



## **Energy Efficiency**

Did you know that there is support available to help community buildings become more energy efficient?

Community Buildings are often warm and welcoming spaces that the community can turn to in times of need. They can be the first point of call in an emergency, whether due to power outages because of bad weather or an increased need for a 'Warm Space' due to a rise in energy bills. Yet, some community buildings and village halls have been affected by recent increases in energy costs and during storms lost power themselves, impacting the support they could offer to communities. Increasing the energy efficiency of these buildings can help address these issues, but it can be difficult to know where to start.

In County Durham there are over 400 community buildings ranging from traditional 1800's stone build village halls to Miners Welfare Halls of the 1950's, and community centres from the 80's and 90's all with their own unique set of issues when it comes to making alterations to the fabric of the building.

The first step for most organisations is to complete an energy audit to determine what efficiency measures are feasible for their building. At Durham Community Action we can support organisations by signposting to information about where to get an energy audit or how trustees can complete an audit themselves. Following the audit DCA can offer further support with planning the next steps, including training and support to access funding, write applications and demonstrate the need for any developments identified by the audit.

Trustees and staff can also benefit from attending the Durham Community Action Share and Learn Network for Community Buildings which are held regularly to connect trustees and staff at community buildings and enable them to discuss the issues that are important to them.

We understand how daunting it can be to start planning capital projects, if you would like to discuss your ideas, wherever you are in the planning stage please do contact us on 01388 742040 or by email [info@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk](mailto:info@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk)