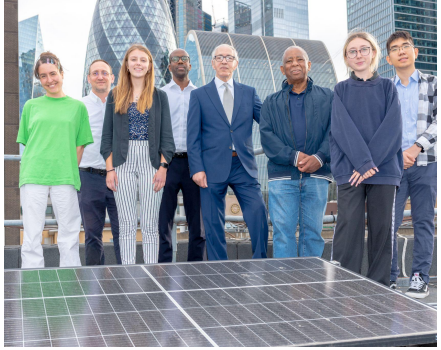
Community Energy London

CEL x Richmond Council

An Introduction To Community Energy

23 July 2026
5:30pm - 7pm
Patch Twickenham



Community Energy London

CLIMATE ACTION Richmond

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

Community Energy Activation

A series of events in Summer 2026 to support establishing
Richmond Community Energy Cooperative

An Introduction To Community Energy

Thursday 23 July 2026

5:30pm - 7pm

Patch Twickenham

42 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3LJ

Welcome

Syed Ahmed

CEO
Community Energy London

Agenda

What community energy is, why it matters, and the benefits it can deliver for local communities.

Chair: Syed Ahmed, CEO, Community Energy London (CEL)

- **Councillor Julia Neden-Watts,** Twickenham Riverside, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Services Committee, Richmond Council
- **Alan Jones**, Co-Founder, SE24 Energy
- **Mark Thomlinson**, Volunteer Director, North Kensington Community Energy (NKCE)
- **Claire Harrold**, Community Retrofit Director, Repowering London
- **Q&A**

6.30pm - 7pm Networking

7pm CLOSE

Community Energy London

Community Energy London (CEL) - promoting, supporting, and advancing community-led energy projects across London

Supporting a sustainable energy - by empowering local communities to take control of their energy production and consumption.

Collaborate with a diverse range of stakeholders, including community groups, local authorities, and industry experts, to facilitate the development of renewable energy projects, enhance energy efficiency, and reduce carbon emissions.

environmental sustainability + social and economic benefits + creating local jobs

Our Member Groups

Community Energy action in London

Over 300 community energy projects current operating in London

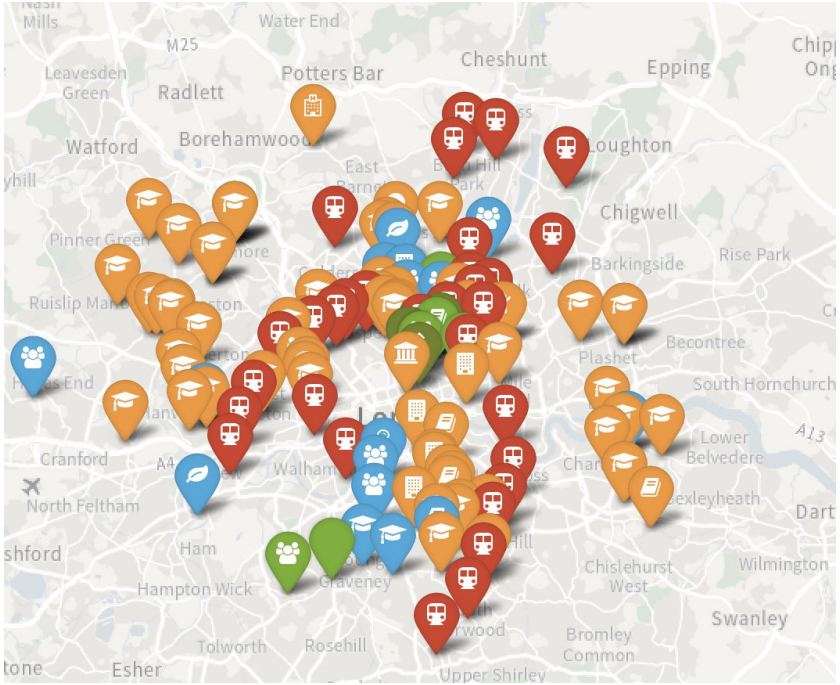
Mix of solar PV, LEDs, community building insulation projects, BEMS, ASHP installations...

