



RENEWABLE ENERGY

CATEGORY: CASE STUDY YEAR: 2008

Business Details:

Bowland Wild Boar Park
Chipping
Lancashire
PR3 2QT

www.wildboarpark.co.uk



Description:

Bowland Wild Boar Park, near Chipping went down an alternate route when looking to hook up electricity to the site. Previously all power to the site was supplied by a diesel generator. There is no nearby connection to the national grid. So in 2007 two 2 kW photovoltaic panels and a Proven 6 kW wind turbine were installed along with a bank of batteries to store the energy generated as well as associated equipment including inverters. Other green actions being undertaken onsite include using their own meat and produce in the menus as well as for sale – reducing food miles and adding another revenue stream for the business. There is also a huge interpretative and educational focus on the site where visitors are encouraged to get close to the animals and learn.



Economic

Although a significant up front capital cost was required (£75k) for installation, when compared with the cost of getting a grid connection (£100k) going for renewables was the natural choice. Equipment should have a life expectancy of 20+ years with minimal maintenance. Grants were also available to support the cost of installation (£20k). payback periods can be as low as 5 years (or less) for some projects such as wind. Generally PV has a much longer payback period, but in this case because of the expense of a grid connection along with grant assistance the payback period should be much shorter.



Environmental

Apart from the production of equipment, installation, maintenance and disposal, renewable energy technologies do not produce any carbon emissions during their operational life. Using a renewable source means no carbon emissions from fossil fuels. Small scale projects such as this have a very small impact on the landscape also and certainly no long lasting negative effects.



Social

The main benefits are economic and environmental. However, throughout the UK there are a number of community owned renewable energy projects. Sometimes this is part or whole ownership of a wind turbine or farm and sometimes a legacy paid to the community for use of local land by a generating company. Some sites including the parish hall at Over Whyresdale have renewable technologies built in which benefits the whole village.

WEB

Forest of Bowland www.forestofbowland.com
 Energy Saving Trust www.est.gov.uk
 Community Windpower www.communitywindpower.co.uk
 Proven Energy www.provenenergy.co.uk