

case study



ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Rossendale Borough Council is a small local authority in Lancashire – they were keen to spend some money from their budget improving the environmental credentials of the council. However the project had to generate substantial energy savings and pay for itself. Apollo Enviro was appointed to manage the project from initial conception, through to arranging the installation and final commissioning of a new PV solar panel system.





THE CUSTOMER

Rossendale Borough Council is the local authority for the Rossendale district of Lancashire in Northwest England. It is responsible for services to a population in excess of 65,000 residents. Council operations are based out of the head offices in Futures Park, Bacup.

THE CHALLENGE

The council were interested in reducing their energy bills at the site as well as adding value to the building in the long-term.

After discussions with Apollo Enviro, the council decided Photovoltaic (PV) solar panelling was the best renewable energy technology to meet the needs and limited budget of the council.

Apollo Enviro then went to market and tendered the project with a choice selection of solar PV specialists. The successful bid returned a proposal which ticked all the boxes for the council and thanks to Apollo Enviro's tendering process, was also extremely cost effective.

THE SOLUTION

Work promptly began on the installation of the panels. This was done to the specification of the council who wanted all the cabling to run internally, thus maintaining the external appearance of the building.

The associated transformer and generation metering equipment were installed neatly alongside existing metering equipment in the plant room. The transformer has spare capacity for Rossendale council to add a small extension to the PV network should they wish to in the future. If they wanted to expand further then additional transformers can easily be linked into the existing system; minimising any future capital outlay.



THE BUSINESS BENEFIT

Although the panels were installed during the autumn-winter of 2010 and began generating immediately, it won't be until the summer of 2011 that the full generating capacity of the system will become apparent. It is anticipated the system will generate approximately 2040 kWh annually, contributing to a reduction in the council's electricity bills.

Due to the limited budget the installation is very small compared to the size of building. Despite this, with the current Feed-in Tariff (FiT) available for retro-fit solar power generation, it is anticipated the project will achieve payback in just over 7 years.

Additionally income from the FiT, over its 25 year life, will pay out almost double the cost of the installation – an impressive £23,500.

CUSTOMER TESTIMONY

"Rossendale Borough Council are committed to Carbon reduction, leading by example and implementing energy saving measures and equipment. This includes having PV solar panels installed onto the head offices at Futures Park, Bacup - thereby taking advantage of the Feed in Tariff scheme. The installation was managed by Apollo Enviro and designed and installed by the Low Carbon Energy Company – it was professionally executed by both."

Lee Childs
Energy Officer, Rossendale BC

APOLLO ENVIRO

Parkside House
190-192 Wigan Road
Euxton, Chorley
PR7 6JW

Tel: 01257 239509

Web: www.apolloenviro.co.uk

Email: enquiries@apolloenviro.co.uk

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