



A mobile library running with solar power

The Cultural Service in Somerset provides libraries, arts and information services for the County Council, as part of the Directorate of Culture and Community. These are services that improve the quality of life, promote active engagement with literature and the arts and contribute to learning and citizenship. There are mobile libraries that provide a service to rural parts of the county. The Somerset County Council required a new mobile library and asked for a more environmentally friendly solution. Tri-Power delivered a solar power system to run the library.

Keillor Coach Builders have built up an enviable reputation for Mobile Libraries, Exhibition units and Mobile classrooms over many years so when Somerset County Council required a new state of the art vehicle Keillor Coach Builders fitted the bill. Early in the build, the customer requested that the vehicle should have at least an element of being environmentally friendly. This is where Tri-Power came in.

Tri-Power is the UK partner of the TRITEC Group - the international system integrator in the renewable energy industry - since June 2007.

Following discussions with the technical department at Keillor Coach, Tri-Power designed an efficient power system including a bank of Kyocera KC130 Solar modules fitted on the roof of the truck. Coupled to MorningStar Solar regulators and AGM batteries the vehicle is able to operate most of the time on Solar Power exclusively. In the event the batteries becoming discharged the vehicle can hook up to a landline on its return to base ready for the next day.

The roof mounted Kyocera solar panels provide sufficient power to run the library, along with the staff and public IT provision. The Satellite disc gives quick and efficient Internet connection, allowing the vehicle to be used by other departments within the county.

This multi purpose library also has a one to one interview room as an extension to the open airy cab, also doubling as a staff private area with all the home comforts such as fridge, microwave and sound system.

The Somerset County Council did already order a further vehicle as it is very satisfied with the implementation.

Facts in Brief

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| Installed Power | 1.040 kWp |
| Solar Modules | 8 pieces Kyocera KC130 |
| Inverter | Off grid Mastervolt 24/2500 |
| Regulators | 2 pieces MorningStar PS30M |
| Batteries | AGM Electsol |
| Mounting System | manufactured in house |
| Performance | around 800 kWh per year |
| Operator | Somerset County Council |

Links: www.tri-power.co.uk
www.somerset.gov.uk

More information available at

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