

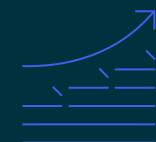
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Useful Projects Practice Profile Funding Capability Services



About Useful Projects

The nature of our practice

Useful Projects put people and business at the heart of area-wide plans to tackle climate change. We bring internal and external stakeholders on board to accelerate the delivery of high-impact tangible outcomes.

We specialise in supporting organisations to develop and implement practical carbon and sustainability strategies and to identify opportunities for innovation.

We have a proven track record through work with major clients, estate owners and local authorities, including Central Bedfordshire, Enfield Council, Hackney Council, UCL and other leading Universities, British Land, Historic Royal Palaces, High Speed 2, The Office Group, BAM Group and EDF Energy.

We are a Social Enterprise and we use our skills to tackle social problems, improve communities, people's life chances, and the environment.

Useful Projects is part of the Useful Simple Trust; an Employee Ownership organisation, that is entrepreneurial in our work and committed to delivering success for our clients.

Our team

Our consultants are a group of highly experienced practitioners with backgrounds in engineering, architecture, environment and sustainability, design, property development, business consultancy, fundraising and communications.

We work very closely with our sister company Expedition Engineering to develop carbon strategies for buildings and masterplans.

Together we are valued for our strategic insight into complex issues, technical insight, understanding of organisations and change management processes and ability to deliver projects in an engaging way.

Becoming carbon neutral with limited budget

In 2019, 245 local authorities in the UK declared a climate emergency, recognising the critical necessity to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and deliver sustainable development.

As local authorities develop strategies and action plans to meet their climate emergency pledges, many are wondering how they will fund these ambitions.

Thanks to our funding and fundraising expertise, we can assist local authorities in accelerating their transition to a low-carbon economy, in embedding sustainability and carbon neutrality within organisational processes, and in developing strategies and action plans that are ambitious, innovative, and financially-feasible.

We can help our clients ensure they align their sustainability strategy and carbon neutral plans with their existing budgets and maximise the use of existing resources as well as capitalise on innovative financing, alternative delivery models and external financial support available.

This portfolio provides an overview of our capability in this area, highlighting key services, example projects and CVs of key staff.

Funding and financing services

We help our clients with:

- Whole-life costing;
- Costing identified sustainability opportunities;
- Costing different energy options;
- Setting up carbon offset payment mechanisms;
- Cost and carbon decision-making tool;
- Reviewing capital and revenue funding streams;
- Budget alignment;
- Fundraising opportunity identification;
- Business case development
- Case for support development;
- Funding options advice and application support including for HIF, HNET, DEEP, MEFF, Innovate UK, BEIS; ERDF.
- Alternative delivery and financing models proposals.



We are based in the Clove Building, where we recently achieved a SKA gold for our sustainable office refurbishment.

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Relevant Experience



Central Bedfordshire Council

Costing sustainability opportunities



Central Bedfordshire is a hub of thriving market towns at the heart of the UK's motorway, rail and air networks, only 30 minutes from London. Substantial growth is planned for the area – the new Local Plan includes provisions for 20,000-30,000 new homes and 24,000 new jobs up to 2035. Central Bedfordshire Council wants growth to be sustainable, has prioritised climate action and is now aiming to demonstrate leadership for sustainable development in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

To support this ambition, Useful Projects has been commissioned to develop an innovative and creative Sustainability Plan for 2020-2030.

To ensure the Sustainability Plan can be delivered Useful Project is costing the sustainability opportunities identified for the council and area. We are exploring alternative delivery models and financing options to allow the council to realise its sustainability ambitions.

Sunderland Riverside

Funding support



Useful Projects is working with Igloo and Sunderland City Council on Riverside Sunderland, a major redevelopment project.

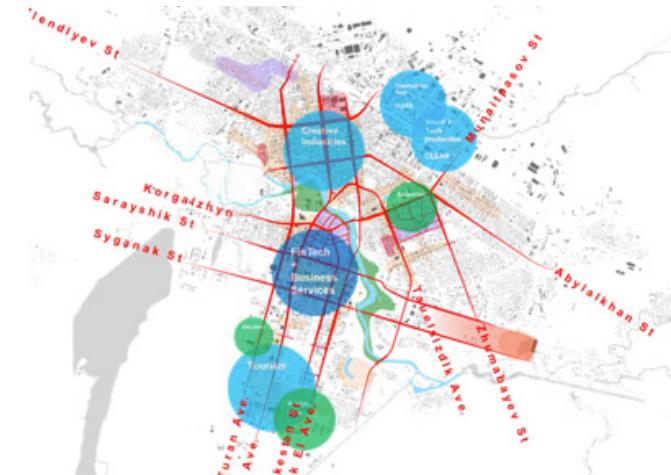
We have been commissioned to develop the sustainability vision and framework for the project. Riverside Sunderland aims to become a climate and carbon positive development. The regeneration project presents an opportunity to build and retain talent within the city.