... but also energy cafes and other energy advice/fuel poverty support networks

CEL has 40 members: 15 or so active groups developing multiple projects

Remaining groups have ambition to develop projects - or operating a single project (eg a PV installation on a community building

CEL project maps on communityenergy.london indicates groups and their projects

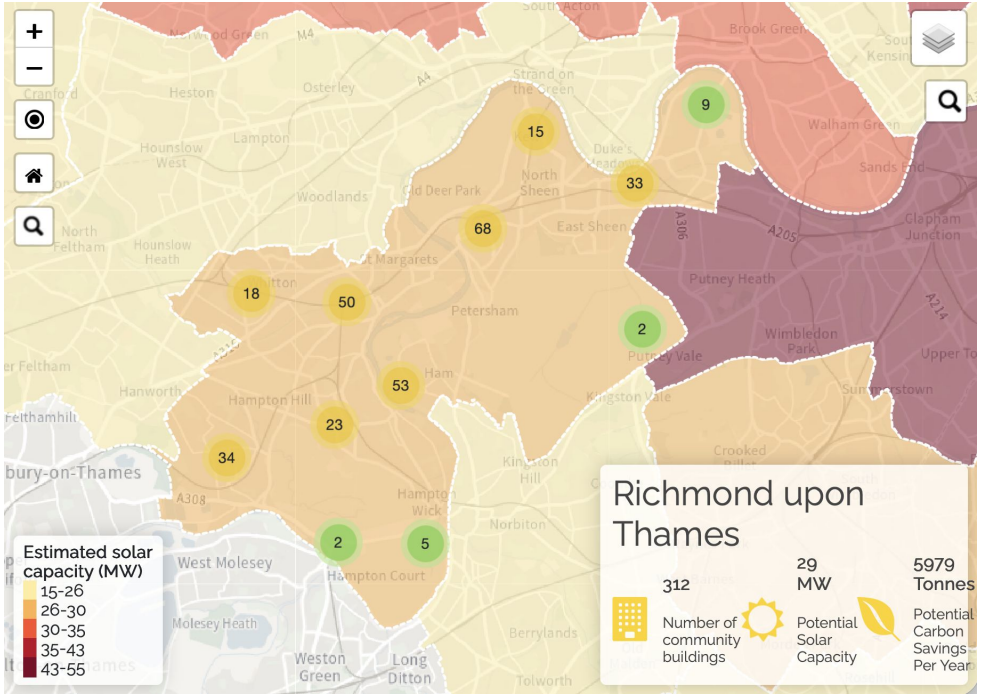


Community energy potential in London

Working with GLA data team CEL have identified **c. 20,000 community buildings in London**

Of these c. 12,000 of sufficient size to develop a PV project = 1GW solar

CEL's target for 1,000 community energy projects across the city by 2030



30 projects in every borough

Community Energy London

Has a Community Energy Fund (CEF)

Has a wider climate fund which includes community energy

Has a CEF upcoming

Highly supportive of community energy but no specific fund

No Community Energy Fund

CEL Resources

Community Energy London has a series of guides to help you start your community energy groups and project:

- Step by Step Project Guide – Community Energy London
- 10 Step Guide to Setting Up a Community Energy Group
- Community Energy London Potential Map
- New publication: State of the Sector and Annual Report 2024-2025 – Community Energy London

Register for the other three events in this series here (to be added when available).

Councillor Julia Neden-Watts

Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Services Committee, Richmond Council

Ward: Twickenham Riverside

Alan Jones

Co-Founder, SE24
https://se24.co.uk/

SE 24 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Richmond Council and CEL: An Introduction to Community Energy

Twickenham, 23rd July 2026

SE24 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Who are we?

- SE24 is a Community Benefit Society (not-for-profit), with 10 Directors established in 2015, see **www.se24.co.uk** for more information.
- Have raised c. £2m in total from ≈ 160 community investors/shareholders in 5 separate share or bond offers since 2015.
- Currently operating 11 community rooftop solar projects and 9 LED lighting projects
- Now developing a 2027 pipeline of new renewable and other low carbon energy projects in South London
- Any financial surplus is devoted to supporting vulnerable customers via our Community Energy Fund
- Committed to community engagement around the path towards Net Zero

SE 24 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

How do our community solar PV projects work?

