




PROJECT: SOLAR PANEL AND ELECTRIC BIKE CHARGING POINT INSTALLATION

APPLICANT: LLANBEDR DC VILLAGE HALL

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED
XXX

LOCATION
LLANBEDR DC, DENBIGHSHIRE

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE
£28,657.50

GREEN COMMUNITIES FUND OVERVIEW

The Green Communities fund, delivered by rural development agency Cadwyn Clwyd, aims to support improvements to outdoor community activities and infrastructure.

Supported through the Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing grant, 30 local areas in Denbighshire, Conwy, Flintshire, and Wrexham have been given support to transform their outdoor community spaces for wildlife to thrive and to create desirable places to live, work and play.

Some groups opted for funding for renewable energy systems, such as solar installations, to reduce carbon emissions and help reduce their fuel bills.

This project has received a contribution from the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) which provides aid for innovative, sustainable, environmental projects, that involve local communities in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).



PROJECT SUMMARY

The Green Communities scheme’s renewable energy refit has ‘completed the jigsaw’ for Llanbedr DC village hall.

Those are the words of manager and secretary of the venue’s committee, Ron Bell, who has witnessed first-hand the major steps taken by the community hub towards achieving net zero.

Solar panels, replacing the outdated ones, have been installed, as has an electric bike point for the people of the village to use free of charge.



OBJECTIVES

The refurbishment was made in order to provide a welcoming space for those who live in Llanbedr DC to enjoy all year round.

Clubs, including karate, yoga, and wooden railways, as well as parties of all shapes and sizes, regularly use the facilities.



ACTIVITY

The final pieces of the puzzle for Llanbedr DC were new and improved solar panels on the roof of the hall and an electric bike charging point.

Thanks to £7,000 from the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, LED lights have also been installed both inside and outside the venue.

The external fittings are Dark Sky compliant, which is part of a government scheme to reduce energy use and the effects of electric lighting on the environment, including night time visibility, skyglow, and conditions for nocturnal wildlife.

The work adds to other recent enhancements, which comprise an outdoor gym, air source heat pump, a rainwater recycling system, and updated picnic areas.

Ron said: "We are carbon neutral, and we hope to be one of the first public buildings in Wales to be net zero.

"It has been a long-term goal of ours to improve all aspects of the venue and the developments have been wonderful to see."

As part of the solar panel instalment, a battery has been included so that electricity generated can be stored for use throughout the day.



"THE LATEST CHANGES HAVE COMPLETED THE JIGSAW FOR US, AND WE ARE THRILLED WITH THE SUPPORT WE'VE RECEIVED TO ENHANCE THE HALL."

-RON BELL

OUTCOMES

"The main benefit is that we are almost self-sufficient," explained Ron. "Our original solar panels were around 10 to 12 years old, so we were due an upgrade, given the improvements in technology since then.

"The new system on the roof and the LED lights installation have also made us more energy efficient.

"Replacing the previous floodlights with motion sensor ones that angle down to reduce pollution has been another big tick on our to-do list."

This project has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.