



CASE STUDY:

DR CROKES GAA, CO KERRY



The challenge we faced:

It was a combination of comfort and costs. The clubhouse was very cold, particularly in winter. Electric heaters were used in meeting rooms and wearing coats during meetings was a regular occurrence.

We also had another issue providing adequate hot water for showers in the dressing rooms. The water-tanks holding the hot water were not sufficiently large enough to supply two teams.

The solution we identified:

We decided to do a full heating upgrade of our clubhouse, including the installation of an air-to-water heat pump system.



The actions we took:

We insulated the wall cavities and increased the insulation in the roof. We installed an air to water heating system, including new radiators. The heating in the building is managed by zonal thermostats that control temperatures in different parts of the clubhouse.

We also installed LED lights throughout. We installed a larger hot water tank to provide adequate hot water for all our needs. Solar PV panels were installed on the roof of the clubhouse, which provide a constant supply of hot water and reduces our electricity costs.

The advice we got:

Máirtín Driver of Driver Renewables provided advice and project managed the entire job.

This was very useful, as Máirtín took all the headache out of sequencing jobs and managing quality control. He also advised on and assisted in completing grant applications.





Funding we received:

We acquired a 50% grant from the SEAI Community Energy Grant, which was a huge help as funding the project was a challenge.

However, we had to pay in full, before receiving the grant and this was something that needed to be managed.

The impact our actions had:

There were a number of impacts – all beneficial. The comfort of using the clubhouse, i.e., that it's always warm, even the larger rooms, means that members are using the clubhouse a lot more frequently.

When more senior members are attending, we can readily increase the temperature in the area they are using. There is a plentiful supply of hot water and as we are producing our own electricity, energy bills are considerably reduced.



Top tip from Dr. Crokes GAA

Unless you have the expertise in your club, getting professional advice and assistance, particularly on the project management side, will take a lot of headaches and potential increased expense away.

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