



## **Middlesbrough Environment City Trust Ltd - Re-energising Middlesbrough**

### OVERVIEW

Middlesbrough Environment City (MEC) is an independent charity working to promote healthy and sustainable lifestyles using the principle of 'One Planet Living' - a way of demonstrating how we can all live in a way that ensures that future generations will also have the resources that they need. Each year, MEC undertakes over 40 projects in the community, including home energy efficiency, food growing, healthy cooking, cycling, walking and outdoor play.

Changes to funding and the role of the local authority in Middlesbrough have led to many small charities and community groups taking on the management of community buildings. Clearly, in order to thrive they must increase their income through new activities, such as room lettings and events - but there is also a need to reduce costs, including energy bills.

### SOLUTION

This funding aimed to pay for six energy audits of community buildings, including energy efficiency advice and renewable energy feasibility studies. In addition, the project would also fund energy training for volunteers in six community buildings (a total of 16 people) enabling them to take simple energy efficiency action in their buildings. It would also allow them to identify and apply for funding to implement capital measures to improve their buildings, including renewable energy schemes.

### OUTCOMES

In total, six community groups took part in the project and received an energy efficiency and renewable energy feasibility study for their community centre. The feasibility studies highlighted where energy

saving measures could be made and suggested renewable energy solutions. For example, the studies recommended investing in LED lighting as a low-cost way of making immediate savings on energy bills and one community group did this. Another group successfully secured further funding through a Marks and Spencer community fundraising scheme.

## OBJECTIVES

To support the sustainability of six community-managed buildings in Middlesbrough by reducing energy use and increasing the use of renewable sources, in order to reduce energy bills and generate additional income.

The project aimed to create a whole building energy efficiency assessment, looking at building use, energy efficiency, heating controls, energy billing, lighting and insulation.

## MORE DETAILS BOX OUT

**Project title:** Re-energising Middlesbrough

**Group name:** Middlesbrough Environment City Trust Ltd

**Theme:** Reducing energy

**Area of benefit:** Middlesbrough

**Duration:** 12 months