



WATCHFIELD VILLAGE HALL GO SOLAR-POWERED



GROUP NAME:

Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust (WeSET), Watchfield Village Hall Management Committee

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:

£16,644

LOW CARBON HUB GRANT:

£1,500

PARTNER FUNDERS:

Westmill Solar
WeSET
Donations from individuals

Image: Watchfield Village Hall with solar panels installed



“ I’m delighted that we have been able to enable this direct benefit to the community following on from the panels we also had installed on the Sport Pavilion. ”

Mike Blanch, WeSET Chair

The objective

To make the roof of Watchfield Village Hall into a clean power station, saving the Hall money on their energy bills and cutting their carbon emissions.

continued overleaf...

The work

Westmill Sustainable Trust (WeSET) and Watchfield Village Hall worked together to install 10.14 kWp of solar PV panels on the roof of the village hall.

WeSET was one of the last community groups to successfully pre-register a solar PV array under the old Feed-in Tariff (FiT) rates, enabling it to generate not only green electricity, but also money to help support local environmental projects. The Low Carbon Hub was really pleased to provide a small part of the overall funding for the installation.

The results - Planet

Over a 20-year period, the solar panels will generate clean, renewable energy. The estimated saving in CO₂ emissions is 4.7 tonnes a year.

- People

There were many individuals, including four volunteers, involved in delivering the project to completion.

The panels also were also one of the 48 participant buildings in the SWELL trial examining the Energy Local idea of how a Local Energy Club would work. A virtual time of use tariff was used to incentivise the sharing of power generated from PV mainly on domestic roofs. All made money paid in the form of Coop vouchers. This led to a trial in Bethesda - Project OWLET – Cyd Ynni – Ynni Lleol - where people actually changed electricity supplier. Many people will benefit from the project though, including the population of Watchfield and the users of the village hall.

The project has also inspired other people in the community to save carbon in their lives.

- Prosperity

The project will save Watchfield Village Hall approximately £30,000 in electricity bills over the 20 years. It is also estimated to earn an additional £30,000 from the Feed in Tariff, that will be used to support WeSET's local environmental projects, further helping the planet.

Learning

The project team definitely recommend the need to have a structural survey done at an early stage of proceedings.



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