

CARE OF CREATION



Renewable Energy

The following provides some general information as to what is available in assisting the move away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources and what grant and other funding sources exist to support approved projects.

With the climate crisis being of prime importance many agencies and companies have sprung up who on the face of it offer support. However, not all provide independent advice and assistance seeking to promote their own technology etc. Therefore real care must be taken to ensure the best advice is sought for any project resulting in the best installation type that also attracts the maximum grant available.

Due to this it can be a bit of a 'minefield' to navigate. However, there are independent agencies available whose driving force is eliminating, or at least reducing, the use of fossil fuels and converting to renewable sources. These independent agencies when consulted will be able to provide information on the best type of installation suited to individual projects.

Renewable energy sources include:

- Hydro
- Wind
- Solar
- Biomass
- Geothermal
- Tidal

Agencies who can help:



www.localenergy.scot

CARES (Community and Renewable Energy Scheme) is administered on behalf of the Scottish Government and may be the best agency to contact to get started. CARES provide advise concerning the best type of installations and assistance in developing and funding projects.

Grants are also available from CARES, amounts are dependent on the type and scale of project. <https://www.localenergy.scot/funding/cares-enablement-grant/>

energy saving trust

energysavingtrust.org.uk/

Energy Savings Trust is another agency who can be contacted. Others can be found online.

Any independent and reliable organization should be able to provide advice on the best installation type and sources of funding available.

The Energy Investment Fund from the Scottish government can offer partial grants for community or commercial property. Other funding should be secured in advance.

www.gov.scot/policies/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy/energy-investment-fund/

The importance of good advice

Whoever you consult should be willing and able to assist in developing projects. Not all will be able to offer grants or other funding, but should be willing to advise on identifying funding sources.

There are various factors which need to be considered when transitioning to renewable energy. Expert advice from the very start is essential.

Things to keep in mind...

Different regulations for grants exist and separate applications have to be made. Churches and church halls are classed as *commercial/ community buildings*. Presbyteries are classed as *domestic buildings*. Depending on the terms of the grant there may be conditions on multiple or simultaneous applications.

The type of installation most suitable will depend on various factors including: the layout of the building, ease of supplying renewable energy to a property, needs for existing appliances (e.g. radiators) to be changed or removed etc.

Some energy suppliers offer support to domestic properties. It is worth investigating if a presbytery is eligible from your supplier.

Not directly relevant to renewable energy installations but relevant for reducing energy costs, grants are available for insulating buildings. These tend to be for domestic buildings, however installing insulation to other church buildings may be possible as part of an overall renewable energy project. This would be a requirement if the project requires a Scottish Building Standards Warrant for the proposed work.

Grant funding can cover all aspects of the project (from initial consultation through to completion) including professional fees etc.

Funding may be available from your Local Authority through grant schemes or charitable trusts.

Apart from grants, zero interest loans are available to assist with approved renewable energy installations.

Church Halls are typically seen as having community use, as such can normally be considered as non-faith buildings which may allow for grant funding more easily than churches.

