and author</p> <p><i>The government is talking about making homes more energy efficient - to cut down carbon emissions and to save on heating bills. But the energy efficiency we get in practice, as retrofits or new build homes, is often nothing like what we are promised - if we get any at all. This session will explore the issues of accountability in housing and the gulf between green promises and reality.</i></p>
14:00	<p><u>Breakout rooms: What's on offer?</u></p> <p>Rhiannon Hughes, Southwark Group of Tenants Organisation, and Claire Glasman, WinVisible (Women with visible and invisible disabilities)</p> <p>Graeme, Malus Court Tenants and Residents Association, and Phil Murphy, fire safety expert</p> <p>Donal Brown, RetrofitWorks</p> <p>Tom Woolley, architect, researcher and consultant</p> <p>Asad Rehman, War on Want</p>
14:15	Break

14:30 - 15:15	<p><u>Breakout rooms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to residents: the route to housing fit for all • Fire safety: Salford tenants' battles, and the new Building Safety Bill • UK homes are 'heating the streets': how can we keep warm instead? • Too slow, too fast? The pace of retrofits, training workers, and winning good, green jobs • No sustainability without justice, from the point of extraction on up
15:15	<p>Break</p>
15:30	<p><u>Concluding plenary discussion</u></p> <p>Chair: Alexa Waud, Fuel Poverty Action</p> <p><i>This final session is a chance to continue and deepen the exchanges and debates that were started in the breakout rooms, and consider how we can incorporate what we have learned into our work towards warm, safe homes.</i></p>
16:30	<p>End of conference</p>

Breakout rooms: What's on offer?

Listening to residents: the fight for housing that's fit for all

This breakout room will focus on the role of Tenants and Residents organisations in fighting for insulation and warmth and in holding social/private landlords accountable, how they are under attack, and what hope there is for increased accountability. It will also look at the fight for homes fit for the people who live in them, whether we're old, young, or children, and whatever our disabilities, family sizes, and needs.

Fire safety: Salford tenants' battles, and the new Building Safety Bill

Residents of Pendleton Together, in Salford, live in 9 high rise blocks that are the mirror image of Grenfell Tower, and have only just had their cladding removed. Now it's cold. Tenants will report on their ongoing battles to get homes fit to live in. Plus: In response to the pressure following Grenfell, the government is creating a new regulatory system governing high-rise building and fire safety. They've promised that residents' voices and safety will be at the heart of it. How can we hold them to it?

UK homes are 'heating the streets': how can we keep warm instead?

This breakout room will focus on insulation types and ventilation: what standards are we aiming for and what materials are safe, functional, non-toxic, sustainable, and can be available at scale? Passivhaus, enerphit, or natural ventilation; rockwool or hemp: or should we instead be focusing on renewable-energy heating? A chance to engage with these ongoing debates.

Too slow, too fast? The pace of retrofits, training workers, and winning good, green jobs

The current pace of retrofitting homes falls miles short of any realistic climate target. But when projects move too quickly with contractors seeking profit at the expense of workers' and residents' safety and health, the results are disastrous. How do we ensure that a secure, well-trained, well paid, secure, caring workforce can carry out the transformation that our quality of life - and the future - depend on?

No sustainability without justice, from the point of extraction on up

Plastic-based insulation means continued extraction of fossil fuels, a process also leading to wars, repression, impoverishment, and destruction of environments round the world, and locking us further into climate change. Yet if our homes continue to heat the streets, they'll require more energy. And if it comes from renewable sources, this requires mining of rare earth metals, now carried out at the expense of peoples across the globe. How can our movements align to press for an alternative - not unabated climate change, nor profit driven supply chains that devastate the global South?

See who you'll meet...

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Ruth London

Ruth London was a founding member of Fuel Poverty Action in 2011. She now co-ordinates FPA's work, on areas from district heating issues to energy pricing. A grandmother, she has been active for five decades organising against poverty, war, discrimination and climate change, for example in Women Against Rape, the Global Women's Strike, Climate Camp, Reclaim the Power, and Occupy London.

