

Photovoltaic (PV) – People’s Park in Ballymena

Ballymena Borough Council

Background:

The People’s Park was given to the town by the Adair Family in 1870. Covering an area of 12 acres it boasts a modern, well-equipped children’s playground, toddler are, floodlit tennis courts, a bowling green and picnic areas. The new pavilion offers a focal point where parents can sit and relax while their children get close up views of the ducks and swans from the spacious outside decking around the edge of the dam. The facilities inside the pavilion include parent and baby facilities, male and female toilets, and changing rooms for tennis and bowls.

Upstairs there is a spacious committee room overlooking the park, which is ideal for meetings.

The System

The PV’s comprise 26 x Sanyo modules and have been completed with 190 modules.

The total peak output of the PV’s is 4.94 kW and the estimated total power produced annually is 4,450 kWhrs. This would typically provide power for:

- 167, 000 slices of toast
- 243,000 cups of tea
- Total power for 1.5 three bed houses
- Lighting for 7.5 three bed houses
- Save 1.9 tonnes of CO₂ emissions



How does it work?

The word photovoltaic means electricity from light. A PV cell is a small energy conversion system that converts the sun’s energy directly into electricity. This is achieved by making use of the properties of semi-conducting materials, such as silicon, which release electrons when they are exposed to light. When daylight strikes the specially designed PV cell, it creates an electric field across two or more layers of silicon, and generates an electric current.

Cost:

The Energy Saving Trust will contribute 50%* of the costs; NIE will contribute up to a further 25%* leaving local authorities to pay approximately £7,500 for the high efficiency Sanyo system that has a 25-year guarantee. This is a unique PV offer for local councils enabling benefits of both bulk discount and a 75%* grant (from NIE and EST).

*Based on the current maximum contribution per kWp.

Useful contacts:

www.niesmart.co.uk
www.actionrenewables.org
www.solarcentury.co.uk
www.est.co.uk

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