



Case study Venus Cafe

Blackpool Sands, South Hams

RENEWABLE ENERGY 4
DEVON



Introduction

The Venus Company runs a group of beachfront cafés and shops in Devon and Cornwall, they offer high quality locally sourced food and drink. They are winners of the Queen's award for enterprise sustainable development, "Provider of the best alfresco Mediterranean style dining experience in a UK beach setting whilst integrating environmental & social care into every business decision" (Citation by the Queen's Awards Office 2005). During an extension to the Blackpool Sands café, the company decided to look at ways of reducing their environmental footprint.

Project development

- The firm looked at installing wind turbines, photo-voltaics and solar hot water. Solar hot water was the simplest to install with the shortest payback period with little planning implications and relatively little expense.
- The company decided to install a solar hot water panel to produce hot water for general washing up and cleaning whilst re roofing the building.
- RE4D were asked to be involved during the improvement programme. 3 different quotes were found for the solar installations. These were all around the same price and the client chose Eco Exmoor as their preferred installer while also applying for and gaining a RE4D grant.
- Planning permission was granted by South Hams District Council on the new roof of the extension for two solar hot water panels and the client installed the system during building refurbishment.

How the system works

The installation took place in April 2007 and consists of two Tec sol panels 1.5m² coupled to a 250 litre tank that supplies hot water for washing up and cleaning.

Costs and benefits

- Annual energy output is estimated to provide 2056 kWh, based on Swiss tests equivalent to 6 months energy use in an average family home.
- This should save approximately 0.52 tonnes of carbon dioxide p.a. compared to heating oil.
- The whole system cost £4,963 in total including 5% vat recoverable for business to install, Venus Café received £1000 RE4D grant.
- The system was eligible for the 100% ECA Enhanced Capital Allowance, and with the RE4D grant the system should pay for itself in around 10 years at existing fuel prices.

Technical details

SHW

2x Tec sol 1.5 m sq panels

Tank

250 litre tank

Heat distribution system

Resol control system

Installer

Eco Exmoor

Wider benefits

As an award winning environmentally aware food/café company this installation allows Venus Company to increase its green credentials in a visible way.

Environmental performance is important to the Venus Company. The solar installation is an effective visual way to demonstrate their commitment.

Further information

www.eco-exmoor.co.uk

www.venuscafe.co.uk

Contact RE4D

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For independent advice and support