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Dr. Stuart Hodkinson

Dr. Stuart Hodkinson is a campaigning academic based at the University of Leeds whose research focuses on the devastating human costs from the privatisation and financialisation of housing. His most recent book is called *Safe as Houses: Private Greed, Political Negligence, and Housing Policy After Grenfell*. He is currently working with residents groups to hold the UK government to account for its post-Grenfell regulatory response.

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Pauline Saunders

Pauline Saunders is a founding member of CIVALLI, the organisation for victims of failed cavity wall insulation. In 2019, Pauline was shortlisted for Inside Housing's Women in Housing Awards for Woman of the Year. She works to staff a helpline which helped +1500 people struggling to gain redress following failed or inappropriately installed cavity wall insulation. This is something she has personal experience of, in her own home in Wales.

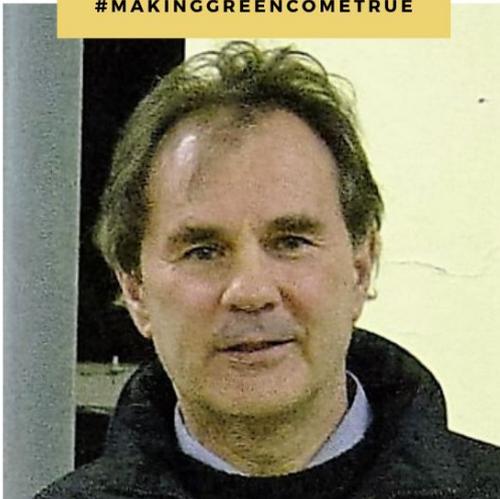
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Tracey Rogers

Tracey Rogers is a social housing tenant living on the Pembroke Park development in Ruislip. Tracey and her family, like many residents at Pembroke Park, have suffered from very poor insulation in their properties and incorrectly installed piping for the sub standard DH System which has regular outages during the winter.

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Tony O'Brien

Tony O'Brien is a retired carpenter-joiner, and long-time union organiser who has been active in the TUC since 1963. Tony helped spearhead the great national building workers' strike in Mile End in 1972, he was founding secretary of the Construction Safety Campaign in 1988, and he recently published a book on housing and building direct labour organisations.

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Ellen Lebeth

Ellen Lebeth started working with FPA around 2014 on actions exposing the scandal of "excess winter deaths". With a long history of struggles in the UK and in South Africa, she is chair of Lambeth Pensioners Action Group and Vice-chair of the National Pensioners Convention (NPC). She is also a member of the NPC London Region and the NPC Women's Working Elders group and chairs the NPC Minority Elders group.

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Asad Rehman

Asad Rehman is the Executive Director of War on Want. A lifelong campaigner against racial injustice and economic justice, he has been at the forefront of the climate justice movement both in the UK and globally. Asad is co-convenor of the Global Green New Deal Project to connect the climate crisis, neoliberal inequality, Covid and historical exploitation of the global South.

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Emma Dent Coad

Emma Dent Coad has been a long-term political activist, socialist, campaigner on inequalities, local Councillor since 2006 and was MP for Kensington June 2017 to December 2019. She says, 'People still shout in the street - Emma, our MP! - which is lovely. I'm in it for the long haul. I'm not going anywhere'.

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Dr. Tom Woolley

Dr. Tom Woolley is an architect, consultant and environmental researcher working for Rachel Bevan Architects. He is internationally known for his work on sustainability, construction and energy policy and has been chair of the Northern Ireland Building Regulations Advisory Committee. He has worked with a wide range of co-operative housing groups and is a member of the Irish Hemp Co-operative. Tom's publications include the Green Building Handbook, Natural Building, and Low Impact Building.

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Alexa Waud

Alexa Waud is an organiser and researcher based in Edinburgh. She is a co-director of Fuel Poverty Action, having joined in 2018 to campaign for safe cladding in the wake of the Grenfell fire. By day, she works for Democratic Society on urban climate action projects with a focus on housing and democracy across Europe.

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Graeme

Graeme, a tenant of Pendleton Together in Salford is chair of Malus Court Tenants and Residents Association (TARA). In 2018, both he and the 25-year old TARA itself were suspended by the social landlord for being too combative against outrageous living conditions. The 9 tower blocks, nearly identical to Grenfell, have only just had their cladding removed, and are now told replacement work will last till 2022. Graeme joined FPA this year.