As part of this work, we are supporting the council and Igloo in bidding for a Sustainable Urban Development (ERDF) fund that would fund the delivery of the first phase of housing (Vaux West).

We have helped refined which project best fits with the funding call and requirements and have costed various options. We are also helping the council and Igloo write the funding application.

Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

Funding Opportunity Identification



Expedition, Useful Projects' sister company, worked with Space Syntax on developing the 2030 vision (and associated masterplan) for Nur-Sultan. As part of developing the strategic design and vision for the city, Useful Projects support its sister company by providing policy and funding advisory services.

Useful Projects identified policies necessary to enable sustainable zero-carbon development in the area. We produced several policy maps. As part of these policies, we identified financial policies and regulations that would be required to enable low-carbon growth and other policies that would attract investments in the area.

We also produced a funding opportunity database providing our client with national and international funding opportunities available. Using our fundraising expertise, we mapped the next steps for our client to build its funding capacity and apply for grants. Useful Projects also promoted the use of blended finance for the area.

Woodberry Down, Hackney

HIF HNET funding applications and alternative delivery models



Useful Project's sister company Expedition was appointed by Hackney Council to review Berkeley Homes' proposals for a CHP and District Heat Network at Woodberry Down. Residents questioned the scheme, since other district schemes have not delivered affordable and reliable heat.

Expedition reviewed the current design and suitability of the scheme, researched emerging trends that would impact the design of the heat network, and looked at alternative delivery and operation models.

Expedition was interested in finding a delivery model that would better service and protect community interests. Expedition looked at private models, wholly publicly owned and hybrid models. For each of these models, various financing options were also explored.

Additionally, Expedition assisted Hackney Council with their HIF and HNET applications, providing supporting information, attending meetings, and costing various elements in the scheme.

Southall Waterside

Costing and delivery models for energy infrastructure



Southall Waterside is a major mixed-use development being delivered by Berkeley Homes on a 45 hectare site in Southall, West London.

Expedition provided a number of engineering services to both buildings and masterplan to drive down construction costs and time, ease sign-off, reduce risks and increase value.

In developing the site's energy strategy, Expedition explore alternative to the CHP looking at technology trends and changing energy markets that may influence proposals.

In analysing different energy options, Expedition conducted a detailed costing exercise for all energy options identified. Different delivery models were also explored.

Meridian Water

Costing low-carbon energy systems



Useful Projects was appointed by the London Borough of Enfield to develop the Environmental Sustainability Strategy for Meridian Water.

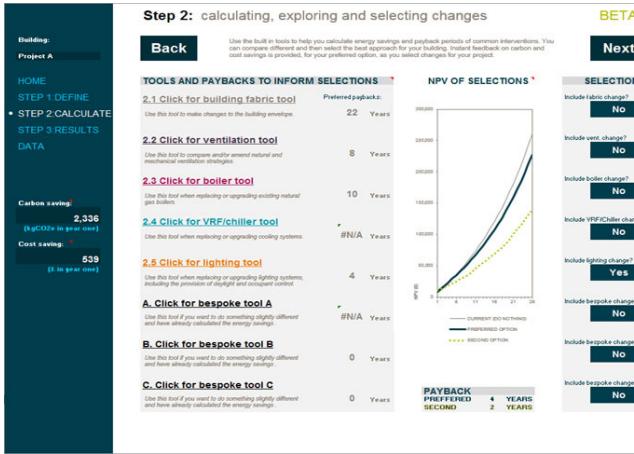
Meridian Water is a major £6 billion, 20-year London regeneration programme bringing 10,000 homes and 3,000 jobs to North Londo, next door to the Lee Valley Regional Park.

In developing the strategy, we provided our client with a detailed costing of different energy options in order to allow Enfield to make the best decisions as to which low-carbon energy system it should choose.

