

## Project Delivery Report 1/04/2026

### *Catching the Sun to Save Our Arts Centre*



#### 1. Project Overview

The project aimed to install solar panels at Castle Park Arts Centre to reduce energy costs and improve long-term financial sustainability. As a self-funded charity facing rising energy prices, generating renewable energy was essential to maintaining operations.

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#### 2. Key Dates

- Funding achieved: 26 January 2024
- Project delivered: 20 May 2024
- Campaign duration: 64 days

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#### 3. Funding Summary

- Total raised: £20,998
- Number of backers: 62
- Most popular pledge: £20

##### Major Contributions:

- £10,000 – Cheshire West and Chester Council (largest pledge)
- £5,270 – Frodsham Town Council
- Additional pledge: £4,300 from Cheshire West and Chester Council

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#### 4. Project Delivery

Following successful crowdfunding:

- Three supplier quotes were obtained
- Contract awarded to TB Electrics (Warrington-based supplier)

##### Installation Details:

- 29 Qcells solar panels (405W each) installed
- Total generation capacity: 8.022 kWh
- Covers approximately one-third of total energy usage

##### Technology Used:

- Enphase microinverter system
  - Each panel operates independently
  - Minimises shading impact
  - Improves safety (AC instead of high-voltage DC)
  - Includes rapid shutdown capability
- **25-year warranty** on panels and system

## 5. Installation Layout

Solar panels were installed in two main locations:

### Gardeners Store Roof:

- 14 panels installed
- Mounted using Schletter Fix Pro system
- East–west orientation to maximise generation

### Courtyard Units:

- 15 panels installed
- Positioned on south-facing elevations
- Secured with fencing and protective features

### Not Installed On:

- Main Arts Centre building (due to shading, cost, and maintenance challenges)
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## 6. Operational Decisions

- No battery storage installed
    - Reason: low evening electricity usage
  - System designed for maximum daytime efficiency
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## 7. Impact Assessment

### Environmental Impact

- Generates renewable energy
- Reduces reliance on external electricity
- Supports sustainability goals

### Economic Impact

- Reduces operational costs
- Helps secure the financial future of the Arts Centre
- Enables continued delivery of arts and cultural services

### Community & Social Impact

- Supports a well-loved local arts hub
  - Maintains access to culture, education, and community activities
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## 8. Engagement & Reach

- Over 6,000 people visited the project page
  - Strong community backing demonstrated through crowdfunding
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## 9. Conclusion

The project successfully delivered a renewable energy solution that:

- Reduces energy costs significantly
- Improves long-term sustainability
- Strengthens the Arts Centre's role in the local community

The installation represents a practical and impactful investment in both environmental responsibility and cultural preservation.