

Case study:
Enterprise Renewal
Business Grant

Region
Flintshire

Sector
Tourism

Project value
£9,296

MOLD GOLF CLUB

Solar power is driving a green revolution at an historic Flintshire golf club – not to mention a fleet of buggies.

The buggies at Mold Golf Club are a great way of getting around this stunning 18-hole uplands course in the shadow of Moel Famau. But they also use a lot of electricity.

Until recently this wasn't good news for the environment – or for the club's energy bill. Now a 12-kilowatt solar panel system on the clubhouse roof, funded by an Enterprise Renewal business grant, has changed all that.

It doesn't just provide power when the sun is shining. Combined with a battery storage unit installed with a grant from Wales Golf, it stores excess energy that can be used overnight. Perfect for recharging those buggies ready for an early morning start.

"Going solar was something we'd been talking about for a long time," says manager Deborah Barton. "We wanted to improve our long-term sustainability and reduce our energy bills and impact on the environment. But we realised it would be a significant financial commitment.

"It's been a very tough time for all businesses in recent years. As a golf club we're doing very well but we've had to be prudent and prioritise our spending. The Enterprise Renewal grant gave us the confidence to move forward with solar far quicker than we would otherwise have done."

Early signs are that the 32 solar panels have helped reduce energy consumption by 25%. It underlines the benefits of the club's drive to de-carbonise their operation.

"We're trying to be more eco-friendly both on the course and in the clubhouse," says Deborah. "We look at all aspects of sustainability – water management will be the next big project for us in the future. We're very aware of our responsibility to do the right thing."

The club may have been founded more than 100 years ago but it certainly doesn't live in the past. It has one of the largest junior academies in Wales and a strong membership with more young people joining than ever in the wake of the pandemic. They're right behind the solar revolution.

"We've had a very positive response from our members, they think it's the sensible and responsible thing to do and they can see the long-term benefits," stresses Deborah. "It's good for business and a positive investment in the infrastructure here. We like to think we're a forward-thinking club that's happy to embrace change."

