

Sustainable Duddon Hydro Scheme

RCEF: Stage: 1

Key Facts

Hydro electric scheme at feasibility stage.

1st major project for new community group.

The Story

Sustainable Duddon (SD) is a local community volunteer organisation formed in early 2022, which developed following a greening campaign promoted by Duddon Parish Council. The aim of SD is to promote and encourage small everyday changes for communities around the Duddon Estuary, that can save money, and at the same time, reduce environmental impact. We have several projects – a community garden to provide produce and a community orchard – ongoing. We are also at the early stages of investigating a hydro scheme on a minor tributary of the Duddon. An initial feasibility study is ongoing for this project using funding from RCEF.

Challenges & Risks

Key issues for the scheme are viability and landowner support. If the scheme is viable and supported locally then SD will focus on how to maximise the community benefit and how to ensure that the installation and maintenance is best managed.

Lessons Learned

The potential for a hydro scheme is exciting and challenging for the group. As the SD members have no experience of hydro schemes, advice from a local National Trust hydro scheme about site issues and management has been invaluable as it has an online forum for hydro schemes highlighting the importance of succession planning. The group's connections with landowners have facilitated the feasibility project.

Key Figures

Project size:	Twin jet turbo
Tech type	
Design Energy Generation	40 kW (peak) 150,000 kWh (annual)
Private finance leveraged	N/A
CO2 savings	N/A
RCEF grant	1 st stage £40,000

Further Notes

LEP area: Cumbria

Link for further info:

<https://www.duddonvalley.co.uk/sustainable.htm>