

RISE

Retrofit information,
support & expertise

Retrofit Success Stories: Unlocking shared solar power for flats in Lewisham

Case study

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Retrofit Success Stories

This series aims to explore the individual stories and experiences of successful retrofit projects from the perspective of key suppliers. This covers a range of themes from technology use through renewable energy and low carbon heating to the career progression and skill development that projects are enabling.

Introduction

This **Retrofit Success Stories case study** highlights how **Allume** supported **Lewisham Borough Council** in deploying its **SolShare technology** across flats as part of **Wave 2.1 of the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF)**. To gain deeper insight into the motivations, experiences, and lessons learned from delivering Government-funded retrofit projects, we spoke with two Allume team members, Ramin and Jack, who shared their reflections on implementing SolShare within large-scale social housing programmes.

Jack Taylor, Allume Energy's General Manager for Europe, plays a central role in developing the SolShare offer and leading its expansion into the European market. With a background in engineering, recruitment, and startup innovation, he joined Allume driven by a commitment to delivering technology that benefits both people and the planet.

Ramin Hakimov, Allume's Head of Business Development, brings over a decade of experience in the renewables sector, spanning EV charging and green energy. As the first employee of Allume UK, he has been instrumental in establishing the UK operation and advancing the rollout of SolShare across Government-funded retrofit programmes.

Background

Allume

Allume was established in 2015 and is headquartered in Melbourne, Australia. It is now rapidly growing across the UK and Australia.

Allume has delivered their technology on Government grant schemes across the UK including: ECO4, SHDF Wave 1 & 2.1, Warm Homes Wave 3, London Legacy Development Corporation, Green Heat Challenge, Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund in Scotland, and the Optimised Retrofit Programme in Wales.

Allume's vision is a world where everyone can access clean and affordable energy from the sun. Almost 4 million UK households live in medium and low-rise apartment buildings, with the roof space for solar, but until recently with no way of accessing energy generated from it.

The company developed a world-first technology, **SolShare, which enables fair sharing of solar energy** from a single rooftop solar PV system amongst multiple dwellings within the same building.

This technology breaks down the technical and ownership barriers that have historically prevented apartment residents from accessing free, clean energy from the sun.

SolShare

SolShare takes the **power generated from a single rooftop PV array and directs it to multiple flats within the same building.** This behind-the-meter solution makes solar for flats possible.

By connecting behind-the-meter, it **delivers energy directly to each household.** Allowing them to enjoy a portion of their daily energy for free thanks to solar while retaining the right to choose their energy retailer. Classed as a direct connection of solar to flats, SolShare solar systems qualify for the maximum SAP uplift, and almost always achieve an EPC uplift of at least one band.

The SolShare monitoring portal, SolCentre, provides the Council with access to live data showing the impact of the retrofit and residents' bill savings. Automated performance reports are sent directly to them, including alerts for system faults and overuse, all fully compliant with GDPR.

Lewisham Wave 2.1 Project

Under Wave 2.1 of the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) programme, Lewisham Borough Council received £2.65m in grant funding and provided £5.8m in co-funding to embark on an ambitious retrofit programme targeting hard to treat properties.

This involved **treating 275 homes across the Borough of Lewisham, with the aim of upscaling to get all of the Council's housing stock carbon neutral by 2030.** The measures installed in the wider programme included Cavity Wall Insulation, Roof and Loft Insulation, Underfloor Insulation, Solar PV, Heating Controls, Ventilation, Doors, and Single Glazing Replacement.

Among the properties treated was The Hermitage, a 1940s Art Deco block of 28 flats located in a conservation area. Energy-efficiency improvements for this building included the **installation of 100 solar PV panels on the roof and 3 SolShare solar systems installed by Allume UK.**

Jack and Ramin's personal motivation

At the heart of Jack and Ramin's work is a commitment to both people and planet. It begins with a belief that *"we live on this planet, and we need to contribute positively so we can support future generations."* This sense of responsibility is paired with a powerful, human-centred drive: *"having an immediate positive impact on people's lives is what drives me,"* especially when families can *"provide more comfort to their kids thanks to energy bill savings."* The journey has also been built on teamwork, starting and guided by a dedication to diversity and inclusion—bringing *"different ethnicities and different people into the sector."*

Above all, there is a passion for progress and transformation, a desire *"to challenge people in the housing sector,"* Ramin noted and a belief that innovation is creating real game changers. Behind it all stands a deeply personal motivation: recognising that *"the climate crisis is the biggest challenge that we face as a society,"* and wanting to be able to say to future generations, *"we solved the climate challenge, and I was part of it."* said Jack to our team.

