



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



The Mix, Wantage



SME BUSINESS SECTOR:

The Mix is a cooperative community space for Wantage and the surrounding area.

PROJECT COST:

£ 3302

GRANT:

£ 826



A crochet class taking place in the new, warmer premises.

“It’s now warm in here! It makes a massive difference to how we can use the space throughout the year.”

JO HARVEY
The Mix

The Project

The Mix offers skills workshops, upcycling activities, resource swaps, repair cafes, meetings and information; as well as hosting hot-desking and local groups. It aims to provide practical ways to live more sustainably and to bring our local community together, so we are more resilient in the face of economic and environmental challenges. The Mix is run by Sustainable Wantage, a non-profit cooperative – a ‘Society for the Benefit of the Community’

The motivation for getting in touch with OxFutures and getting an energy audit was prompted by the cancellation of a couple of events over the winter due to the lack of heating and insulation making it a rather unpleasant environment to be in. Even when using plug-in heaters on full blast it wasn’t a warm space and they knew that by implementing several measures they would be able to change the atmosphere and usability of the space for their community.

continued overleaf...

Where to start?

The energy audit recommended a host of measures that The Mix could install to reduce their energy bills, make their workspace more comfortable and reduce their carbon emissions. Some were zero or very low cost. OxFutures helped the organisation make decisions on what to prioritise and here are some of the measures The Mix decided to go ahead with.

Windows

The three windows at the back of the premises were single glazed and by installing secondary glazing inside the single glazing has reduced heat loss and draughts to help keep the building comfortable in winter. The savings of adding this secondary glazing are, on average, a 10% reduction to heating costs and that heating is 50% of the total electricity bill.

Electric Heating System

The space at The Mix was originally heated by 3x2kW mobile heaters that were switched on when the building was being used. By changing to an electric boiler heat pack system from Scoop Electrical Services, the space is going to be a much more welcoming temperature for users.

They also installed a radiator in the bathroom rather than a heater as then it comes on with the rest of the system and there's less chance of it being left on accidentally.

Other recommendations

There was a range of other recommendations made for The Mix, a number at low or zero cost such as: adding draught-proofing to external doors, updating lighting to LEDs and providing signage. At the other end of the spectrum, one of the more expensive measures would have been to consider adding cavity wall insulation.

Future aims

Unfortunately, The Mix has been unable to install cavity wall insulation due to the walls not having damp proof coursing in the right place and the fact it is a shared wall with another tenant. They would like to be able to install the wall insulation in the future if the current issues are resolved.

The Mix are always looking at ways to make their business operate more efficiently and with the energy audit they received they will have the knowledge to incrementally implement more efficiency measures as and when they are able.

Give the OxFutures team a call today on **01865 246009**, or visit www.oxfutures.org to see how you can save money and energy with a free energy audit and grant funding.