

Information and advice

Energy Saving Trust's Green Network

There are examples of community buildings, businesses, and homes that have installed energy efficiency measures, or renewables, on the Energy Saving Trust's Green Homes Network and Green Network for Business – community buildings are listed as businesses: www.greenhomesnetwork.org

Energy efficiency improvements to community building

Resource Efficient Scotland

[Resource Efficient Scotland](http://www.resourceefficientscotland.com) supports non-domestic buildings with energy audits either over the phone, or if the resource expenditure is high enough to warrant it, with a site visit. The basic information they ask for as a starting point is about the structure of the building, its insulation or lack of, the heating system and controls, lighting and controls, and expenditure on energy water waste and 'resources'.

Resource Efficient Scotland also offers a [loan](#) which is provided by Scottish Government via Energy Saving Trust. Loans are interest free (0%), unless applying for a renewable technology and the applicant is intending to receive the Feed in Tariff or Renewable Heat Incentive when the interest rate is 5%.

Applications must be supported by a qualifying report, normally developed by the **Resource Efficient Scotland Advice & Support Service - Tel. 0808 808 2268.**

Church of Scotland properties

Under the Better Heating Scheme, which is administered by the Church of Scotland General Trustees, congregations can obtain, for a modest fee, skilled advice in the matters of saving money on heating bills and improving the standard of comfort of buildings.

see http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/2998/heating_guide.pdf

Climate Challenge Fund

Several community buildings have benefited from a grant from [Climate Challenge Fund](#) which has covered the cost of insulation, secondary glazing, and lighting upgrade, but not heating or renewables. Engagement with the community to reduce energy use in the building, and at home, is expected to accompany the refurbishment work within the project.

There is a map of currently funded [Climate Challenge Fund](#) projects, and case studies, on the Climate Challenge Fund website. See below for further information on this fund.

Funding

The following may be helpful in finding funding for community building improvements.

- The Scottish Government has produced a very useful summary of the range of Scottish Government funding programmes that support community led regeneration and community empowerment. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/regeneration/communityfunds>
- Spreadsheet of Funding Options for community organisations: <http://www.scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Funding-Options.pdf>
- Local Authority Area grants for different areas – contact your local authority
- Scottish Government interest-free, unsecured loan for energy improvements to buildings <http://www.resourceefficientscotland.com/content/interest-free-loans-%C2%A31000-%C2%A3100000-now-available>
- Business Gateway <http://www.bgateway.com/>
- RIAS Scottish Community Projects Fund

Information for community building enquiries –

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The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, in association with the Robertson Trust, is seeking to promote the involvement of local people in the design, use and management of buildings and spaces as well as in the decision making process which affects their local environment.

The Scottish Community Projects Fund can award grants up to a maximum of £2,000.00 or half the cost (whichever is the lower) for a local Community Group to employ an architect or any other building professional, to prepare a feasibility study for building or environmental improvement projects or employment or other initiatives which have social benefit.

<http://www.rias.org.uk/services/scottish-community-projects-fund/>

- Climate Challenge Fund can fund insulation, lighting, glazing/draughtproofing, and project time to support householders to save energy at home and through sustainable transport and food initiatives.
<http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/climate-challenge-fund/>
- [BIG Lottery](#) in Scotland gives out millions of pounds from the National Lottery to community groups and projects that improve health, education and the environment
- Viridor has a fund for particular areas: <http://www.viridor-credits.co.uk/apply-for-funding/>
- Screwfix Foundation works with both national and local charities donating much needed funding to help all sorts of projects, from repairing buildings and improving facilities in deprived areas, to decorating the homes of people living with sickness or disability.
http://www.screwfix.com/jsp/landing.jsp?g4s_ev=g4s_ev&id=ScrewfixFoundation&source=aw&awc=1228_1376065635_cfce6d07df6b53f3ada8e3d3d9a028a9&cm_mmc=AffiliateWindow--DeepLink--Na--Na-102888
- Edinburgh Airport community fund: contributes to local projects and good causes, surrounding the themes of education, health and well being, environment and sport.
<http://www.edinburghairport.com/about-us/community-and-environment/community-support>
- Grant funding may not be the best route for some types of project: Scottish Communities CAN has produced a guide to support community organisations to find appropriate sources of funding for their projects, including becoming a social enterprise: Funding Routemap for community projects:
www.scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk/resources

Warm regards

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