

Community case studies: Climate Change Grant

Organisation: Sherfield English Village Hall Trust (SEVHT)

Location: Sherfield English

Ward: Blackwater

Challenge

Sherfield English Village Hall is a small rural hall used by community groups, local residents and businesses. Trustees are always mindful of the hall's carbon footprint, day to day running costs whilst keeping hire rates as low as possible. They had already explored alternative energy use options to try and remove reliance on gas so the TVBC Climate Change Grant was a timely opportunity to help fund the purchase and installation of solar panels. Inclusion of battery storage enabled the hall to offer community resilience during a power outage.

Project Overview

It was found that the Electricity Network infrastructure needs upgrading and therefore SSEN limited their allowed export to the grid. The systems was tweaked and a second battery installed so that the now 'excess' power generated could be better stored for use in evenings or cloudy days as well as increasing resilience. 22x485W, 10kW, solar panels (now relatively cheap so cost effective to install as many as possible), on the south facing galvanised metal roof, a 6kW inverter (largest allowed by SSEN), 18kWh battery storage and an amazing 'Gateway' to manage the system and flip it instantaneously to off-grid mode in the case of a power cut. A 4G dongle allows remote monitoring and control of energy generated and battery storage.

Funding

Three different funding sources were used:

- Test Valley Borough Council climate change grant - £10,000.
- Platinum Jubilee Small Grants - £3,000.
- Sherfield English Parish Council - £2,000

Impact

The solar system with large battery capacity has helped to reduce the cost of electricity bills; even in mid winter electricity costs reduced to standing charge only on many days. An income of £1,000 a year from exported electricity is predicted. They can also now offer the community a safe place in time of need to shelter with lights, a little warmth and a place to charge phones and thus be able to connect to others. The installation of the solar panels had minimal impact and only took 3.5 days.

Where to find out more

You can find out more about Test Valley Borough Council's climate change grant at [Climate Change Grant | Test Valley Borough Council](#).

