

# EXETER PHOENIX



- Exeter, Devon - England
- Registered charity
- Multi-arts centre
- Heritage building - 1909
- 1 screen

## SUSTAINABLE IMPROVEMENTS:

SECONDARY GLAZING

LED LIGHTING

SOLAR PANELS

RAINWATER HARVESTING

LIVING WALL

# PROJECTS

2015 - opened first **solar powered cinema**  
2017 - added a second array to auditorium roof

54 solar panels on the roof across 2 arrays  
generating 18kW of power  
Funded by **Naturesave Trust** and **Postcode  
Local Trust**

2017 - **LED lighting** throughout the building  
Saving 38 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year with a 2 year payback

Funded by **Exeter Community Energy** and  
**Carbon Trust Business Grant**

2022 - **Secondary glazing** to 40 of 106 single  
glazed, metal framed windows

Funded by **Crowdfunding** - £15,477  
**M&S Community Energy Fund**,  
**Devon CC Community Chest** and  
**Exeter Community Energy**

2023/2024 - **Living Wall** installed & **rainwater  
harvesting**

£16,000 for living wall and rainwater harvesting  
system  
Living wall can save up to 350,000 litres of water a  
year

# TEAM & APPROACH

- 3 members of staff work across the sustainability work of the venue as part of their roles – Fundraising Manager, Finance Officer & Director.
- Finance Officer has some time each week dedicated to researching new sustainable actions.
- The Finance Officer has built on their own interests and has completed all energy audits internally with no formal training, starting in 2018.
- In 2021, the organisation's 5 year plan was decided with the board including environmental impact as one of the key pillars. This marked the start of the Green Phoenix Project.
- The team are always researching and planning potential actions, alongside scanning for relevant funding opportunities, allowing them to be reactive when funding becomes available.



Thermal Imaging Survey conducted on the building prior to the Secondary Glazing project

# FUNDING

- The team have seen the funding landscape change over the last 10 years.
- However, Exeter Phoenix are still seeing success in securing funding and believe their approach of constantly researching and being ready when a funding opportunity arises has supported with this.
- We recognise that they do have a dedicated Fundraising Manager who is responsible for identifying funding opportunities with the time in their role to do so.
- They have had success with Crowdfunding for smaller amounts, making use of matched funding opportunities from the M&S Community Fund and COOP.

## A Window to the Future at Exeter Phoenix

Exeter, Devon, United Kingdom



£12,389

Successful



101 supporters

Share

Need to raise money?  
Get started with Crowdfunder

*“It’s generally just a case of scanning and keeping an eye out for any opportunities that are available and making sure that we are ready to move on a series of viable, well researched, costed up projects as and when the opportunities arise.” - Holly Lawrence - Fundraising & Development Manager*

# BENEFITS & ADVICE

## BENEFITS

The building is a much warmer, nicer environment now, with fewer draughts due to the secondary glazing.

The Living Wall as part of the Rainwater Harvesting system has provided a much nicer visual appeal to the building.

Improving the experience and feel of the building wasn't the original reason for making the sustainable improvements, but it has been a co-benefit to the work.

## CHALLENGES

Finding a balance with accessibility and sustainability. At Exeter Phoenix, accessibility is prioritised.

Unsuccessful funding applications when the team have so many ideas they would love to be able to implement.

## ADVICE

Take time to research first. The team have found resources like Julie's Bicycle and the Theatre Green Book valuable, where a step by step approach is provided. Know that you don't need to start with large projects like solar panels.

Have ideas of projects ready for when funding opportunities become available.

Take the audience with you on the journey and talk about the projects you are doing.

Remember to celebrate what you have achieved!

**Living wall  
installed at Exeter  
Phoenix in 2024**