SolShare's Impact

SolShare's journey is rooted in a simple but powerful idea: enabling multiple flats to benefit from a single rooftop solar array. As Jack explains, *"Our technology is the world's only hardware solution that allows multiple flats to share a single rooftop PV array... creating a behind-the-meter interconnection between the different flats."* Turning that concept into reality wasn't easy and the team's commitment to safety, security, and technical rigour has enabled them to introduce SolShare to new markets with confidence, transforming early scepticism into enthusiasm: *"these conversations often begin with a lot of questions... but end with a real understanding of the technology and genuine enthusiasm for it."*

The results speak for themselves:

- Local Partnerships queried the reported *"50% bill savings,"* only to find through analysis that the real savings were *"between 56% and 87%."*
- Across early projects, residents typically see *"an average 40% reduction in their electricity bills,"* while housing associations can also benefit financially, gaining *"around £1,500 to £2,000 every year... without taking anything away from the residents."*
- Together, these achievements highlight not just an innovation, but a transformative model for equitable, community-centred renewable energy.

Ramin reinforced this point by noting that SolShare has an immediate, meaningful impact on residents' energy bills, enabling households to redirect savings toward heating their homes and alleviating damp and mould issues. As he explained, the

technology delivers “a positive impact on residents’ bills” that directly improves comfort and wellbeing.

Allume’s involvement in Government Funded projects

Allume’s experience delivering SolShare through Government-funded retrofit schemes shows just how transformative the technology can be for social housing providers and their residents. As Jack explained, their SHDF Wave 1 project used SolShare as the only viable measure capable of “uplifting all the SAP scores and EPC ratings to enable them to achieve the EPCs they needed across the building,” demonstrating its unique value in hard-to-treat housing. Working with housing associations brings clarity and pace, because “there is a single stakeholder making decisions,” unlike private apartment blocks where dozens of individual residents must each consent.

The benefits for tenants have been remarkable, assessments with Local Partnerships showed that:

- Receiving of the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG), the apartments achieve “between 55% and 87% savings”
- Without the SEG, there’s a “40% reduction.”

Ramin reinforced the essential role of Government funding, noting that “90–95% of my sales are a result of these funding streams,” and that without SHDF and ECO4 support, “retrofitting hard-to-treat blocks of flats would not be feasible.”

He also highlighted Allume’s national delivery capability, with “about 250 installers across the whole of the UK... all installed locally by local teams on the ground.” Most importantly, he emphasised the human impact: SolShare delivers “an immediate, positive impact on residents’ bills,” enabling households to direct savings toward heating, which “alleviates damp and mould.” Tenants have seen “between 54% and 87%” savings, achieved effortlessly because “SolShare just thinks for you.”

Specific to Lewisham the value for money has been effective: solar made up “less than 3.5% of the £3.5M retrofit budget,” yet delivered the biggest EPC improvements, boosting flats by “up to 16 SAP points”. Ramin said it “demonstrates how uniquely powerful SolShare is,” outperforming many fabric-first measures at a fraction of the cost.

Looking ahead to future government schemes

Looking ahead, Jack emphasised that the future success of Government retrofit schemes depends on recognising the unique challenges of apartment buildings—and ensuring they are no longer left behind. As he explained, schemes like ECO4, SHDF and ORP must treat flats and houses differently; otherwise, “everybody keeps going for the easier options, and the apartment buildings keep getting left further and further behind,” despite the millions of residents living in poorly performing homes with high energy bills. He highlighted the need to make decarbonising flats more appealing and structurally supported within funding models.

Jack also pointed to the power of data-driven decision-making, suggesting that if a block installs SolShare or similar systems, “one of the criteria is that it has to take the data,” enabling smarter, evidence-based bids for additional funding and allowing investment to be targeted at the buildings most in need. He described this approach as “a really exciting element,” noting that it mirrors forward-thinking policy already underway in Australia.

Together, these reflections outline a clear vision for future Government schemes: more equitable, more intelligent, and more capable of unlocking decarbonisation for even the most complex housing stock.

Link to resources referenced:

[Allume Energy](#)

[How SolShare works](#)

[Lewisham secures nearly £3 million to retrofit council homes](#)

Links to relevant RISE resources:

[Solar Panel Systems](#)

[Installing Shared Rooftop Solar](#)

[Aligning Solar PV within Retrofit Projects](#)

[Support for the supply chain resources round up, 2024](#)



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