

Location: Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire  
Budget: £1,200,000  
Date: 2012

# Gamlingay Eco Hub

Community Centre



After a 10 year battle to build it, Civic Architects' Gamlingay Eco Hub finally emerges as the greenest community centre in the country.

Ellis Woodman [BD 4.5.12]



The remodelled Eco Hub presents a catalogue of eco-friendly techniques. Photovoltaics provide electricity, while solar water heaters and a ground source heat pump provide for heating and hot water. The Hub also harvests its own rainwater and makes extensive use of locally sourced materials.

This is an exemplary sustainable community building providing the sort of facilities small communities aspire to, including a library, a large hall for sport and functions, a kitchen, a café/servery, changing rooms, a new dance studio and a Parish Council office.

With additions to the front creating a more welcoming entrance, and a timber-framed Dance Hall at the East end, the centre has increased its floor area by 60% and has further enhanced its sustainability credentials by reusing the existing building, instead of demolishing it.



The original community centre prior to redevelopment.

The design considers the typology of the local region, pitching the new centre between the scale of the domestic house and agricultural architecture. The colours and material qualities of the scheme also draw on the local context and relate to the natural, rural environment.