



CASE STUDY:

ST. JOSEPH'S GAC CRAIGBANE CO DERRY



What they've achieved:

Green Club St. Joseph's GAC in Craigbane in Derry has been involved in sustainability actions for over ten years. A concern with running costs led the club to examine its energy usage and to take the first step of carrying out an audit of their energy costs and energy usage.

The initial energy audit showed the club that there were considerable energy savings to be made, firstly through clubhouse upgrades and subsequently by pursuing opportunities for on-site energy generation.

The club, with community funding support from the national lottery, upgraded their heating system and carried out improvements to their building fabric, including the installation of double-glazed windows, resulting in a reduction in energy bills and a more comfortable clubhouse for club members and visitors.

After the successful clubhouse upgrade, the Craigbane club installed a 11Kw wind turbine on the club's site, once again with funding support from lottery community funding, which generates electricity onsite for the club. The club also installed thermal solar tubes on a clubhouse building to heat water for showers.

What's next for St. Joseph's GAC Craigbane

The club, which is very active in the Healthy Club Programme, plans to extend its walking track, which is lit with LED lights and lined with biodiversity planting, including native trees to provide shelter, habit and food for pollinators, birds and wildlife. The club is also developing a small reflection garden with wildflower planting.

Building on its successful energy, biodiversity and health and well-being projects, St. Joseph's Craigbane has future plans including new waste management projects, single-use plastic reduction initiatives and further energy efficiency actions, not least the upgrading to LED floodlighting.

Top tip from St. Joseph's GAC Craigbane

If your club wants to reduce energy costs, start by understanding your current energy use. Do an audit, see where your main energy expenditure is and use these findings to identify opportunities energy use and costs.



Read more about Green Club projects at: gaa.ie/greenclub