

Abbots Leigh Parish Council

Tackling climate change and community wellbeing with a renewable energy upgrade for Abbots Leigh Village Hall



In 2019, Abbots Leigh Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency. After the 2023 local elections, residents challenged the parish council's climate strategy, asked them about what actions had been taken and it was agreed that more could be done. The parish council successfully applied to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) to install solar panels on the roof of the Abbots Leigh Village Hall.

The surplus energy from the panels will be put back into the National Grid and will reduce the carbon footprint of the building. It is predicted that the panels will generate around 12,600 kWh of electricity per year, saving around 8.8 tonnes of CO₂. This will create a 'zero carbon green beacon' that the parish council can use to engage residents in the village and surrounding area to tackle rural challenges of climate change. The hall is already used by a wide range of community groups and for private and business hire. The solar panels will reduce

the energy costs for running the building which will allow the Parish Council to spend more money to run more community-focused and non-commercial activities benefitting local people.

<https://www.abbotsleigh.org.uk/>