

# Inspirational Stories - Beccles Lido



Beccles Lido is an outdoor community pool located in Beccles, Suffolk. Beccles is a picturesque riverside market town in the 'Broads'. The pool is owned by a community run company, Beccles Lido Ltd, which agreed to take on control of the pool from the local council for a 50 year period.

The pool fell into disrepair in early 2009, and has been closed since. A group of local supporters, the Friends of Beccles Open Air Pool, have been aggressively fundraising locally, rallying support from the community with raffles, competitions and events. In 2009 over £40,000 was raised by the local community, with support from individuals and businesses.

In order to make the pool more sustainable in future, it will need to be cheaper to run. British Gas' energy efficiency expertise and the installation of microgeneration equipment will enable this.

As part of their nationwide Green Streets project, which sees 14 community organisations get the expertise and funding they need to bring about a local renewable energy revolution, British Gas granted approximately £140,000 in support to the pool's local supporters. While part of this sum will be spent making improvements to local homes to boost energy efficiency, the majority will be spent on measures that will reduce the cost of maintaining the lido – and reduce carbon emissions.

## **Solar Array**

British Gas is installing a solar PV array on the roof of a small building that contains the pool's boilers and technical equipment.

The electricity generated will be sold back to the grid via the Feed in Tariff, generating several thousand pounds a year that will be used to pay for the heating of the pool. Additional electricity generated will be utilized to offset that used in the changing rooms.

## **Smart Metering**

The pool changing room building and 20 local homes will be fitted with smart meters, enabling the pool's users to learn more about the energy that they use and generate.

## **Insulation**

British Gas will insulate the roof and walls of the existing changing room building, reducing heating costs and improving the experience for visiting swimmers.

## **Heat saving pool liner**





In the past, heated water lost warmth through the uninsulated pool liner. British Gas has funded an insulated, heat trapping pool liner that will keep the water for longer – reducing the amount of energy required to heat the pool.

### **Energy Efficient Boilers**

Beccles' old boiler systems were costly to run and inefficient. British Gas funding has enabled their renewal, reducing energy wastage.

Interested in hearing more about Beccles? You can keep in touch with the team at the pool thanks to Project Manager Shaun Crowley, who is blogging updates at Green Streets' dedicated microsite – <http://www.greenstreets.co.uk>