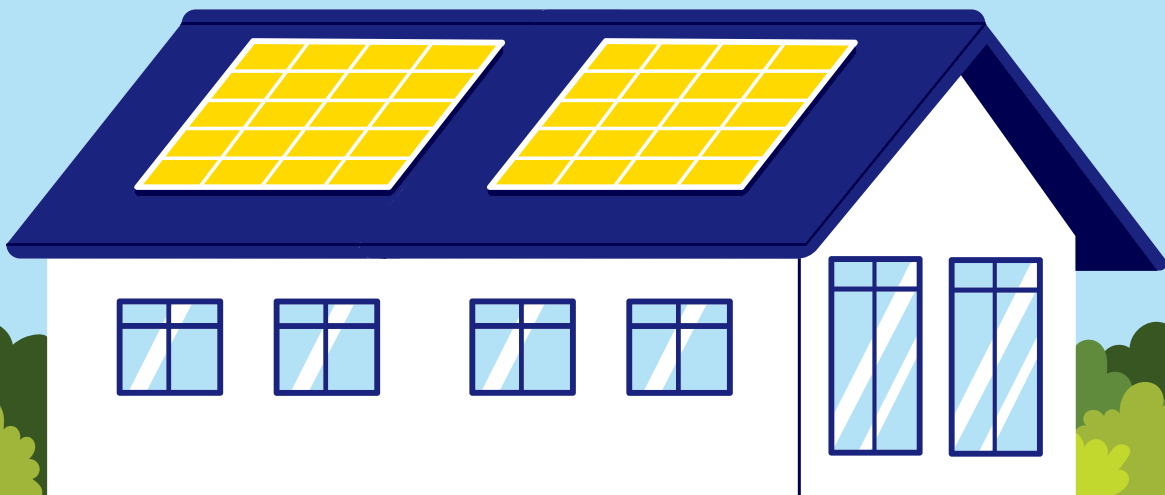




Case Study

Fife Creamery

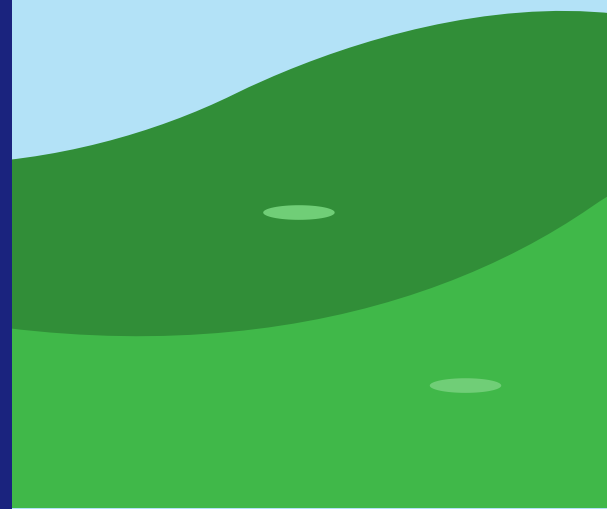


Summary

- **Location:** Fife, Scotland
- **Capacity:** 211 Kilowatts
- **Type:** Solar PV Rooftop and Battery
- **Developer:** Forster Group
- **Owner:** Fife Creamery
- **Panel type:** JA Solar 440WP modules
- **Completion date:** May 2024



With over 30 years of experience, Forster Group specialises in high-quality solar PV and roofing systems, catering to both residential, commercial and public clients. By focusing on sustainability and energy efficiency, Forster Group supports broader net-zero objectives while helping customers cut energy costs. As an industry leader, the company is recognised for its dedication to elevating building standards across the UK through innovative, award-winning projects.



Overview

Forster Group has completed a landmark solar PV project for Fife Creamery, marking its largest installation to date in the food and drink sector. As part of a £230,000 investment to advance Fife Creamery's sustainability goals, the project included over 700 roof-mounted solar panels and an energy storage battery at their Innovation Hub and refrigeration warehouse in Kirkcaldy. This system enables a substantial energy capacity of 211 kilowatt peak (kWp), with future scalability supported by infrastructure for additional battery storage.

Completed in just eight days, the solar installation is projected to save Fife Creamery over £3 million in energy costs across 20 years, while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas emissions—a strategic move aligned with the company's 2040 sustainability targets. Since going live in May 2024, the solar system has significantly lowered Fife Creamery's energy costs, reducing energy bills by two-thirds.



David Simpson, operations director at Fife Creamery, said “It’s incredibly exciting to already be seeing positive results. Forster Group provided fantastic customer service and support. From day one they led our team through every step of the process with knowledge and expertise, ensuring we fully understood the complexities of the system. Not only have they improved our knowledge of renewable energy and its potential, but they have also helped to futureproof Fife Creamery for decades to come.”

Project Summary

Fife Creamery, as part of its sustainability strategy and commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, recognised the value of renewable energy investments for both environmental and customer benefits. As an independent, family-owned company, they allocated over £200,000 to boost their sustainability profile. With a significant portion of energy consumption driven by refrigeration, they aimed for the largest feasible solar installation to offset their energy needs directly. The project has already begun to show positive outcomes, reflecting their dedication to sustainable business practices.

Every solar PV installation, especially one at a scale such as this, always brings unique challenges with it. In this large-scale solar PV project for Fife Creamery, Forster Group encountered an unexpected challenge that demonstrated our commitment to ethical construction practices. The fast paced programme of works was fundamentally adjusted to accommodate the discovery of a protected bird species nesting on the roof with young chicks.



Outcomes

With protected bird species nesting on the roof, Forster Group faced a unique challenge that required a carefully planned approach to ensure both project continuity and wildlife safety. When discovered some of the chicks were still too young to leave the nesting site, as a solution, the team temporarily paused the work giving the young chicks time to mature and fledge naturally. While this led to an unavoidable delay, it was necessary to ensure the safety of the birds and uphold conservation standards.

Once the birds had left the nest, the team resumed work swiftly, having already completed preparatory steps to make up for any time lost. This adaptability highlighted Forster Group's readiness to implement ethical construction practices, even when faced with unpredictable delays. This solution maintained the balance between project needs and ethical considerations, reinforcing Forster Group's commitment to responsible and sustainable construction practices. By adapting to this unique situation, Forster Group demonstrated dedication to both high-quality project management and wildlife preservation, underscoring a genuine commitment to both the natural environment and ethical working practices.

Local and Community Benefit

As a major local employer, Fife Creamery's solar PV installation significantly lowers its energy costs, reducing dependence on market-driven price fluctuations. This energy autonomy enables better financial planning and stability, allowing the business to focus on growth and operational efficiency.

As a key provider of chilled goods to supermarkets in Northern and Central Scotland, Fife Creamery's sustainable energy setup strengthens the reliability and resilience of its operations. By integrating renewable energy, the company not only reduces its operational costs but also contributes meaningfully to Scotland's broader net-zero goals. This commitment ensures a steady supply of high-quality goods to local shelves, reinforcing the regional food supply chain and supporting a sustainable, low-carbon future for the community.



Learn more about what's happening at Forster Group at www.forstergroup.co.uk



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