

Monk Fryston and Hillam Community Buildings Renewable Energy Project

RCEF Stage: 1



The Story

A community partnership in Monk Fryston and Hillam, North Yorkshire, featuring the enthusiastic leaders of the Community Buildings, including church, church hall, primary school, community centre, cricket club and football club wanted to show that village organisations working together could make a difference by making their buildings carbon neutral. They wanted to create exemplary buildings, and share their learning with households and other similar organisations. They had no expertise or money to undertake the project so RCEF stepped in and provided a grant to fund a Feasibility Study. Subsequently, the project has made great strides and 3 of the organisations expect to be near carbon neutral by late 2023 or 2024.

Challenges & Risks

The feasibility study demonstrated the project was viable. The challenge was to raise almost £500,000 to implement the bespoke solutions for each organisation by obtaining grants and loans. Planning constraints and the changes to feed-in tariffs meant that building a wind or solar farm was not possible. The study highlighted that grid connections and cable upgrades were too expensive to be considered. A major risk was how we could maintain project momentum if our grant applications failed. We found low-cost ways to do this by using a thermal imaging camera for building surveys and the school pursued and attained the ECO school gold standard despite the lockdown. The school developed a team of pupil Eco warriors to lead the project and involve parents.

Lessons Learned

Every building is different and looks can be deceiving; enthusiastic and tenacious leadership is essential. Transparent, good-quality data and analysis highlight many hidden opportunities to reduce energy consumption. Following the Energy Hierarchy is a must and you never stop learning lessons when trying to do something. These can then be shared with others - there is no need for everyone to have to go through the same learning curve. Being a trusted source of information and data is necessary to build momentum.

Key Facts

Community Centre	PV 7.8 kW and Battery 10 kW External wall re-insulated further. Energy efficiency work soon. Air Source Heat Pump – April 2023.
School	New Heating Controls Replacement LED Lighting Replacement windows Ground Source Heat Pump underway.
Junior Football Club	Portable rechargeable battery floodlights to eliminate travel to train.
Cricket Club	Replace Cesspit with Biodigester – stop transport of waste off site.
Aim	To power Biodigester, pavilion and football club with PV and Battery.

Key Figures

Project size: Tech type	5 churches, ASHP, electric IR heating, EV charge points
Energy Generation	PV 2022 6.14 Mwh
CO2 savings	Potentially 75 tonnes p.a.
RCEF grant	£32,060

Further Notes

LEP area: North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub

Link for further info:
<https://www.mfhcc.com/sustainability-project/latest-news/>
 Monk Fryston and Hillam Community Association