

## Outer Hebrides Community Energy Fund Case Study – Parish of South Uist Energy Audit

### Background

The Church of Scotland Parish of South Uist is responsible for buildings on two sites – Howmore Church in Howmore, South Uist and Daliburgh Church, Manse and Church Hall in Daliburgh, South Uist. Both church buildings date back to around 1860, and suffer from a lack of energy efficiency. The highly inefficient nature of the building means that they are only heated occasionally, which results in the fabric of the building not being maintained as it should be. The buildings are open for community use, and the Daliburgh Hall is being used as a Thrift Shop and Community Cafe. The group aims to develop opportunities to restore the buildings and make them more sustainable.



### Details of Work Carried Out

The group applied to OHCEF for funding for an energy audit of the church buildings. Since the Manse is not currently available for community use, the group funded this part of the study themselves. The energy audit looked at each of the buildings and recommended energy efficiency measures which could be put in place, along with potential heating options and the viability of installing various renewable energy technologies.

### Cost and Funding

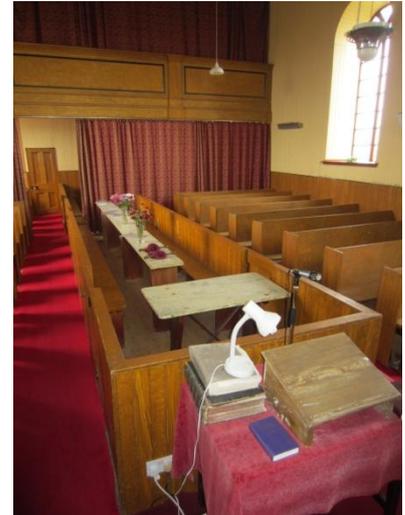
| Work         | Total Project Cost | OHCEF Amount |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Energy Audit | £5,304.00          | £4,954.00    |

### Results and Local Impact

The work has left the group with a better idea of what could be done to make their buildings more energy efficient and more sustainable. A community consultation was carried out alongside this study, and the group hopes to take forward a project combining greater community use of the buildings, and improvements to the buildings themselves. They will also be looking into ways of generating an income from the buildings in order to fund the improvements.

### Comments and Lessons Learned

The energy audit proved very useful in setting out different options for the Parish of South Uist to consider. It is also important that the energy audit was part of a wider process which included existing detailed property inspection reports into the state of the buildings and their fabric, and a community consultation about potential community uses – especially of one of the churches. Energy efficiency measures and renewable energy generation by themselves would not be sufficient in this case, but together all this material provides much insight into options for making the historic buildings more sustainable through restoration, energy efficiency, greater use and income generation (including renewables).



### Contact Details

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