

Are renewable energy systems worth installing? That was the question posed by chartered engineer Dave Tucker at Kyrle Probus Club's meeting on Thursday (June 18th).

Dave, who worked on dams in Africa in the 1980s, is now consultant for WDS Green Engineering, the largest engineering business in Wales, which he founded 12 years ago.

Among the system's 8 elements partly-funded by the government through grants, are solar electricity; ground and air solar heat pumps; solar thermal panels whereby water is heated by the sun; photovoltaic panels providing free electricity from the sun, and hydro electricity.

With the government anxious to help reduce UK carbon emissions, an investment of £6,000 will pay back the outlay within 7 to 8 years, and also provide income for the system's 20-year life under the feed-in tariff scheme. Dave said PV system applications range from new housing – with some new homes featuring in-roof systems – to self-build projects, small-holder barns and office buildings with zero carbon office blocks.

Direct benefits will see an improvement in property values and future-proof housing from increasing electricity costs.

'Are these systems worth installing? We think they are,' Dave said.

Two new members, Ashley Letts and Andy Rogers, were welcomed at the club, which meets on the first and third Thursday of the month at Ross Conservative Club, when members hear talks, sometimes from fellow members and sometimes from guest speakers.

To find out more about the club, visit www.kyrleprobus-ross.org.uk or contact secretary Keith Leyshon on 01989-562884