Florida microgrids united kingdom

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The south-central England village of Hook Norton recently celebrated the launch of a small community-led microgrid project designed to power affordable, sustainable homes that not only have a positive impact on the environment, but on the wallets of residents of the small community.

The Hook Norton microgrid will power a new affordable housing development of 12 homes, as well as several electric vehicle charging stations and a community center.

Built on land owned by the Cherwell District Council, the local government district, the microgrid includes a new 100-kWh battery and a 68-kWp rooftop solar array installed on the new homes, as well as an existing 5-kWp solar array on the neighboring Hook Norton Sports and Social Club.

Homes for Hooky, as the project has been dubbed, is the United Kingdom’s first smart microgrid for less than 30 homes, according to the Hook Norton Community Land Trust (HNCLT), the organization behind the microgrid.

The first residents moved into their new sustainable homes last month.

With this project, the HNCLT is working to solve a local housing crisis by providing affordable homes and a lower cost of living.

Residents will be able to purchase the microgrid’s energy at a reduced rate compared to typical grid prices.

Any excess power generated by the system will be stored in the microgrid’s battery for use during times of peak demand.

Extensive conversations with Hook Norton residents revealed that the integration of innovative, clean energy technologies should also be a priority for the development.

As such, the microgrid is just one of many efforts the Hook Norton community made to rethink the way this new housing development was designed.

In 2020, the community received approval to build 12 Passivhaus homes, a mix of both affordable two-bedroom rental flats and privately-owned homes, all of which are identical in appearance.

Passivhaus (or passive house) homes meet a voluntary standard for energy efficiency through the use of insulation, airtightness, efficient window and door design, ventilation systems with heat recovery and the

elimination of thermal bridges.

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