

In February 2024 on behalf of Elsenham Community Association the VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme funded an Independent Energy Assessment of Elsenham Memorial Hall. This was undertaken by Groundworks UK, and a Strategic Energy Report (SER) was produced. The SER highlighted that the installation of Solar PV Panels, with associated battery storage, would make a considerable improvement to the energy efficiency of Elsenham Memorial Hall.

The Memorial Hall is on an open area of the Elsenham Playing Field and is not overshadowed. Therefore Solar Panels and Battery Storage system is an extremely efficient method of providing electricity with the bonus of feeding energy back to the grid and providing us with revenue. The battery can be programmed to be topped-up overnight on the low night electricity tariff and excess generated electricity can be fed back to the Grid at the higher daytime tariff. The income generated during the summer months will help to subsidise our winter outlay. We already had the appropriate smart meter installed.

The Building emission rate was estimated at 17.33 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>per year. Having implemented the recommended upgrades to heating and lighting and installing the solar panels the SER indicated that this will achieve an Energy Performance improvement from D77 to A25. The SER estimates a carbon reduction of 1.80 Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide, a percentage change (carbon) of 67%. The Building Emission rate is estimated to reduce to 5.67 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup> per year.

After obtaining 3 quotes and with details from the SER we applied to the Uttlesford District Council Zero Carbon Communities Fund in November 2024. In February 2025 we were awarded funding of £15,000.

Greenscape Energy Ltd. of Ipswich was our preferred supplier.

In April 2024 Greenscape installed a 15KW solar PV system comprising :

29 solar panels, inverters, pigeon proofing, £10,000

Battery £6,000

Scaffolding (23metres of single storey roof) £1,600

VAT @ 0%

Total approximately £17,600.

The installation was done over 3 days. The scaffolding was up for approximately 2 weeks in total.

There will be up to a 3 month delay before we can apply for the Export Guarantee scheme such that we can receive a credit for electricity sent to the grid.

However

In May 2024 our electricity bill was £214. In May 2025 our electricity bill was £31.