ROUND THREE PROJECTS

Community Climate and Nature Fund

SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED AT WELFORD ON AVON BOWLS CLUB

"The funding helped us to make our decision regarding installation much more quickly. This is enabling us to foresee significant financial and environmental benefits which will allow us to further invest into the facilities for our members and the wider community."

Nigel Gould
Director, Welford on Avon Bowls Club

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Welford Bowls Club installed 60 solar panels on the roof of their indoor bowling hall in the first week of January 2026. The aims of the project were to reduce their electricity costs, and to receive income by exporting electricity back to the National Grid. The £10,000 grant from SDC was used towards the cost of the project, which was approximately £38,000 plus VAT. After evaluating multiple suppliers, they chose to use Stratford Energy, a local contractor. They held several meetings with them before placing the order in November 2025. The main driver of this project came from the Board of Directors.



IMPACTS

The payback period for the project was quoted as being 2.4 years. From then on, the club will benefit significantly from exporting electricity back to the National Grid. The club has seen consumption rates of 100% from solar power every day, apart from two, since 12 May 2026, and on average since spring, the figure has been 98%. Their monitoring app allows us to track renewable energy production from the solar panels. To date the system has produced 24,900 kWh, which is equivalent to a 4.8 tonne carbon saving, or the planting of 292 trees. They intend to record all the data on a monthly basis so that the the full benefits can be shared, particularly during the summer months. The club expect these figures to be significantly higher by the end of the first year of the project. If the project achieves the expected targets, serious consideration will be made about installing a further 60 panels. There were some issues with exporting energy back to the grid during the summer, as their electricity supplier did not allow for energy to be exported. After entering into a contract with a new supplier, this will now be possible moving forward.