

Low Carbon Lake District Grants Scheme: Case Study

Levens Village Shop

The Challenge:

Levens Village Shop near Kendal has been trading for more than 85 years. Vanessa Riley and her partner Dave Hughes bought the shop six years ago and it has continued to be an important community asset for local people, particularly during the recent coronavirus pandemic.

However, the pair were extremely conscious of energy wastage. In particular, the shop's chillers and fridges were old and inefficient. This was exacerbated by fridges which didn't have doors on them, so they were open for 11 hours each day (and had night blinds pulled down when the shop was closed). The owners wanted to introduce a more energy efficient refrigeration system as part of a wider shop refit.



The Solution:

Levens Village Shop secured almost £15,000 from the Lake District Low Carbon Grants Scheme (equating to 60% of the total project cost of just under £25,000). This enabled them to purchase four brand new chillers and freezers with sliding doors.

Shop owner Vanessa Riley says, *"I can't stand waste, so this really was an issue which was close to my heart! We used to have lots of smaller, older fridges, so it now makes much more sense to have larger, more efficient facilities."*

“It’s also important to see these changes as part of a wider programme to become more sustainable. For instance, we always try to prioritise local products and suppliers. Another recent innovation is the introduction of a refill station for household goods, using Miniml’s ‘closed loop system’ to reuse and refill bottles and create a zero waste supply chain. It is the cumulative effect of these measures - together with the new refrigeration system - which allows us to have a bigger positive impact.”

The Results:

Refrigeration in retail can make up 60% of carbon emissions, so this project will make a significant carbon saving. According to the CAfS (Cumbria Action for Sustainability) energy saving calculator, the measures the shop has introduced will save 3.8 tonnes CO₂ equivalent per year.

Vanessa Riley, adds, *“We would have struggled to complete the work without this grant. I would encourage anyone who is wanting to make improvements to their own carbon footprint to get in touch. The process is very straightforward and it is a great way to get the right advice from local experts who can give you direct practical help to get things done.”*

[Register your interest in the Low Carbon Lake District Grants Scheme here](#)
until 5pm on Thursday 14 October.

Funding applications are open to a range of industry sectors, including hospitality, manufacturing, retail and transport. It is a chance for both businesses and community groups to be awarded up to 60% of project costs, making the move to low carbon technologies and practices more affordable.

The Grants Scheme is being led by the Lake District Foundation as part of Low Carbon Lake District, with support from the European Structural Investment Fund and European Regional Development Fund.

The **[Low Carbon Lake District](#)** initiative is a comprehensive programme to help tackle climate change in the National Park, working in partnership with local businesses and communities to reduce greenhouse gases and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Led by the **Lake District National Park Authority**, other key partners include the **Lake District Foundation**, the **National Trust**, **South Lakeland District Council** and **Cumbria Tourism**.

Low Carbon Lake District has received funding from the England European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) are the Managing Authorities for European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund funding through the Growth Programme, funds established by the European Union to help local areas stimulate their economic development. By investing in projects the funds will help to support innovation, businesses, skills and employment to improve local growth and create jobs. For more information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/europeangrowth-funding>.

The Northern Powerhouse is a key aspect of this Government’s approach to addressing the productivity gap in the North and ensuring a stronger, more sustainable economy for all parts of the UK. Alongside over €1.5 billion of European Regional Development Fund support for businesses and communities across the North, the government has awarded £3.4 billion in three rounds of Growth Deals across the Northern Powerhouse.