



# KIRTLINGTON VILLAGE HALL CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

**32**

pv panels installed

**8277 KWH**

electricity produced per  
year

**£1338**

financial gain per year  
for producing electricity

**4,512.48 lb**

CO2 emissions saved (up  
to August 2019)



“ Sustainable Kirtlington’s Village Hall Green Energy project is an inspiring example of what can be achieved by a strong community spirit, some committed residents and a good idea. ”

Catherine Ryan, Community Engagement Manager, Low Carbon Hub

Read more overleaf...

## The Project

The project got off to a positive start after a successful application for a large grant from the Low Carbon Hub to carry out an initial feasibility study to see if the village hall was suitable for generating its own energy with solar pv panels, and then to help purchase a battery for storage.

The total cost of the project was estimated at £40,000. The community were awarded a substantial grant from Viridor Credits for installation of the 32 pv panels, and the remainder of the funds were successfully raised by the generosity of fellow villagers. A crowdfunding scheme was set up, with some individuals funding a whole panel and others sharing the cost of a panel, making it possible for everyone to contribute.

Several unforeseen challenges emerged during the journey, not least that the roof tiles that had to be removed to make way for the panels were found at the last moment to contain asbestos. They needed to be carefully removed by a specialist team at short notice in order for the installation to be finished in time to qualify for the Feed-In-Tariff.



After much patience and determination Kirtlington Village Hall is now generating electricity which is stored in a battery located in the boiler room. When there is little or no power being used in the Hall the battery is full and the surplus is exported to the grid. The Hall receives payment for all the electricity it generates and exports, which provides a small regular income to offset the expenditure, as well as reducing the electricity bills. The estimated annual output is 8,277 kwh with a total estimated financial gain of £1,338. The CO2 emissions saved from 30th March to 18th August 2019 were 4,512.48 lbs.

There is also a monitor in place in the main hall where visitors can see the production of electricity in real time. They have also built a stone wall and installed two charging points for electric vehicles, which they plan to blend into the landscape with imaginative planting from Incredible Edibles.

## Community Engagement

Kirtlington is a beautiful Oxfordshire village with several listed buildings. Aware that any changes would be a sensitive matter, Sustainable Kirtlington decided to carry out some careful community engagement. Information leaflets were sent out to the whole village and everyone was invited to an Open Meeting where the concerns of residents were listened to and discussed.

Some were worried that the solar panels would look out of place on the village hall roof and in order to take account of the feelings of the community, the decision was made to opt for dark grey solar pv panels to blend in with the existing roof tiles as much as possible. The resulting panels look so discrete that many residents have not noticed them.



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