

Waternish Village Hall Air Source Heat Pump and Insulation

Introduction

Waternish Village Hall was built in 1956, and previous refurbishments were focused on ensuring the hall survived the ever challenging elements. The single story building has a high pitched ceiling and was heated by five electric radiant wall heaters and had very little insulation, and in some places no insulation. The hall committee found this heating system was becoming increasingly expensive and inefficient, and so were beginning to consider the options available to them.

A CARES funded energy appraisal identified several options available to the group, and assessed both energy efficiency and renewable energy options. From this the group decided to take forward a capital project to install an air source heat pump coupled with insulation. Other renewable energy options considered included a wind turbine and small biomass system.

This energy project was part of a wider renovation project in the hall of which there were different funders involved, so the group had to consider funding deadlines when making their choice of technology. Another consideration was the maintenance involved with the energy system, as there is no caretaker at the hall. After taking all of this into account, and the fact that the group were looking for a comfortable hall as opposed to generating an income for the hall, the committee decided that they would like to install an air source heat pump to replace the electric radiant heaters. The committee recognised the importance of energy efficiency and alongside the heat pump decided to install cavity wall insulation.

Equipment

Fijitsu E24 Air-Air Heat Pump; cavity wall insulation

Through CARES assistance the group installed an air-air source heat pump and cavity wall insulation. These elements were part of a wider project and other upgrades funded through other sources included:

- double glazed window
- new insulated exterior doors
- cladding of the outside building and new wooden flooring.



Cost and Grant Funding

Total project cost	£10,955.37	The remaining funding was obtained through: LEADER Own Funds
CARES grant	£5,477.68	
CARES grant percentage	50%	

Fuel Bill Savings

As the hall now has a better heating system it is more comfortable, and so usage of the hall has increased. The group are now able to offer a warm facility, and thanks to the new insulation the heat stays in!

Project Monitoring

The group keep a record of their energy bills.

Local Impact

The previous heating system in the hall was aging and was becoming increasingly inefficient and expensive. Coupled to this was the lack of insulation in the hall – meaning that any heat produced was not actually keeping the hall warm for very long! This project has provided the community with a warm, comfortable facility which they are able to run at an affordable cost, meaning that this facility is still available to the community.



Lessons Learned

- Working closely with funders' caseworkers. Always available – particularly BL; CES and; Leader case workers – always able to offer advice beyond their organisation's remit, as well as advice about their own organisation's rules and criteria.
- Working with a project team made up of local residents - learning curves have gone up sharply to improve on this next time.

Madeline Jones, Waternish Village Hall said:

"The biggest success has been in providing such a diverse range of equipment and such warm, cosy, cost effective and environmentally friendly heating system".

For further information, contact:

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