

Sustainability, Social Enterprise and Sharing – What's Law Got to Do With It?

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Introduction

- 9.30 Welcome and introduction (Prof Bronwen Morgan)
- 9.45 Between Activism and Enterprise: research project initial findings
- 10.15 Janelle Orsi, Sustainable Economies Law Centre
- 10.45 Open forum discussion
- 11.15 *Morning tea*
- 11.30 Break-out group session (common cross-sectoral issues)
- 12.00 Break-out group session (imagining coalitions)
- 12.30 Q & A panel debate
- 13.00 *Lunch and chat*

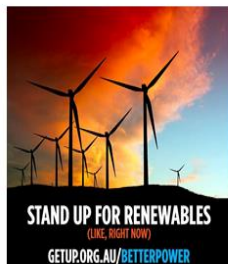
- 14.00 Optional closing 1hr session to consolidate ideas from the morning and distil key points for policy and wider circulation

Spectrum of Activism/Enterprise

Activism



Lobbying for RE

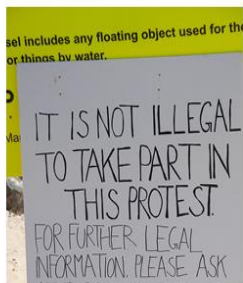


Community-Owned Renewable



Enterprise

Coal Protests



Guerilla Energy Efficiency



Bulk-buy solar power



Commercial Developer-Community Partnership



Multi-national Company with CSR Policy



An overview of enterprise and activism

A chronology of development:

1. initial idea,
2. space to do it,
3. forming an entity,
4. formalisation and external funding;
5. expansion and red tape

But does this have to mean increasingly prominent law and regulation and a loss of the activism and idealism that initially fired the idea?

1. Initial ideas

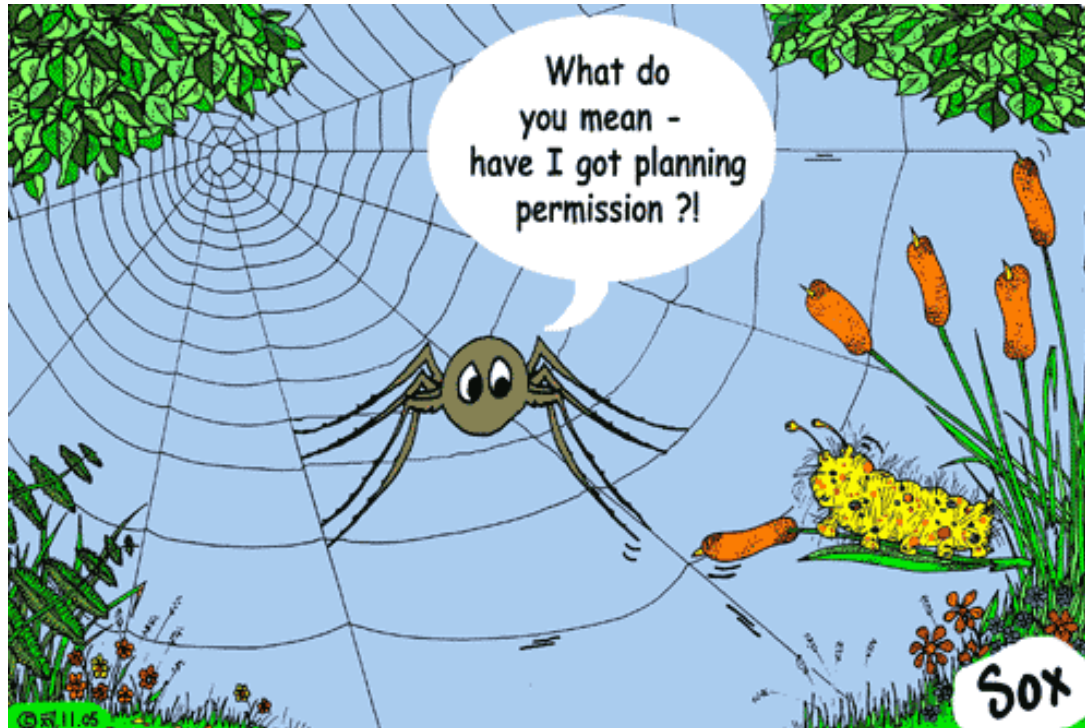
- Finding a social problem
- Seeing a business opportunity
- Environmental and justice concerns

2. Space

- A room
- A field
- A roof
- A workshop
- A parking space
-
- And space to think or experiment



2. Space



- Local bureaucracy
- Negotiating contracts, finding a price

3. Forming an entity

UK

- Public limited company
- Private company limited by guarantee
- CIC
- IPS – now Community Benefit Society
- Cooperative
- Charity

Australia

- Public Company Ltd by Shares & Ltd by Guarantee
- Company Ltd by Guarantee
- Pty Ltd
- Incorporated Association
- Cooperative
- charity

also... Bcorp

Indigenous Corporations

Why?

4. Funding and resources

- Gift v contract
- Community shares (UK) and crowdfunding (Australia)
- Private finance
- Grants – and financial viability beyond them
- Being paid to employ
- Securities laws
- ‘Donation’ investments?



5. Expansion and red tape

- Professionalising
- 5 year growing pains
- Volunteering and employment
- Industry regulation – ‘bolts’ too tight?



Barriers and facilitators

1. Social dimensions
2. Intermediaries and support
3. Policy and regulation



Social dimensions

- Co-operative / collaborative working
- Competition
- Conflict

‘there’s no conflict here, we all love each other’

- Public understanding and buy-in



Vs



Intermediaries and support

- Professional Networks
- Formal co-operative / collaborative relationships
- Support organisations
- Local authority – support and / or opposition

Policy and regulation

- Accessing legal support
- Legal and policy structures
- Impacts of policy and influence



What sort of animal are they?



all sorts of animals – generally:

- *social,*
- *friendly,*
- *clever,*
- *keen to please,*
- *persistent,*
- *adaptable*
- *nurturing....*



Thanks and acknowledgements

- All interviewees
- UNSW and UoB, IAS and Cabot

For more information: <http://activismandenterprise.weebly.com/>



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