



SDF SUPPORTS RENEWABLES IN THE FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB

There has been a rural regeneration programme running in rural Lancashire over the last few years resulting in the refurbishment of selected village halls and new build of others. Several of these community buildings applied to SDF for support for their renewable energy schemes including Over Wyresdale, a very large rural parish, centred on the village of **Abbeystead**. Here the committee have installed a [ground source heat pump](#) and underfloor heating system for the centre. This innovative system collects heat from underground using a system of piped water, and through a heat exchanger this then generates warmth for the new building. Running costs of the new building are expected to be low, as this system, combined with good insulation, is highly efficient.

A second scheme was at the small community of **Bleasdale**, which serves an isolated corner of Wyre district. A grant helped the village hall committee to purchase and install a [wood pellet boiler](#), and also to [insulate](#) the main hall roof to reduce heat loss and further improve energy efficiency. The committee decided to install a wood pellet boiler after realising that the existing oil fired boiler was both uneconomic and unsustainable. This carbon neutral system was chosen after a number of meetings with CLAREN, the north west's community renewable advisory project. The committee are very keen to promote the ideals of sustainable development and renewable energy, and hope to educate and involve the wider community with future projects.



Finally in 2005 we supported **Barley** village hall when they installed photovoltaic cells on their roof. This solar system generates electricity for the air source heating system and lighting and cooking use within the hall.



In the Spring of 2006 we supported CLAREN and Community Futures in running a [community renewables seminar](#), attracting groups and individuals from across the AONB. This was a very inspiring event and several groups have since gone on to develop new projects. Later in the year we worked with Lancashire County Council's woodland project to run a seminar on the [potential for wood fuel](#) in the area, and this resulted in the organisation (and SDF funding) of an [IGNITE training course](#). IGNITE is an accredited course for installers and suppliers of wood fuel technology. We attracted 15 delegates, mostly from within the AONB, and hope that in the future we will be able to support a wood fuel suppliers co-operative from the interest developed on the course. Wood fuel is particularly important to us as it enables the improved management of AONB woodlands, supplies local fuel and reduces carbon emissions.

We also supported a further 2 [wood chip heating systems](#) in 2006 – one being a large boiler at the new Slaidburn village hall in the heart of the AONB, and the other a wood chip heating system for a complex of 5 holiday homes in Tosside. We also supported the [wind turbine](#), phase 2 of the Bleasdale hall renewables project.

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