

Driving down long-term energy costs and carbon emissions with **Sight Support Worthing**



In 2024 BHESCO partnered with Sight Support Worthing to advise the charity in their drive to reduce carbon emissions from their operations.

Founded in 1910, the charity was set up to support people with vision impairments to live independent and fulfilling lives.

Jackie Brownlee, fundraiser and benefits advisor at Sight Support Worthing, explains how BHESCO got involved with their decarbonisation ambitions.

What got you started on your journey?

Kate and I from Sight Support Worthing attended A Lets Go Net Zero 2040 conference in Worthing. We listened to and gathered information from great speakers & companies that day and made a pledge to commit Worthing's oldest charity to NETZERO2040.

How did BHESCO get involved?

As total sustainability newbies we decided the first place to start was a comprehensive energy audit. After sourcing funding from Rampion Sussex Community Foundation, we were able to engage BHESCO for a bespoke energy audit (BHESCO are an approved energy auditor under the Fund).

Richard from BHESCO came and spent a day at our charity, talking us through his findings and producing us a comprehensive report on the steps we needed to take to bring down emissions.

How did the energy report help with your net zero journey?

The report made our planning much easier and streamlined. Each recommended improvement became an individual piece of work, requiring us to get quotes for and source funding for.

What recommendations did BHESCo make?

Upgrade 1 – The first improvement was the replacement of a drafty UPVC Unit in the CEO Office, which was funded by Rampion and replaced by local glaziers Adur Home Improvements with a Low E coating and Argo filling as recommended.

Upgrade 2 – Following a successful application to The Cockburn Foundation, we were able to bring in a Shoreham based company called DW Energy to install our rooftop solar panels.

DW Energy worked hard to ensure their work was risk assessed for our blind members & their scaffolding safely fitted. James & Simon from DW Energy built such a special bond with the charity that they then went on to complete a 100k Ultra marathon to raise nearly £3,000 for SSW.

Upgrade 3 - Worthing Business Support Programme funded us £3,000 to change all lighting to LED's and replace the fans in the toilets so that they operated with the lighting rather than constantly.

Discussing his experience on the project, BHESCo's Technical Advisor Richard Dow said:

"It was a pleasure working with Sight Support Worthing and meeting their dedicated staff. The energy audit went very smoothly as SSW provided their full suite of energy bills upfront and were on hand to answer our questions about the building.

Sight Support Worthing provide an incredibly valuable service to the local community and BHESCo were thrilled by the invitation to prepare an energy improvement plan. Whilst existing levels of insulation were quite good for a building of its age, we were able to identify lots of potential upgrades to the building, particularly through the introduction of smart heating timers. The roof of the site is ideal for solar panels, which we estimated could meet up to a third of their yearly electricity needs".



Lighting replacement



Solar PV design



Solar PV install