



## **Exeter Phoenix: Solar Auditorium**

January 2018

Exeter Phoenix is a multi-art form venue located in the centre of Exeter, Devon. We are considered the local Creative Hub – a vibrant and unique arts organisation, rooted within our community, committed to providing this great city with the best the contemporary arts has to offer. This is done through providing courses, classes, concerts, film, dance and visual art for our community to enjoy at low prices.

Our venue consumes nearly £34k of electricity each year. Not only is this a huge amount of money, it is a significant amount of CO2 released into the atmosphere. We were successful in securing grants from both the Postcode Local Trust and the Naturesave Trust to fully fund the creation of the South West's first Solar Powered Auditorium by installing 54 solar panels on the roof, creating a 17.82kWh system. Our auditorium has a large lighting rig and sound system, so this will provide electricity directly to the most power-hungry part of the venue enabling 250+ yearly events to be powered by the sun.

The new system will create income and reduce costs, providing a financial benefit to Exeter Phoenix of over £80k and will reduce our CO2 output by over 143,000kgs over 20 years. The savings / profits from this project will enable us to improve the public spaces in our building ensuring it feels welcoming, warm and inclusive for our visitors. It will help to keep our prices low so our events are as accessible as possible, and will support our financial resilience so we are here for future generations to enjoy. We aim to be a model of best practice for sustainability in the arts. This project would help us to meet this aim, complementing our solar powered cinema, installed in 2015.