



Village Halls Week 2024

Did you know that as part of the Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) Network, Durham Community Action are encouraging community buildings throughout the county to celebrate [Village Halls Week](#) and different ways to 'go green'?

Village Halls Week is an annual campaign championing the work that trustees of community buildings do to make a difference in their community.

This year the Village Halls Week campaign will place particular emphasis on how community building management committees can make their halls more energy efficient and encourage initiatives that contribute to net zero in their community. Village Halls Week also sees the launch of a brand new '[Net Zero Design Guide](#)' to support trustees who want to make their building more energy efficiency and environmentally friendly.

Durham Community Action has been working to support community buildings to make their halls more energy efficient through a variety of projects. The Community Spaces Project and the Community Building Energy Efficiency Grants have enabled DCA to provide practical support to trustees to look at their organisations as a whole, including their governance and leasehold/freehold arrangements to make sure they are ready for those bigger capital funding bids. Trustees have also had access to energy audits so that they can see where they need to improve their buildings through insulation, new windows, or bigger projects such as solar panels and heating systems.

In addition to the support for capital projects we also offer [training](#) to help 'Make Small Steps to a Greener Organisation'. During this session, staff and trustees get together to talk about the small things they do to be more sustainable such as setting up a water butt or taking part in 'No Mow May'. This workshop is ideal for those organisations who want to do more to help the environment but don't know where to start.

Durham Community Action supports staff and trustees of community buildings to help each other through our various network meetings including the [Share and Learn Community Buildings Network](#) and the [Community Growing and Good Food Network](#) where trustees and staff can get together to talk about opportunities, challenges and share knowledge around 'Going Green.'

If you are interested to learn more about how your organisation can 'Go Green,' whatever stage you are at on your journey, please do get in touch by emailing info@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk