

Planning for Climate Change Case Study



Settle Hydro

- **Local authority area:** Craven District Council
- **Stakeholders:** CO2Sense, Settle Hydro

Summary

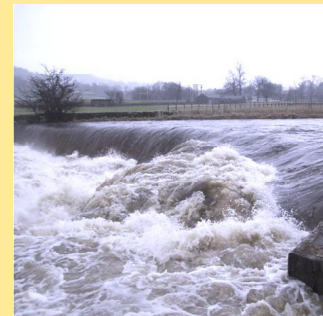
CO2Sense Yorkshire gave £50,000 to Settle Hydro, Yorkshire's first community-owned hydro-electric power generation project.

Background

- The scheme, which began generating power in late 2009, is sited on the River Sett, near Bridge End Mill in Settle.
- An Archimedes screw has been placed alongside the river to generate electricity from the natural flow of the water.
- The system has a capacity of 48 kilowatts (kW).

Method

- CO2Sense Yorkshire contributed a £50,000 capital grant to the overall project cost of £340,000. This was used to fund the purchase of the Archimedes screw and generator. Additional grants were awarded to the project from Yorkshire Forward and Key Fund Yorkshire, along with a loan from the Charity Bank. The remaining funding was met via a public share issue which raised £110,000.
- The Archimedes screw featured in the project is relatively new to the UK, but is fast gaining popularity as it is seen as 'fish friendly'. Fish are able to swim through the system, removing the need for expensive screens, and helping to sustain the Sett's natural biodiversity whilst generating clean electricity.
- The project is owned by Settle Hydro, an industrial and provident society for the benefit of the community. This is organised as a co-operative, with surplus revenue used for local community projects and for promoting environmental sustainability.
- The formation of Settle Hydro is jointly sponsored by StART (Settle Area Regeneration Team), Settle District Chamber of Trade and Settle Going Green.



Result - Key outcomes and impact

- The scheme is on track to generate 180,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of renewable energy every year, enough to supply around 50 households. It is expected to save around 800 tonnes of carbon emissions over the first ten years of operation by displacing fossil fuel electricity generation.
- The income that will be generated through the sale of electricity to the National Grid, which will also be supplemented by the Government's renewable energy incentive, will be spent on projects to regenerate the local area.
- Already the scheme has won four awards for its innovation and environmental benefits, including the 2010 Yorkshire Rural, Yorkshire Post Community Environment and Yorkshire Forward Creating Better Futures awards.
- Most recently, the Renewable Energy Association Community Award recognised the project's inventiveness, tenacity and advocacy in establishing a complex hydro scheme for the benefit of the whole community.

Key contact

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