

DAPTC Working together webinar - Low Carbon Dorset

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Steve Newman – Town Clerk Dorchester Town Council

www.lowcarbondorset.org.uk



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Today's agenda:

- ✓ Overview of Low Carbon Dorset work with PCs and TCs
- ✓ Why this webinar with DAPTC?
- ✓ Project case studies – with Lytchett Matravers PC and Dorchester TC
- ✓ Discussion of what to consider for low carbon energy projects
- ✓ Question and answer session



Low Carbon Dorset work with town and parish councils

£725,000 worth of multi measure projects with T&PCs in Dorset

Bridport Town Council
Sherborne Town Council
Lytchett Matravers Parish Council
Dorchester Town Council

Additional **£100,000+ of village hall projects**



EU funded public sector funding had caveats on the type of projects that could be funded, they had to be whole building, multi measure projects, so only 4 T&PC projects were funded.

Why this webinar with DAPTC?

- ✓ Future of Low Carbon Dorset
- ✓ Sharing lessons learned
- ✓ Talking through key areas to consider for low carbon energy projects
- ✓ Answering your questions and highlighting some resources



The LCD funding is ending due to the closure of EU funding source. However Low Carbon Dorset will instead have smaller amount of shared prosperity funding, so the technical support officers are remaining with Low Carbon Dorset, but in future will only be able to offer support to SME and community groups, not Town and Parish Councils.

Lytchett Matravers Sports Pavilion

With Parish Councillor Alf Bush



Sports Pavilion was like a mini community centre, a key community site. PC had declared a climate emergency. Quite a few things needed doing to the building, it needed improving as well as improving the carbon efficiency.

Lytchett Matravers Sports Pavilion

Energy efficiency - cavity / roof insulation, doors, windows, LED floodlights, new controls, new plumbing and radiators for air source heating

Renewable Energy - replaced gas boiler with air source heat pumps (air to water and air to air), solar panels, solar diverter for hot water, battery storage



Received grant in May 2021, by end of September most things were in place. Outstanding was the Tesla battery, arrived May 2022. Linking to the grid was managed by SSE, which got eventually was signed off by September 2022. Grant was 40% of the project, remainder paid by PC.

Lytchett Matravers Sports Pavilion

- ❑ Challenges
- ❑ Lessons learned
- ❑ Advantages



How beneficial?

2019/20 – last full year in use prior to the project. £1500 for energy use. Cost per unit increased by 50%, and may go up significantly more again. Last year was just over £1000, FIT >£400. Approx £600 energy bill now. It is difficult to tell which element has been the most beneficial. Solar panels do make a significant difference in the summer.



Dorchester Town Council - Corn Exchange

With Town Clerk Steve Newman



May 2019 Dorchester TC declared a climate emergency and committed to become carbon free by 2030. Did a climate footprint, and identified the Town Hall accounted for over half our carbon emissions. This building is used for a large range of activities. Victorian Grade II* listed building.

Corn Exchange

Energy efficiency - mechanical ventilation heat recovery, LED lighting, destratification fans

Renewable Energy - biomass boiler, solar panels

EV charger (not installed)



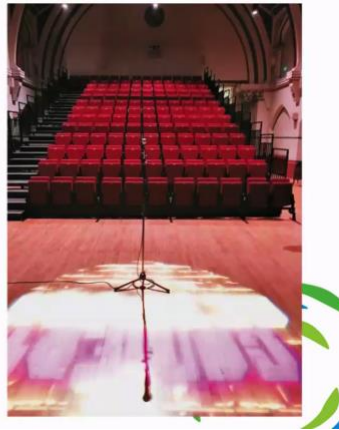
Low Carbon Dorset offered free technical advice in the form of an understandable written report. EVs were in the end not installed due to lack of an upgraded electricity supply, even after an 18 month wait. There were other works including extensions, new roof, theatre improvements, etc, making the total project £2m, with all works undertaken by a single contractor. LCD hugely supportive, including helping to fill in the grant application form.

Corn Exchange

❑ Challenges

❑ Lessons learned

❑ Advantages



Planning permissions – we were told could not put solar panels on a grade II* building, persistently tried to apply and eventually got permission. Covid brought problems, contractors not turning up, increases in prices of building materials.

LCD have to have contracts priced beforehand. As part of a larger project, it was not always clear which parts were clear which were funded by LCD. The single contractor purchased all materials, so it was difficult to identify which were funded by the grant. But using Quantity Surveyors with large spreadsheets meant this could be resolved.

Building much more efficient. Money being saved using woodchip as gas has gone up but woodchip hasn't. Can use biomass to heat another building which the council use. Couldn't have done the project without the technical support and grant funding from LCD.

Council had been saving to reserves for the building improvements for the TC buildings, as council knew the work would need doing in the medium term.

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✓ Discussion of what to consider for low carbon energy projects

With Matt Peukert – Low Carbon Dorset technical officer,
and our PC and TC guests



Advice from Matt Peukert, DC Officer, and then Q&A.

Do cheaper works first, such as insulation, LED low energy lighting and double glazing. Find out energy consumption that is being used. Plug in unit to measure how much is being used by a sockets. Good feasibility study is a good way to start.

Energy management controls to make sure that the energy being generated is being used effectively. Smart controls and PIR sensors for lighting are recommended, as people do not take notice of signs asking to turn off the lights.

Batteries only are cost effective if the solar energy isn't being used, because export is 4p per unit of electricity, but buy at 30p so it isn't cost effective to sell the excess to the grid.

3-4 years ago, if were II* listed, it would be an automatic refusal for solar panels. Dorchester Tc didn't want to put on the front roof of the building. Selected rear roof with a parapet, panels cannot be seen. No reason not to put on the roof except policy. DC seem to have now changed their policy on solar panels on listed buildings. Examples of listed buildings include Athelhampton (Grade I listed), Kingston Lacey, Sherborne Abbey. There may now be options for listed buildings. Conservation Officers are going to issue guidance about listed buildings.

Low Carbon Dorset Technical Advisors are now not able to work with public sectorbodies.

But the advice today is to perhaps make several small changes such a LED lighting rather than heading straight for a large solar array, which may have a 10 year pay back. Another example is not to leave the fridge running with just a pint of milk in. Perhaps consider rethinking energy and how it is being used, and attempting behaviour changes.

LCD advise it is not cost effective to replace perfectly serviceable equipment with low carbon equipment.

A medium term plan is required to plan for significant low carbon projects, saving to council reserves over a number of years to be able to fund such projects.

LCD are thinking about producing a guidance note for P&TC for low carbon projects.