Energy Babble

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A workshop

The interior of the Geffrye Museum in London is arranged as a series of historic domestic interiors, including period furniture and appliances. Considering the frequent focus on houses as the basic unit of intervention for renewables, this felt like a useful setting for a workshop for participants and researchers to come together and undertake a series of activities that would motivate and inform subsequent project activity.

The workshop began with a speed dating session, where participants had a chance to introduce themselves to each other, and hear something about one another’s backgrounds. There followed a set of activities, including mapping an imaginary energy community, drawing domestic energy stories as floor plans, and writing hypothetical newspaper front pages. The day was concluded with the distribution of probe packs to attendees, to be taken away, used, and returned.

To further explain our approach, and get to know the communities better, we hosted a
workshop in which we asked participants to engage with a series of playful tasks as a way
Floorplans and stamps were used to create diagrams that represented domestic energy events in relation to particular emotions.
involving energy in their home, had them produce overlaid maps showing their current and
Imaginary front pages of magazines and newspapers spoke of sometimes dystopic and bizarre futures, imagined communities, and gave them incomplete newspapers and magazines to tell us the
energy news of the future. This gave us a sense of their concerns about energy and