We also performed a sustainability funding opportunity mapping exercises. We prepared a practical funding sheet identifying key sustainability funding options for Meridian Water and identifying relevant case studies. Useful Projects is committed to help Enfield deliver Meridian Water, including ensuring the project is financially viable and deliverable.

UCL

Cost and Carbon Tool



Making sustainable, long-term, life cycle energy, cost and carbon decisions is a challenge for universities and other occupiers of large estates.

UCL appointed us to review the decision-making process and decision support tools they use in the context of their commitment to a 15% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020 while reducing operating costs.

We designed and developed a tool for UCL – the UCL Cost and Carbon Tool – to predict energy, carbon and cost performance over a 25 year period and then to calculate payback periods for small building changes, major refurbishments or even whole buildings.

The tool provides important functionality not offered by mainstream building energy modelling software, features we identified during a number of tool design workshops. Users can compare different options and then select the best, long-term, option for the building, in line with UCL's Carbon Appraisal Methodology.

UCL

Whole-life costing for Estate carbon management strategy



Useful Projects has worked closely with UCL over many years, providing strategic advice to the estate team and supporting the delivery of numerous capital projects, including the Bloomsbury Campus masterplan.

We have developed an energy and carbon management strategy for UCL estate, which identified opportunities to improve the existing building stock and set standards for new building projects. We have also identified efficiency upgrades to existing campus-wide CHP system.

In our role as strategic advisor, we have worked with UCL's cost consultants to develop practical and data-driven cost models.

In particular, we have supported UCL in adopting whole-life costing and have ensured various energy options are properly costed to inform decision-making and future investments.

St Mary's University

Leveraging budgets for the University Estate



Useful Projects worked with St Mary's University, Twickenham to develop their Estates Strategy for the 2017-2022 period.

The Estates Strategy will support the delivery of the University's academic vision, Vision 2025. We worked closely with the Estates and Projects team to understand the needs of different stakeholders and define the qualities of a well-performing estate, before appraising the performance of the estate now and in the future.

Based on this assessment, we developed and evaluated a suite of costed projects to enhance and expand the campus buildings, landscape and infrastructure.

We developed a programme of projects to leverage maintenance budgets to deliver whole-life improvements. It was important to ensure alignments between existing budgets and funding opportunities.

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CVs



Judith Sykes



Position
Director

Key skills

- Highly regarded by clients and peers for her work in sustainable development and infrastructure delivery
- Funding, finance and delivery models
- Collaborative approach to project delivery and design integration
- Working with stakeholders and ability to communicate complex ideas clearly

Biography

Judith is a highly experienced civil engineer with expertise in environmental planning, sustainable design, strategy, funding and delivery models. Her background is in major infrastructure projects and masterplans, having worked on Heathrow Terminal 5 and the London 2012 Olympic Park. On the latter, she developed the case to release £10m funding for investment in energy and water strategies.

Judith is the Director responsible for the practice infrastructure and sustainability master planning projects. She has technical expertise spanning carbon, water, waste, green infrastructure, the circular economy, health and wellbeing and community engagement. She is highly regarded for her expertise in sustainable regeneration.

She works with clients to help develop the strategic direction of urban development projects to realise the long term value of investment. She is currently leading regeneration projects for Sunderland Riverside, Bridgewater for LLDC, Romford Town Centre and Maidenhead Town Centre, where she is providing technical advice alongside advice on funding and delivery models.

For the Woodberry Down community energy scheme, she helped developed a delivery model that would better service and protect community interests. She also assisted Hackney Council with their HIF and HNET applications, providing supporting information, attending meetings, and costing various elements in the scheme.

Judith is currently advising Folkstone and Hythe District Council on provision of sustainable infrastructure to the Otterpool Park Garden Town.

She is part of the winning VeloCity team for the Oxford to Cambridge Ideas Competition run by the National Infrastructure Commission and has recently been appointed Design Advisor to the NIC's new Design Group.