- We identify potential projects, working with local community partners (schools, churches, healthcare facilities, etc.)
- Working with Joju Solar, SE24 carries out feasibility/design/costing, roof surveys and other preparation work.
- We enter into a long-term legal agreement (Solar Rooftop Lease) with project host, e.g., 16 years.
- We can often access grants, e.g. London Community Energy Fund, to contribute to the capital cost.
- SE24 raises low-cost capital from community investors (typically at 5% p.a.). The rooftop solar facilities are installed at no cost to the host.
- We sell solar electricity to the site partner at a discount to the price of grid electricity. Thus, the host realises a long-term cost saving from lower-cost solar energy. We also sell solar electricity not used on site and 'exported' to grid.
- SE24 will remain responsible for monitoring, operation and maintenance for full 16 years.
- At the end of that period, the solar PV assets are transferred to site partner at nil cost.

SE 24 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

How do our community LED projects work?

- Similar to solar PV, but with a few differences.
- We identify potential projects, working with local community partners (schools, churches and community centres, etc.)
- Working with a partner group, South East London Community Energy (SELCE), SE24 carries out lighting surveys and feasibility assessments.
- We enter into a long-term legal agreement (Lighting Services Agreement) with the project host, e.g., 10 years.
- SE24 raises low-cost capital from community investors (typically at 4% p.a.). LED lighting is installed at no cost to the host.
- The host realises a long-term cost saving from reduced electricity consumption. LED lighting typically uses only around half as much electricity as conventional lighting.

SE24 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

We have delivered a lot in the last 11 years

11 rooftop solar projects producing renewable electricity in South London

Over 640 MWh produced per year, equivalent to almost 240 households' consumption

Over 4,400 LED lights/fittings installed in eight schools and one church/community site

Lower electricity consumption, bills and CO2 emissions

Over 400 local fuel poor households supported via our Community Fund*

Over £29,000 disbursed

CO_2 emissions avoided, helping to combat global warming

c. 435 tonnes of CO_2 avoided per year, equivalent to taking almost 300 vehicles off the road

Lifetime Energy Cost Savings delivered for local residents, schools, churches and hospitals

Over £2.0 million of lifetime savings from current projects

* Our 2024 contribution of £4,250 via Groundworks saved 133 households almost £27,000 in total

As of end April 2026

SE 24 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

SE24 Receives Southwark's 2025/6 Civic Climate Champion Award!

Mark Thomlinson

Volunteer Director, North Kensington Community Energy (NKCE)
https://www.repowering.org.uk/north-kensington-community-energy/

23.07.26

Mark Thomlinson

Community energy for Richmond

Both sides

North Kensington Community Energy

Est 2018, 4 sites by 2020 and one of London's senior co-ops
Got involved in 2020
Chair of directors since 2023

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

Climate Engagement Lead
Got H&F Community Energy established
Borough's first install on a SEND school, active c. 2 years

Ealing Council

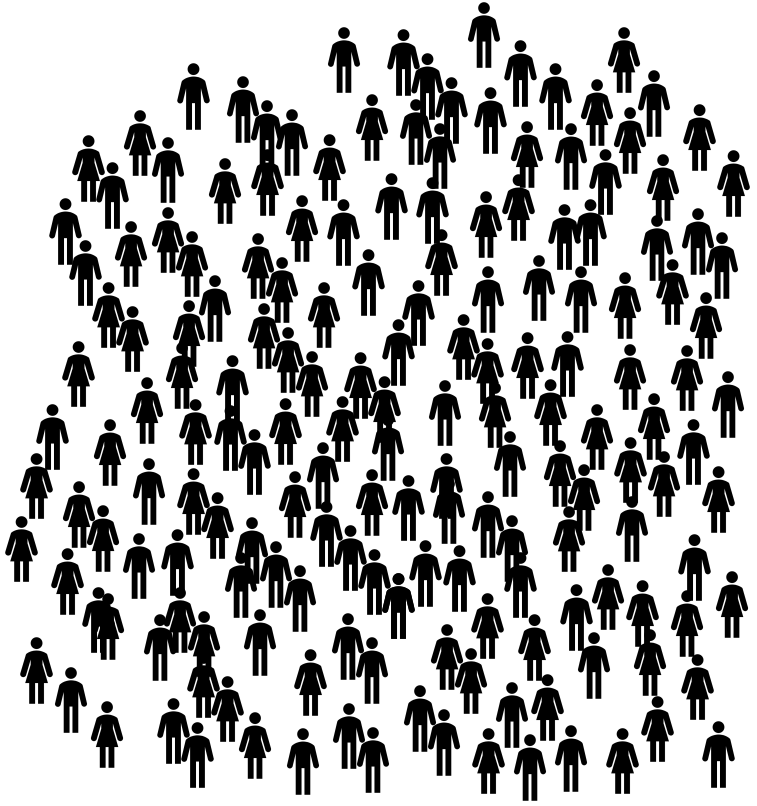
Head of Sustainability & Climate Action
Ealing Community Energy (newly constituted)
Borough with 19 school installations (Ealing Transition)

