



# Thistles Garden Centre Lincolnshire



## Project Overview

In Autumn 2018, Thistles Garden Centre received a grant to install an 11.73kWp roof mounted solar PV array and an 11kWp air source heat pump. The Centre provides a safe and stable environment where adults with learning disabilities are able to grow produce that is then sold to the local community. It provides these adults with meaningful activities through which they can learn life skills.

### Technology

11.73kWp solar PV  
11kWp air source heat pump

### Grant Value

£35,186

### Community Benefit

£2,995 per annum

### CO<sub>2</sub> Avoided

11 tonnes per annum

## Project Details

During Autumn 2018, Thistles Garden Centre installed an 11.73kW roof mounted PV system together with an 11kWp Air Source Heat Pump on a new building at the Centre.

It is projected that the panels will generate around 10MWh every year. The ASHP will meet the heating and hot water demand of the building. This project was part of a wider redevelopment of the Centre from a number of outdated porta-cabins with no heating to a single building.

A £35,186 grant from the British Airways Carbon Fund funded all the capital costs.

Thistles Garden Centre provides occupation and education services for adults with learning difficulties. Through growing produce, users gain vital life skills, as well as improving self-confidence and independence. Many of the users have medical conditions meaning they are vulnerable to cold. The effective new heating means they will be able to keep coming even in the coldest weather without a detriment to their health.



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### Project Type

British Airways Carbon Fund Grant

### Grant Value

£35,186

### Social Impact:

Vastly improved comfort for all users meaning the Centre can have greater outreach and utilisation, especially during the winter months. The savings made on energy bills all go straight back into Centre to extend and enhance its services.



*"The funding provided by the British Airways Carbon Fund has made a tremendous difference to us. It has allowed us to expand and enhance our services and greatly improved the comfort for our users.*

*All the staff, volunteers and users are very proud of our new building and the solar panels and new heating have really generated enthusiasm for our centre. We're extremely grateful for the support."*

**Liz Judge, Manager, Thistles Garden Centre**

[Pure Leapfrog also acknowledges the work of Greenio in this project.](#)