Professional Qualifications and Memberships

- MPhil Engineering for Sustainable Development, Cambridge University
- MEng Civil Engineering, University of Warwick
- Fellow, Institution of Civil Engineers
- Chartered Engineer and Chartered Environmentalist
- Editorial Chair, Engineering Sustainability
- Member, UCL Centre for Urban Sustainability and Resilience Industrial Advisory Panel
- Fellow, Royal Society Arts, Manufacture and Commerce

Selected Projects

- Bridgewater Masterplan
- Maidenhead Town Centre Vision
- Romford Town Centre Masterplan Strategy
- Lea Bridge Masterplan
- Engie Rugeley Power Station Redevelopment
- Southall Waterside Masterplan Engineering
- Little Haldens, Gomm Valley Masterplan
- Woodberry Down District Energy Scheme
- 2012 Olympic Park Development Water Infrastructure
- Sunderland Riverside Regeneration
- St Mary's University Masterplan and Estates Strategy
- University of Lincoln District Heat Scheme and Carbon Reduction; London, UK
- Kensington and Chelsea Community Heat Scheme, London, UK
- MK 2050 Density and Sustainability Evidence Base
- Rio 2016 Olympic Park Infrastructure Sustainability Strategy
- UCL Energy and Sustainability Strategy for the Bloomsbury Campus

Dan Epstein



Position

Consultant Director of Sustainability

Key skills

- Recognised as a leader in the field of sustainable development
- Extensive experience on a wide range of developments including Head of Sustainability and Legacy on the London Olympics and Old Oak Common and Park Royal, and advisor on low carbon housing and mixed use projects.
- Funding, finance and delivery models for sustainable development
- Establishing and implementing sustainability vision, objectives and targets for regeneration and housing projects

Biography

Dan has spent over 30 years thinking, designing and delivering sustainable development in the UK and overseas. Dan's strengths are knowledge of the whole sustainability agenda including environmental policy and practice, social and economic value and innovation and how it applies to the development of masterplans and buildings. He has particular expertise in funding and financing sustainability projects and advising on delivery models.

Dan was Head of Sustainability on the 2012 Olympic Park, the biggest sustainability job in the country at the time. Whilst at the Olympics, Dan was responsible for setting and delivering a comprehensive set of sustainability targets for buildings and infrastructure and engaging with different types of stakeholder about the sustainability agenda.

Dan is currently working with Old Oak Common and Park Royal (OPDC), London's biggest regeneration project, to develop the project sustainability approach and drive through its implementation.

He possesses an unusual breadth and depth of experience, having detailed knowledge of sustainability at every level. A common theme linking his work has been the degree of uniqueness – his projects are often seen as extraordinary or trailblazing, turning sustainability policy into real and practical outcomes on some of the biggest and most challenging projects.

Dan has participated in many government and agency panels and regularly gives talks on environmental policy and delivery, urban design, environmental planning, circular economy, green space, health and other quality of life issues.

Professional Qualifications and Memberships

- BSc Environmental Science - University of East Anglia
- MSc Forestry and Land use planning- Linacre College Oxford University
- HS2 Sustainability Panel
- HS2 Design Panel
- London Sustainable Development Commissioner
- UK Green Construction Board Member

Selected Projects

- London 2012 Olympic Park Development
- Old Oak Common and Park Royal Development
- Meridian Water Sustainability Strategy
- Gomm Valley Sustainability Strategy
- Euston Station Vision and Objectives
- HS2 Circular Economy Opportunities Study
- HS2 Euston Redevelopment Project
- Rio 2016 Olympic Park Masterplan Sustainability Strategy
- 2014 World Cup Carbon Footprint and Mitigation Strategy
- Ashford's Future Growth Society
- The Earth Centre

Daniel Raymond



Position
Associate

Key Skills

- Carbon neutral strategy and action plans
- Net zero carbon design and smart energy transition strategies
- Whole life costing and delivery models
- Microclimate and passive design analysis
- Sustainability tools, evaluation and appraisal
- IES Level 5 Energy Assessor, accredited SKA Assessor and BREEAM AP

Biography

Daniel's expertise is in developing sustainability strategies for a range of different development types. His knowledge spans the sustainability agenda and particular expertise in energy infrastructure and low carbon design. A strong technical ability and knowledge of sustainability from first principles allows Daniel to develop innovative, practical and cost effective sustainability and carbon management solutions.

Daniel's approach has ensured a number of successful planning permissions and projects that have won awards for their sustainability credentials. He has worked with University College London for many years providing both strategic advice and detailed design support as they deliver improvements across their Bloomsbury Campus.

His work includes developing a cost and carbon tool for UCL to enable decision making, assisted Hackney Council with their successful HIF and HNET applications, and costing energy infrastructure and developing delivery models for Southall Waterside (Berkeley Homes).

