



UK Rural England Prosperity Fund has helped Vale and Downland Museum to reduce their carbon footprint.

Vale and Downland Museum is a museum in Wantage that serves to celebrate and interpret the human and natural history of the local area. The museum holds a number of events and exhibitions including children and family days as well as adult talks and events. They also have a shop, café, and tourist point to serve the local community.

The Project

V&DM have used UKREPF funding to embark on a decarbonisation project for their museum building.

They installed solar panels onto the roof of the main galleries and running a programme of public engagement on sustainability.

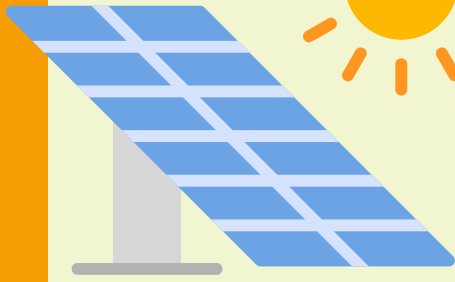
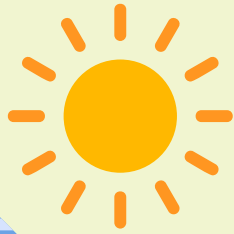


Goals

Improve carbon footprint

Engage local community

Reduce utility costs



The benefits of solar for V&DM

The energy generated by the solar panels provides **75%** of V&DM's energy needs.

Sustainability

Without grant funding, it would have taken V&DM **8 years** to recover the cost of installing the solar panels and see savings.

With REPF grant funding, it will only take **2 years** to see savings.

Savings

This funding is helping the museum stay open and free to visitors by reducing running costs. V&DM welcomed 50,000 visitors last year!

Since the solar panels have been installed, V&DM has seen electricity bill savings of up to **57%**

88% of V&DM survey participants were inspired to take action to tackle climate change. There are also further plans to install a digital touchscreen with a live feed from the solar panels including sustainability information for visitors.



Community

In the future...

UKREPF has opened the door for new decarbonisation opportunities for V&DM. Expect new projects such as upgrading the lighting system, installing secondary glazing and a public engagement programme to highlight the benefits of sustainable initiatives.



Funded by
UK Government



**Vale
of White Horse**
District Council