North Ken Community Energy

NKCE: who are we?

- A community benefit society (co-op)
- We have 220+ members
- One member, one vote

- It makes you feel amazing!



NKCE's community fund

Helping North Kensington feel the benefit of the green transition

What is the community fund?

Above: the Dalgarno Trust

Our panels give us

Income from selling electricity

Discount to the site

Maintenance

Community fund

Repay investors

Progressay

Girls' football

"girls join our mixed football sessions with genuine enthusiasm. However, we've noticed a concerning trend where many of these girls eventually drop out after a short period."

Our grant pays for pitch rental and coaches

Tota Fitness

Fitness at Trellick Tower

Free sessions improving health, fun, and connecting neighbours.

Our grant pays for room hire for 16 sessions plus instructor.

"I love seeing how renewable energy can be implemented at a very practical and community level and that it's not just a big 'global' issue."

Mamas House

Ante natal classes

A safe, supportive and evidence-based space for families to learn, connect, and feel empowered on their parenting journeys. First trialled in Old Oak.

Our grant pays for 3 sessions of facilitator travel, materials and refreshments

Skills and training

- AQA accredited training most years
- Confidence building & work experience
- The basics: but not just on the green economy

What have we learned?

- Online vs in person: the debate we've never resolved
- People will come for lots of different reasons
- Volunteer group will appreciate clear direction, clear tasks.
  - **This needs time and thought from the main people**
- Nothing much happening nothing much happening
  - If you don't have something to do.. then do something!

What have we learned?

- Council’s support was pretty key for us
  - Flyer printing
  - Newsletters
  - Library boards

The council view (quickly)

The financial question

There's an ongoing revenue question - not just capital

- Solar PV is *not* 'fire and forget'.
- Other priorities will likely crowd out PV maintenance
- And community energy co-ops have strong incentives: income & relationship dependencies
- It's not an 'either/or' question – could allocate one or two flagship projects (eg a nice big sports centre)

Dalgarno c'y centre, north Kensington

Engagement bonus

- Natural allies: an organized group who will support and communicate your messages on shared goals
- Grows beyond ‘climate types’; provides an avenue for residents to get involved
- Visibility is popular with politicians

Challenges

- Legal can take time
    - A lease for your rooftop
    - The PPA (power purchase agreement) that your sites might want your help on
- Roof/airspace valuation survey
- DfE can be a headache for school sites
- Community Energy England can help — use them

Claire Harrold

Community Retrofit Director,
Repowering London
https://www.repowering.org.uk/

Bringing Community Energy to Richmond

REPOWERING LONDON

Community Energy London

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

What we'll cover today

1. About Repowering London
2. How our co-operative model works
3. Support for Richmond Community Energy Co-op

About Repowering London
London's most experienced community energy developer

Vision

A clean, local and affordable energy future for everyone

Mission

To give urban communities the power to create, control and benefit from clean energy and warmer homes, democratising our energy system

