

Chimney Sheep Ltd:

Grant Amount: £19,867.20

Project Cost: £49,668.00

Design and manufacture of draught excluders for chimneys

Solway, Border & Eden Local Action Group

Support for investments on creation and development of non- agricultural activities.

Local Strategic Priority - Objective 1 – To encourage significant and sustainable economic growth and increased employment, with the full engagement of local people through investing in the growth of small and micro enterprises.

The Applicant

Sally Phillips is the owner of Chimney Sheep Ltd. She launched her business in 2012, manufacturing a new, innovative product that she designed herself. The Chimney Sheep is a unique draught excluder for chimneys, made from felted Herdwick wool on a plastic clamp, with a handle.

Re-tooling is not something that can be done piecemeal. The grant enabled me to invest in the re-tooling, ensuring that my product was reliable.



1.5 new jobs created in Maryport

The Project

The project was to invest in the re-tooling of the components of the Chimney Sheep draught excluder. Sally's product was novel and untested when it was first marketed, and the plastic clamps and handles proved to be unsuitable for the larger models that Sally had begun to manufacture in response to customer demand.

Sally employed a skilled engineering designer to re-design components, carry out stress tests, 3D printing, mould making and batch runs. This cost £49,668. A grant of £19,867 towards this cost enabled Sally to improve and strengthen the product before any detrimental effect to the product's reputation was incurred.

Process

Sally was supported through the application process by the Economic Programmes Team at Cumbria County Council.

Outcomes:

The grant supported a micro-business in Maryport. It created 1.5 new jobs with an associated increase in wage bill and growth in turnover.

The Chimney Sheep is an eco-friendly product. The felt used is long lasting, sustainable and compostable. Recycled plastic and recyclable polycarbonates are used for the handles. And use of the Chimney Sheep saves around 190 kilos of carbon dioxide per product per annum.

Sally's use of Herdwick wool supports local hill farmers by creating demand for this farm product.