



At a glance

**Horshader Community
Development, Isle of Lewis**

The challenge

To provide a strong and reliable propagation greenhouse that would extend the growing season.

The solution

SOLARDOME[®] Haven

Dome specification

- 3-frequency geodesic dome
- Diameter – 4.52m/14ft 10in
- Height – 3.0m/ 9ft 10in
- Volume – 36m³/ 1274ft³
- Area – 15.95m²/ 171.68ft²

Community development trust chooses SOLARDOME Haven

Horshader Community Development is a development trust on the remote Isle of Lewis in Scotland's Outer Hebrides. It was established as a community-owned not-for-profit organisation in 2004. After seeing one of our domes at a neighbouring green initiative, their members knew that the same thing would be ideal for their Community Growing Project.

A propagation facility

Horshader members wanted a reliable propagation facility that would extend the growing season, maximise yield and reduce mortality.

This would be the plant creation 'laboratory' that would feed the polytunnels and ultimately feed the people.

To work properly the facility needed unimpeded light all year round, plus the structural attributes to stand up to ferocious Atlantic weather.

So when the islanders saw a Solardome[®] glasshouse at the nearby Great Green Bernera Project, they were immediately convinced it was the best option for them too.

As a result, they ordered the SOLARDOME[®] Haven, which we installed in good time for the 2014 growing season.



About the Horshader Growing Project

Horshader's Community Growing Project is undertaken in partnership with the local authority, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, which has provided funding, as has the Climate Challenge Fund.

The project features four food-growing polytunnels that yield fresh fruit and vegetables for the community all year round. It also provides an accessible covered space for community members to grow their own produce in the form of two allotment tunnels.

The Community Growing Project aims to:

- Cut carbon emissions by increasing consumption of locally grown fruit and vegetables.
- Make better use of underused croft land/common grazing land.
- Reduce social isolation by bringing people together through opportunities for volunteering and working in the community allotment Polycrubs (hard skinned polytunnels).
- Increase healthy eating through the availability of fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Minimise environmental impact through tool sharing and recycling, rain water harvesting.
- Reduce car use.



Site under development

“The Solardome glasshouse is a very important part of the project as it allows seeds to be propagated by the Project Gardener, as well as the allotment holders, in a bid to extend the growing season in the Polycrubs.

“The Solardome team were excellent to work with right through from the initial enquiry through to the after service to ensure that we were completely informed and happy at all times. They gave realistic delivery and construction timescales which meant we could schedule in other work around this. Altogether our experience has been positive.

“Community members and visitors to the dome are totally fascinated by it. Some have visited with a view of investing in one for their own garden, others are just curious.”

Horshader Development Officer, Angela MacLeod,

Stay in touch with the project by following

www.facebook.com/HorshaderGrowing and www.horshader.com

Call us now for a brochure or to find out more about what we could do for your community project.