


Hailey Village Hall – PV installation

Existing or Proposed Project:	EXISTING – COMMISSIONED AUGUST 2002	
Location:	HAILEY, NR. WITNEY, OXFORDSHIRE	
Project Leader:	NAPS SYSTEMS	
Description:	PV array retrofitted onto rural village hall to offset a proportion of the electric bills and to demonstrate sustainable technology	



Background

Naps Systems are a major international PV systems supplier with headquarters in Finland. Aware that the UK government was planning to significantly increase its support of solar technologies, they wished to install a viable demonstration of their product in the UK and to provide training and experience to their own and partner organisation staff. It was felt that a public building installation would not only give this demonstration widespread, positive publicity, but that it would highlight to communities how investing in renewable energy technologies can have an impact both now and for future generations of building users.

Other partners in this project were the Hailey Village Hall management committee, R T Harris and Sons of Oxford (electrical subcontractors) and Filsol Solar (Naps' UK installation partner and distributor).

The Technology / Scope of Project

The PV installation is a typical retrofit system, consisting of twelve poly-crystalline panels. The array has a power rating of 900W and is expected to produce around 800 units of electricity a year (approx 35% of the halls total requirement). The system also incorporates a full data logging system, to provide detailed information on operation and performance.

When electricity use in the building is less than that being produced, it is planned to export the excess back to the grid via a reverse cycle meter. A number of electricity utilities offer competitive tariffs for this type of arrangement. Once in place, this will help to reduce the halls annual electricity bills.

The cost of the installation was met in full by the partners involved with the scheme. The fully-installed cost of the 900W PV system itself is around £5800 and the fully-installed cost of the standard extensive monitoring PV system (not normally supplied) is around £3300. Grants of up to 50% are currently available for systems such as these.



Importance to the Thames Valley

Hailey Village Hall is thought to be the first rural village hall in the country to benefit from this technology and Mr N Read, Chairman of the management committee remarked, "We are extremely pleased with the outcome of the project, in terms of quality of installation and performance. It is a difficult time for rural village halls and we are proud to be seen to provide and prove such initiatives, which we hope many others will benefit from."

Renewable energy installations on highly visible public buildings can have a very positive impact in educating and familiarizing the public to the opportunities that these technologies provide for both their homes and businesses and it is hoped that more public buildings will follow suit within the Thames Valley in the near future.

In addition to the above, this project has demonstrated that expertise in solar technologies is increasing within the region. NAPS Systems UK operations are based in Oxfordshire and the electrical contractors R T Harris & Sons are an Oxford based company. As Mr Bob Harris (Chairman of R T Harris & Sons) noted, "We feel that in this technology, we are seeing a part of the future for local energy generation, incorporating homes, schools and industrial units. All the partners have learnt a substantial amount, and look forward to using this experience."