Goal

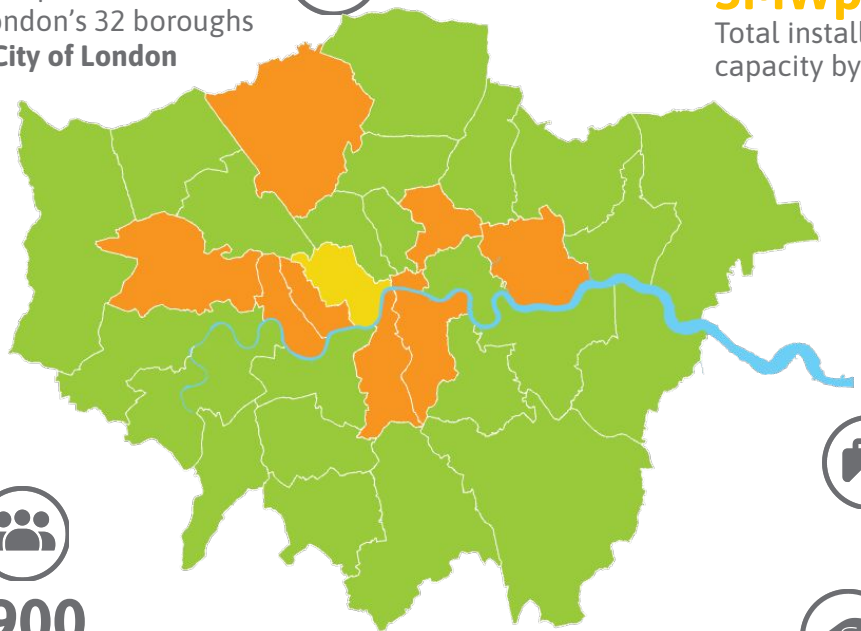
For communities in every town and city in the UK to be empowered with clean energy and to live in warm, healthy, and comfortable homes by 2030

Our impact so far

10
Community Benefit Societies (co-operatives) currently supported

1,362t
estimated amount of CO_2 emissions avoided by end 2025*

We now support community energy co-ops in **9** of London's 32 boroughs and the **City of London**



- **Developing work**
  Westminster
- **Established projects**
  Barnet, City of London, Ealing, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Newham and Southwark

~900
people directly involved as local investors, co-operative members and volunteer directors

£228k
being ringfenced in Community Funds and earmarked for spending on local priority projects

OUR GOAL

1.5MWp
TO
5MWp
Total installed solar capacity by 2030

REPOWERING LONDON

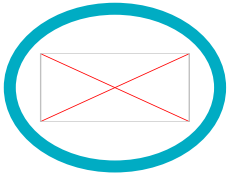
~2,000
children and young people involved in and inspired by climate and energy learning

170+
young people received paid training, internships or mentoring

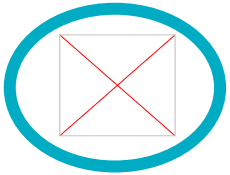
~100
people developed knowledge of governance and leadership

* Based on 25-year lifetime and GHG Conversion Factors for the year assets installed

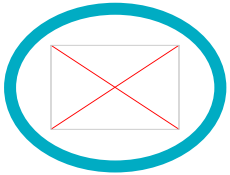
Solar development
How our co-operative model works



Members of the community come together to form a Community Benefit Society (a form of co-operative)



