

## Askrigg Community Energy

RCEF Stage: 1



### Key Facts

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 7 organisations | 6 buildings all in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. 1 x Grade 1 listed       |
|                 | Planning permission in place for solar panels and EV charging.                 |
|                 | No Phase 2 funding. Public sector decarbonisation fund oversubscribed.         |
|                 | Great Partnership working, potential funding for solar and EV charging points. |

### Key Figures

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project size:</b>             | Feasibility                                  |
| <b>Tech type</b>                 |  |
| <b>Private finance leveraged</b> | Payment for heat pumps at West Burton School |
| <b>RCEF grant</b>                | £36,000                                      |

### The Story

Askrigg Community Energy (ACE) is based in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. We were formed to represent all of our community buildings which we wanted to be warm, welcoming and environmentally friendly for residents and users. ACE is seven charitable organisations working together: Yorebridge sports and leisure centre, Yorebridge Education Foundation, Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton schools, Low Mill Outdoor Centre, St Oswald's church, Askrigg village hall and the Yorebridge Foundation. ACE successfully bid for Phase 1 funding from the Rural Community Energy Fund to conduct a Feasibility study. After completion, we missed out on Phase 2 funding. Also, although shortlisted, we also missed out on the Public sector decarbonisation funding for the schools. However, we paid for one school to have heat pumps installed. Also, we got planning permission for solar panels on Askrigg school roof and EV charging points at the gym (publicly accessible) car park. 3 Phase supply is already there for MUGA floodlighting.

### Challenges & Risks

Some local people didn't want money spent on "another feasibility study;" they wanted funding to install environmentally friendly kits in our community buildings! £30K could have provided a lot of insulation, LED lights etc. Small deeply rural communities need to work in partnership to reduce competition for funding. We had 7 organisations /6 buildings including a church in a National Park where planning (especially for solar) is hard to get. Only combinations of renewables, EV charging etc could make a viable case.

### Lessons Learned

It was too complicated to set up another separate organisation due to building ownership etc. Potentially setting up a social enterprise may have helped for future financing. On the plus side, we've educated a lot of local people about renewable energy. Now working with Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership and North Yorkshire County Council we're part of another project to soon install solar panels and EV charging points as proposed.

### Further notes

LEP area: York and North Yorkshire

Link for further info:

<https://www.ynylep.com>