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Bridgit Sam-Bailey

Bridgit Sam-Bailey, chair of Lewisham Pensioners Forum, was born in Guyana and arrived in the UK in 1965. She is a retired trade unionist and academic, proactive in the pensioners' movement, trying to get pensioners noticed and services provided. Striving to reach people without digital access, and sign-post needed services, the Forum hand-deliver and mail out their increasingly popular newsletter.

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Phil Murphy

Phil Murphy is an ex-fire fighter, tower block resident and housing campaigner from Manchester. He fought for lower prices on a district heating system and won! Phil is an HRRB Fire Safety Management Consultant and his Manchester Sustainable Communities enterprise offers advice on fire safety management. He was the principal author & fire safety adviser for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Housing Health & Safety Rating System.

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Claire Glasman

Claire Glasman is a founding member of WinVisible a grassroots multi-racial organisation of women with disabilities. They provide self-help information, peer support and help women secure benefits and services and campaign together against the hated disability benefit tests and care charges. COVID has seen a cull of older and disabled people, mainly women/people of colour. They campaign against "COVID emergency" policies which threaten their lives by taking away their basic rights.

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Mark Elton

Mark Elton of Cowan Architects is a Passivhaus designer and architect with many years' experience in the deep retrofit of high rise residential buildings. He is currently involved in a number of projects rectifying combustible cladding issues in social housing blocks.

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Syed Ahmed

Syed is the chair of Repowering, an organisation who supports communities to develop, fundraise and install community-owned energy. He has almost 20 years experience in sustainable energy and has occupied senior roles in public, private and third sector organisations. Syed is currently a director of the Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group, a trustee for national fuel poverty organization National Energy Action and a policy advisor to the Green Gas Certification Scheme.

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Rhiannon Hughes

Rhiannon is a campaigner and researcher for Southwark Group of Tenant Organisations (SGTO) a surviving tenant led housing federation. The body led by tenants has existed in various forms since the 1950s. It has fought racism, sexism, classism and campaigned for housing rights & council homes. We have hit winter and people are struggling with fuel costs and district heating outages. Libraries, community spaces, faith centres and tenant halls where people would normally warm up are closed. Organising on the ground has never been more important.

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Donal Brown

Donal Brown has worked in construction for 15 years as a carpenters' labourer and in architecture. He is now a Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, the Non-Executive Director at RetrofitWorks Ltd, and has co-authored a green recovery package proposal for housing with the New Economics Foundation. Donal would like to focus on how to create eco housing at scale and how to avoid the problems created by short termism and competitive cost cutting.

...and people from other places like...

- All African Women's Group
- Barnet Trades Council
- Dark Matter Labs
- Defend Council Housing
- Global Women's Strike
- Green Left
- Green Party Trade Union Group
- Homes For All
- National Pensioners Convention
- Peabody (tenants)
- Pembroke Park Residents Association
- Platform
- Possible
- Repowering London
- Salford Star
- South East London Community Energy
- Sustainable Hackney
- Tower Blocks UK
- Women of Colour in the Global Women's Strike

Would you like to help Fuel Poverty Action?

- Sign up for our newsletter [here](#), and follow us on twitter [@fuelpovaction](#).
- Write to us at fuelpovertyaction@gmail.com if there's something you would like to get involved in.
- Fuel Poverty Action is UNFUNDED and entirely run by devoted volunteers. If you would like to see our work continue, please consider making a [one-off donation here](#), or becoming a [Friend of FPA, here](#).
- For unions, or other organisations to [affiliate to FPA, see here](#).

Fuel Poverty Action presents:



Join tenants, residents, organisers and researchers who are fighting for energy efficient retrofits that work for people and the planet.

It isn't **GREEN** if it doesn't work!
It isn't **TRUE** if it isn't affordable!



**FUEL
POVERTY
ACTION**

with TUC London
East and Southeast
Pensioners Network

a half-day
conference



Saturday
5th December



Please register online at: www.fuelpovertyaction.org.uk/mgct