Daniel is on the steering committee for the CIBSE Energy Performance Group and is passionate about developing solutions that respond to recent shifts in the energy market and provide clean, affordable, reliable energy. He is able to appraise whole life cost and carbon of options and champion wider sustainability.

Professional Qualifications

- MEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering with Business Management, University of Birmingham
- Chartered Engineer (CEng) and Member of CIBSE (MCIBSE)
- CIBSE Low Carbon Consultant
- IES Level 5 Energy Assessor
- Accredited SKA Assessor
- BREEAM AP

Selected Projects

- Sustainability and Energy Strategy, Little Haldens Development of approx. 1000 homes at Gomm Valley Energy and sustainability strategies for development of approx. 10,000 homes for Enfield Council at Meridian Water, London, UK
- Development of sustainability framework, outline strategies and microclimate analysis for site comprising 110 homes Sunderland Riverside, UK
- Energy strategy for development of 600 homes on former Olympics site, Bridgewater, London, UK
- Sustainability and Energy Strategy, Seaton Carew Affordable Housing Development, Hartlepool, UK
- Southall Waterside - energy strategy for a mixed-use residential led development, London, UK
- Woodberry Down - development of district energy system and setting up a community energy services company for major regeneration scheme of more than 5,500 homes, Hackney, London, UK
- Reviewing infrastructure requirements and developing the energy strategy for the reprocision of Strategic Industrial Land, Bow East, London, UK
- Peninsula Hotel Sustainability Strategy, Westminster London UK
- UCL Sustainability and Energy Strategy for the Bloomsbury Campus, London, UK

Laetitia Pancrazi



Position Consultant

Key skills

- Funding, finance and delivery models.
- Developing area-wide sustainability strategy that are costed, bespoke and holistic.
- Opportunity mapping and costing.
- Developing and implementing carbon neutral strategy and action plans.
- Policy identification and development.
- Stakeholder engagement and capacity-building workshops.

Biography

Laetitia Pancrazi is a sustainability consultant and project manager with particular expertise in developing fundraising strategies and sustainability plans.

After completing her studies, Laetitia joined Moore Kingston Smith as a Senior Associate where she oversaw the development of non-profits' fundraising and management strategies. She advised clients on accessing external funding streams, on developing bid proposals and funding application, as well as on engaging with existing and potential donors.

She then became Director of Research for RHI, assisting environmental non-profit organisations in maximising their societal impacts by improving their fundraising and donor engagement techniques.

In 2019, she joined Public Practice's second cohort and completed a one year placement at Ashford Borough Council as their Sustainability Advisor and Project Manager. She was responsible for the development of the council's carbon neutral strategy and action plan. She developed policies and processes to embed carbon neutrality within the organisation.

Laetitia has expertise in building organisations' capacity to deliver sustainable initiatives. She is particularly interested in helping clients implement holistic sustainable strategies with costed action plans and identified delivery mechanisms.

Laetitia is currently working with Central Bedfordshire Council to develop a costed Sustainability Plan that will deliver multiple co-benefits and harness existing budgets.

She is the co-founder of the Climate Response Working Group, a cross-sector initiative that promotes knowledge sharing and aims to increase the public sector's capacity to respond to the climate crisis.

Professional Qualifications

- BA&Sc Sustainability Science and Society, McGill University, Canada
- MSc Sustainable Urbanism, Distinction, UCL
- MSc Development Management, LSE
- Fundraising Certificate, Institute of Fundraising
- Prince2 Foundation and Practitioner
- EU GDPR Foundation and Practitioner

Selected Projects

- Central Bedfordshire Council, Sustainability Plan
- Team London Bridge, Stakeholder Engagement
- Riverside Sunderland, Funding Bid Development
- Nur Sultan, Policy and Funding
- Meridian Water, Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Past Projects

- YES! Magazine, Fundraising strategy and funding plan.
- TMCF, Fundraising strategy and funding plan.
- EIP, Fundraising strategy and funding plan.
- SWV, Major giving strategy and donor database management
- MTA, Funding applications and donor engagement workshops.

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Contact Us

T +44 (0) 20 7307 8880
E info@usefulprojects.co.uk
W www.usefulprojects.co.uk

1st Floor
The Clove Building
4 Maguire Street
London
SE1 2NQ