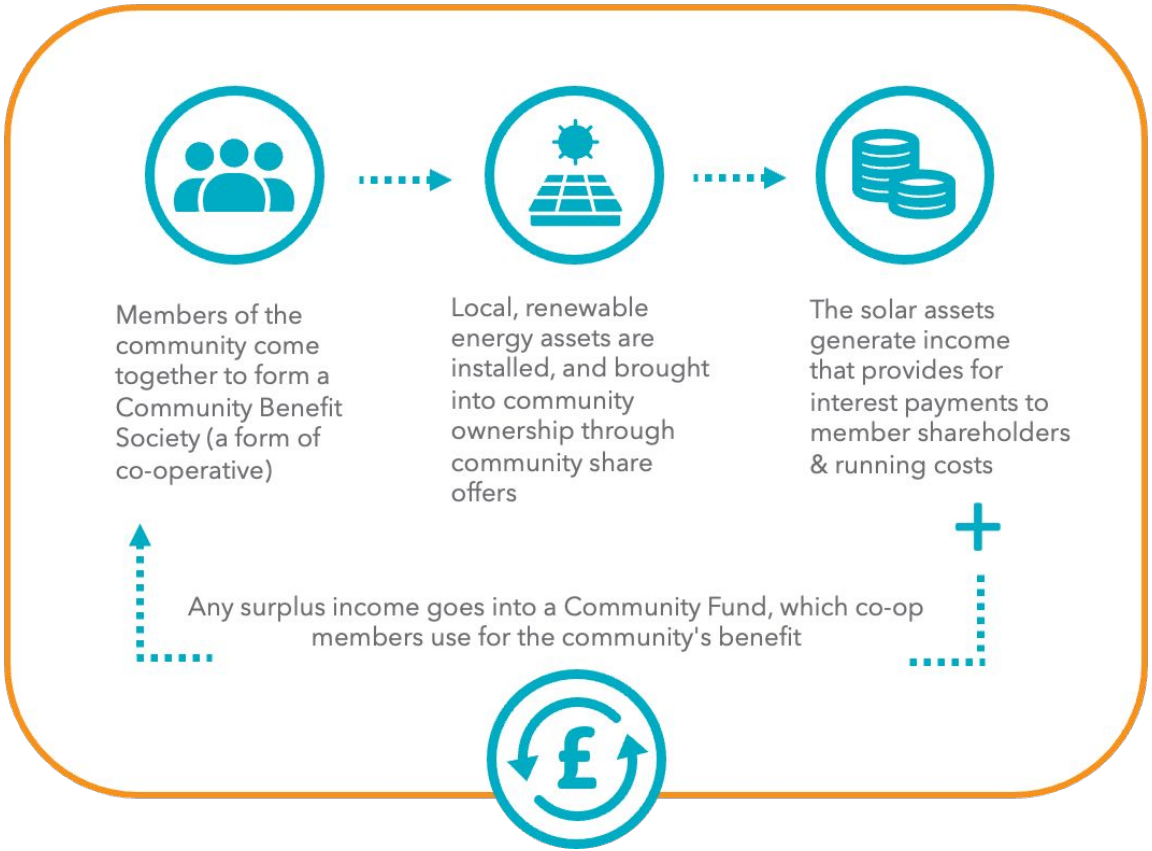
Local, renewable energy assets are installed, and brought into community ownership through community share offers



The solar assets generate income that provides for interest payments to member shareholders & running costs

Any surplus income goes into a Community Fund, which co-op members use for the community's benefit

Solar development
How our co-operative model works



Working in partnership in Richmond

We will:

- Attend community energy events to answer questions and identify directors and volunteers
- Provide engagement and upskilling workshops (visioning, rooftop spotting, Co-op governance)
- Provide access to peer learning opportunities
- Register Co-op and set up bank account
- Support with financial modelling, access to finance, co-op branding and comms
- Convene first six-monthly volunteer and Director meetings
- Identify and seek further development funding opportunities
- Give guidance on running community share offers

Join us in bringing community energy to Richmond!

Sign up to the mailing list to learn more and take part.

Repowering London
8th Floor, Blue Star House
234-244 Stockwell Road, Brixton,
London, SW9 9SP

claire.harrold@repowering.org.uk
07931 219887

Community Energy Newham
Newham's community-owned energy co-operative
Generating cleaner & cheaper energy

H&F COMMUNITY ENERGY

CLOSED

Q&A

Richmond Council x CEL

Richmond Council in collaboration with Community Energy London (CEL) will be organising **a series of four events over Summer 2026** exploring routes to support the **growth of community energy action across the borough.**

Community energy is where people come together to engage in energy-related activities, usually in response to concerns about climate change, inequality and fuel poverty. Projects are designed to have local benefits and are led by local people – and activities can include generating renewable energy, efficiency measures and initiatives supporting greener environmental behaviour.

The first of these events will be a workshop delivered by community energy practitioners presently delivering energy efficiency, generation and educational projects across London.

Upcoming Events

1. Introduction to community energy
2. Explainer: developing a solar project
3. Explainer: community-led energy efficiency and retrofit
4. Site visit

Networking

Community Energy London

Thank you for joining us.

CEL's next monthly meeting will be on Thursday 30th July 2026. Details will be published shortly.

If you have any questions please email katherine@communityenergy.london

Please join our mailing list here.
Part of a group that isn't yet a member? Join us!

Follow us on social media: Twitter | LinkedIn | YouTube

Community
Energy
London