



Community Energy Fortnight

CBEEG Project

Greener Steps to Make County Durham a Net Zero Place to Live: The Success of the Community Building Energy Efficiency Grant

County Durham is taking significant strides towards a greener, more sustainable future with the successful implementation of the Community Building Energy Efficiency Grant. This initiative, delivered in collaboration between Durham Community Action and Durham County Council's Low Carbon Team, is making a remarkable impact on community buildings across the region.

The BEEP Audit: A Foundation for Efficiency

At the heart of this initiative is the Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) audit. Designed to identify key areas where energy efficiency can be improved, the BEEP audit provides detailed recommendations tailored to each building. So far, 54 community buildings across County Durham have benefited from this comprehensive energy audit, with a further 19 community buildings on the list to be completed.

The BEEP audit evaluates various aspects of a building's energy use, pinpointing opportunities to reduce consumption and enhance efficiency. These assessments cover a wide range of potential upgrades, including LED lighting, improved insulation, heating systems, solar panels, and energy-efficient windows.

Grant Funding: Turning Recommendations into Reality

The transition from audit to action is where the Community Building Energy Efficiency Grant comes into play. Following the audit, 31 organisations have received grants of £5000 each. This funding is specifically allocated to implement the energy-saving measures identified in their BEEP audit.

The improvements made possible by this grant are diverse and impactful. For many buildings, switching to LED lighting has been a straightforward yet highly effective upgrade, significantly reducing electricity usage. Improved insulation helps maintain a comfortable indoor temperature, reducing the need for excessive heating or cooling. Upgraded heating systems and the installation of energy-efficient windows further contribute to creating more energy-conscious environments. Additionally, the incorporation of solar panels allows buildings to harness renewable energy, reducing their reliance on traditional power sources from the grid and lowering their carbon footprint.

A Greener Future for County Durham

The Community Building Energy Efficiency Grant is more than just a funding opportunity; it's a step towards a sustainable future for County Durham. By supporting community buildings in becoming more energy-efficient, the initiative not only helps reduce operational costs but also promotes environmental responsibility.

The success of the CBEEG project highlights the positive outcomes that can be achieved when local government, communities, and organisations collaborate towards common goals. As more buildings undergo BEEP audits and receive funding for energy-efficient upgrades, the collective impact on County Durham's carbon emissions and energy consumption will continue to grow.

In summary, the Community Building Energy Efficiency Grant, supported by the detailed insights from BEEP audits, is paving the way for a greener, more sustainable County Durham. Through targeted funding and a commitment to energy efficiency, community buildings across the region are playing their part in supporting County Durham to become Net Zero by 2050. Although we are taking small steps to change, we still have a long way to go to meet our goals.

