

Community building case studies

Heating system improvements

1

Thanks to funding from the Western Power Distribution Community Chest in 2014, the Southmead Development Trust installed thermostatic radiator valves to improve the control of the heating system in the Greenway Centre – a large community hub in the Southmead area of Bristol. With additional funding from the Bristol Community Building Fund, the metal framed single glazed windows at the front of the building were replaced with double glazing.

The centre operates between 8am and 10pm each day and is open 365 days a year, so disruption from the installations was inevitable. However, the contractors in both cases were very accommodating, working out of hours and around others. Dan Brown, who coordinates maintenance at the centre, said that as a result of the new measures:

“The temperature change is evident – the space with the new windows especially – and the heating is now switched off for five months of the year and on at a reduced rate for four”



Thermostatic valves allow individual radiators to be set at a temperature appropriate for the space they heat

As well as the improved conditions, users have also commented on the improved aesthetics; they feel happier in the space and so use it more frequently.

In addition to energy efficiency improvements, Southmead Development Trust is hoping to install roof mounted solar PV at the Greenway Centre. The early stage of the development is being funded by the Urban Community Energy Fund (another fund administered by the Centre for Sustainable Energy). Activities so far include a feasibility study to ascertain the scale of installation, and community consultation in the area. The centre already benefits from a 49 kW solar PV array and a biomass boiler.



Double glazing has been installed on the front of the building

2

St Martin's Community Hall in Knowle, Bristol, installed new radiators with a grant from the Bristol Community Building Fund 2014.



A well established and trusted contractor was used to do the work over the February half term (so as not to disrupt the pre-school group who use the hall). Volunteers then helped to redecorate the hall. The building is lighter, easier on the eye and the radiators



New radiators and fresh paintwork in the community hall

are smaller and less obtrusive. Users of the hall have noticed that the heating system reaches an adequate temperature more quickly, and switches off via its thermostat, so savings on their energy bills will certainly be made.

Funding information

The **Bristol Community Building Fund** ran in 2014 and provided grants of up to £4,000 to community buildings across the city.

For more details go to www.cse.org.uk/bcbf

Western Power Distribution Community Chest provides grants of up to £1,000 to community buildings in their network area.

Further information at www.cse.org.uk/wpdcc

The **Urban Community Energy Fund** is an ongoing funding stream from the Department for Energy and Climate Change to help large scale community renewable energy projects in England to develop. See:

www.gov.uk/urban-community-energy-fund

...or contact communities@cse.org.uk.



A factsheet on heating controls can be downloaded from www.cse.org.uk/heating-controls

The **Centre for Sustainable Energy** is a national charity that helps people change the way they think and act on energy.



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