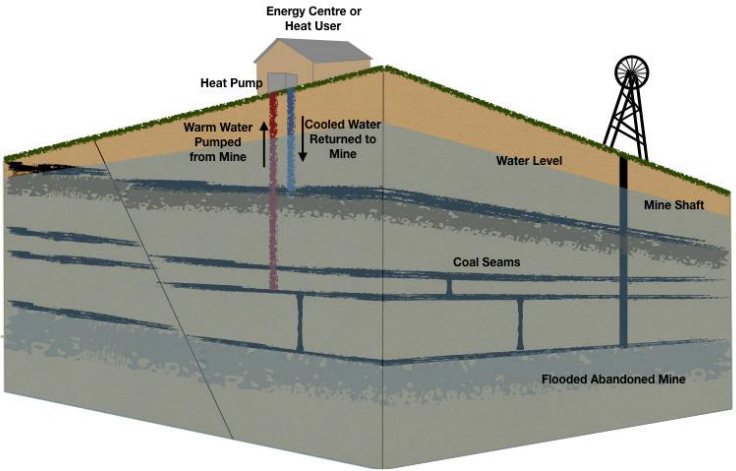


Haltwhistle renewables project

RCEF Stage 2



Key Facts	
650kW	Proposed solar PV installations
3	Number of buildings included
Community benefits	Reduced bills for 2 community organisations. Surplus income from 3rd building reinvested locally

The Story

Haltwhistle Partnership used stage 1 feasibility funds to investigate the potential of three renewable sources to provide energy:

- Hydro-electricity generation in nearby watercourses was not viable, largely due to environmental and cost considerations.
- Heat from mine water could potentially be viable, but the costs of initial capital works are substantial. This currently makes the project financially unviable in terms of potentially available funding.
- Solar PV panels have significant potential for the roof of the Swimming and Leisure Centre, adjacent youth centre and a nearby factory roof.

Stage 2 feasibility, due for completion in February 2023, is refining plans for PV installations at each of these locations.

Challenges & Risks

A community vehicle is to be established to raise finance, install and manage the proposed solar installation to the factory roof with discounted energy supplied to the business and surpluses retained by the community vehicle. This requires full legal and power purchase agreements with the owner. Concluding these agreements is the key project risk. However, relationships have been very positive throughout the project.

Lessons learned

Our initial hope was to progress heat from mine workings, but projected costs ruled this out in the current funding environment. However, the alternative installation of solar PV panels has significant potential. It is important to respond to the findings of feasibility work and progress the optimal option.

Key Figures

Estimated capital cost	£380,000 +VAT
Energy Generation	450,000 kWh pa
RCEF grant	Stage 1: £40,000 Stage 2: £58,320

Further notes

LEP area: North East

Link for further info:
[Consultant required for Haltwhistle Solar Energy project | News | Community Action Northumberland \(ca-north.org.uk\)](#)