

## Outer Hebrides Community Energy Fund Case Study – Tagsa Uibhist Energy Efficiency

### Background

Tagsa Uibhist is a local registered charity which provides home-based care as well as respite support, carers’ training and information, community transport and mental health and wellbeing support. Their building was very difficult to heat due to the old windows and doors, and had no insulation in the roof which meant that heat escaped easily from the building. The windows were badly sealed which led to them being clouded with moisture. The building is used as an office base for all of the community services provided by Tagsa Uibhist, and is also used by other community members for meetings and training events.



### Details of Work Carried Out

The group originally applied to OHCEF for funding for loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and the replacement of windows and doors with double-glazed, better-fitting units. It was later discovered that the walls of the building were unsuitable for cavity wall insulation, but the group was able to go ahead with the other work.

### Cost and Funding

Work	Total Project Cost	OHCEF Amount
Windows and Doors	£12,197.70	£9,758.16
Loft Insulation	£2,674.34	£2,139.47



### Results and Local Impact

All of the staff and users of the building are happy with the results, and many have commented on how much warmer and brighter the rooms are. Less heating is required in the rooms, less lighting is required due to the windows being clear and letting in more light, and there are less draughts. As well as increasing user comfort this should reduce the group’s energy bills, making both the building and the group more sustainable in the long-term.

### Comments and Lessons Learned

The group found that getting estimates for the work was one of the most difficult parts of the project, particularly since they were expected to get three for each part of the work. The loft insulation only took two days to complete and this was completed before the Christmas holidays. They were very fortunate with the weather for the fitting of windows and doors, and the windows were completed within the two-week timescale. Some small snagging jobs were still outstanding in the third week, but the weather had deteriorated again and this held back the final completion date since they could not pay the suppliers and get the grant claim sent.

It was a very tight deadline with a lot of pushing to ensure the jobs were completed on time to a high standard. Unfortunately the cavity wall insulation could not go ahead due to the timber frame of the building, which was unsuitable for cavity wall insulation. If the group had been made aware of this at the start when they requested estimates, they would not have included this in our grant application.

Kathryn Martin commented:

“Overall the project was successful and we got it all done and claimed for in time. Thanks to all who supported us throughout the application process and for keeping us on track for claiming.”

### Contact Details

#### Tagsa Uibhist:

Kathryn Martin  
East Camp  
Balivanich  
Benbecula  
Western Isles  
HS7 5LA  
T: 01870602111  
E: [Kathryn@tagsauibhisttrading.co.uk](mailto:Kathryn@tagsauibhisttrading.co.uk)

#### Community Energy Scotland:

Kirsten Macdonald  
Community Energy Scotland  
James Square  
9 James Street  
Stornoway  
HS1 2QN  
T: 01851 707332  
E: [Kirsten.Macdonald@communityenergyscotland.org.uk](mailto:Kirsten.Macdonald@communityenergyscotland.org.uk)