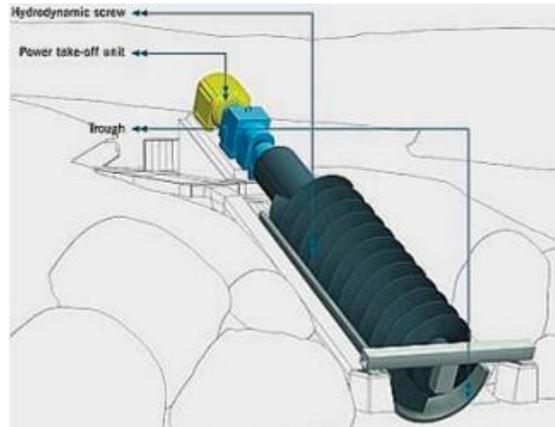


DVCE: Congleton Park Hydro & Solar

RCEF Stage: 2



Key Facts

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Status | Operational October 2023 |
| Landowner | Cheshire East is landowner – LOS provided. |
| Grid | As with the previous scheme, Siemens have expressed interest in a private wire. |

Key Figures

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Project size: | 50 kW + 350 kW+ |
| Tech type | |
| Energy Generation | ~200MWh+ 287MWh (160 houses) |
| Private finance leveraged | ~£1.0M |
| CO2 savings | 88 tonnes per year |
| RCEF grant | £100,000 |

The Story

Having completed the Havannah weir, DVCE now wishes to develop the Congleton Park Weir. Feasibility has previously been undertaken (not RCEF) and I have also completed a site visit. Siemens have expressed an interest in taking a private wire (as per the Havannah scheme). The land is owned by the Cheshire East council which has given a letter of support. Key will be an MOU with DVCE. The grant will be used for lease and PPA legal agreements, detailed design, an abstraction licence submission and planning permission for the turbine house. The solar project looking at a community solar co-operative will be led by a second working group and the share issue will run in tandem with the Hydro scheme.

Challenges & Risks

For hydro the Environment Agency have increased their Abstraction licence application fee from £1,500 to £13,000. This is a major barrier for many schemes as this is 'at risk' money, with no guarantee that the licence will be granted. There are numerous ecological surveys that need to be done to complement to application, but now the fee itself is more than the survey work that also needs to be funded. For solar convincing customers of the benefit of the scheme when sustainable discount rates may only be 25% of 50% of the energy use.

Lessons Learned

Engaging the land owner early, in this case the Local Authority and understanding their requirements is key. They have required a detailed business case and will look to go to tender for the land lease.

Further notes

LEP area: Cheshire

Link for further info: [About Dane Valley Community Energy \(DVCE\) - Congleton Hydro](#)