**Tai Tarian, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council – ORP 2.1**

Solar PV complete with battery storage installed to 22 rented properties in two rural locations

**Background**

Solar PV complete with battery storage installed to 22 social rented properties in two rural locations within our asset portfolio.  Working towards MSC quality targets.  The project commenced in September 2022 and completed in January 2023.

**Project learning**

The contractor was responsible for surveying, designing, and installing the systems, with Tai Tarian providing minimal input beyond ensuring the project adhered to MCS accreditation standards. This reliance on the contractor’s expertise was both a challenge and a learning opportunity, highlighting the importance of working with skilled, accredited professionals.

Once the project began the efficiency and quality of the installations was impressive and the contractor completed the work quickly and to a high standard, with excellent workmanship evident throughout.

One of the most valuable insights came from tenant feedback.  Many residents reported seeing significant reductions in their energy bills, as indicated by their smart meter displays, which showed they were primarily using solar-generated electricity rather than drawing from the grid.  This real-world impact reinforced the value of renewable energy projects, not just in terms of environmental benefits but also in improving tenants’ financial well-being.

Through this project, Tai Tarian gained a solid foundation in solar PV systems, including the importance of thorough planning, collaboration with experienced contractors, and the tangible benefits these systems can bring to residents.

**Project innovation**

The project integrated battery storage systems, which enhanced the effectiveness of the solar arrays. This allowed tenants to store excess energy for later use, reducing their reliance on the grid even during non-sunlight hours.  The system’s along with the smart meter in home display allowed for real-time energy monitoring, giving tenants visibility into their energy consumption and production.  This feature empowered them to better manage their energy use and directly observe the financial benefits through reduced electricity bills.

**Challenges**

On this project we learnt the importance of clear communication to avoid unnecessary delays, and ensuring all major changes are approved beforehand to avoid delays.  Additionally, Tai Tarian strives to standardise the electrical equipment installed in its properties to simplify future maintenance. However, by granting the contractor full autonomy, we missed the opportunity to ensure our preferred equipment was used.  This misalignment highlighted the need for clearer specifications in future projects to align with our long-term maintenance goals.