

PENWITH HOUSING ASSOCIATION, DAVY HOUSE,  
TRENEERE, PENZANCE

# PHOTOVOLTAICS



Installation date: November 2007  
Project value: £47,864  
Grant value: £23,932



## Project background

Penwith Housing Association (PHA) was established in 1994 and manages around 6000 homes in Cornwall. It has taken a leading role in providing affordable warmth and is on target to bring all its homes up to the Decent Homes Standard by 2010/11.

With the support of its tenants, the Association has implemented extensive energy efficiency measures to its building stock, including loft insulation, cavity fill and double glazing. External wall insulation has also been fitted in all of its solid walled properties.

PHA was the first social housing landlord in the UK to install ground source heat pumps both in new build (1998) and retrofit homes (2004). It carried out its first installation of photovoltaic (PV) systems to four homes in 2005.

PV was chosen as the appropriate technology to provide electricity and reduce running costs for tenants in Davy House, Penzance. The building was built in 1990 to the energy efficiency standards of the Building Regulations at that time. It was designed to benefit from passive solar gains by orientating all habitable rooms to the south and this presented an ideal opportunity to retrofit a PV system.

## Application process and grant claim

Penwith Housing Association completed the grant application using guidance given on the LCBP Phase 2 website.

The project received a 50% LCBP Phase 2 grant to the total installation value quoted in the application, with balance funding from the Treneere Together Partnership programme. No additional costs were incurred.

Once the installation was complete, the relevant documentation was sent to BRE to be processed and then the grant was claimed quickly and easily.

## The installation

An 8.0 kWp polycrystalline PV system was installed in November 2007 and is estimated to generate 6,000kWh of electricity each year. A display panel was also installed in the community room, depicting the amount of energy being generated. Any excess electricity is exported to the national grid.



Images courtesy of  
Denys Stephens, PHA

"The Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 makes accessing funding for renewable energy technologies an easy process.

I am very grateful to the programme for the work it has enabled us to carry out."

**Denys Stephens**, Sustainability Manager

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