

## Beeding and Bramber Village Hall Energy Efficiency Project 2022

### Let the sun shine down – Solar energy news

Solar power has arrived in Beeding and Bramber Village Hall!

With the installation of a brand new solar and battery system, from now on the Hall will be self-sufficient in its electricity supply for most of the year.

That means the Playgroup will be powered by energy from the sun, as will the Bowls Club, the Pilates Group, the Camera Club, and all the other regular users. If you have a cup of tea it will be 100% renewable.

The new solar setup was officially launched at 1.00pm on Saturday 13 August, timed to coincide with Greening Steyning's monthly Repair Café and Home Energy Helpdesk. Parish and District councillors were there, as well as the Village Hall Trustees, users and others, to celebrate this big step forward in making the Village Hall more sustainable and climate friendly.

Here are some of technical details:

- The system is run by 16 photovoltaic (PV) panels, installed on the south-facing back roof.
- It generates 5.9 kW of power on the sunniest days, about twice the output of a typical home PV system.
- Electricity that is not needed is fed into a battery so it can be stored for use when the sun goes in.
- Any excess power is fed back to the grid, generating income for the Village Hall.
- Super-efficient LED lighting has also been fitted throughout the building as part of the same project.
- Taken together, this will cut the building's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by an estimated 1.9 tonnes per year, as well as saving a big chunk on energy bills.

Plans for the new system were developed in partnership with Greening Steyning and Brighton & Hove Energy Services Cooperative (BHESCo). It was funded through a grant from the Horsham District Council Community Climate Fund, and a family bequest.

If you're thinking of installing a similar system on your home, now is the perfect time to do it. With energy prices going through the roof, and prices of solar kit falling, the economics of solar PV are looking better than ever.

If you would like to see the array and get some friendly advice on costs and practicalities come along to the Home Energy Helpdesk at the Beeding and Bramber Village Hall, which starts at 2pm on the second Saturday of the month, excluding December, same time as the Repair Cafe. You can book a spot through the Greening website :

<https://greeningsteyning.org/helpdesk/> or just turn up on the day.



*The panels going up (Photo: Frank Bull)*



*The system is now up and running (Photo: Frank Bull)*





*Our project completion celebration (Photo : Sally Barnard)*