

## Outer Hebrides Community Energy Fund Case Study – Tarbert Community Centre Energy Efficiency

### Background

Harris Mutual Improvement Association is the group which runs the Tarbert Community Centre in Tarbert, Isle of Harris. The Community Centre is over 40 years old, and reducing its running costs and identifying new sources of revenue generation are key priorities for the group.



### Details of Work Carried Out

The group obtained funding from OHCEF to carry out an energy audit of the Community Centre. This energy audit recommended measures which could be taken to make the building more energy efficient, as well as what types of heating and renewable energy technologies could be put in place. The group decided to carry out energy efficiency work as the first phase of the project, and obtained further funding from OHCEF for this work. This work included cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, better-fitting doors, replacement of windows with double-glazed units and a heating control.

### Cost and Funding

Work	Total Project Cost	OHCEF Amount
Energy Audit	£2,530.00	£2,403.50
Energy Efficiency Work	£17,696.35	£15,926.63



### Results and Local Impact

The work has left the group with a facility that is easier to heat and is more comfortable for its users. Utility bills should be reduced, as should ongoing maintenance and repair costs.

The group now plans to carry out further improvements and hopes that as work continues hall usage will increase.

### Comments and Lessons Learned

The energy audit was a good starting point from which to build our

redevelopment plans. Electricity is the largest outgoing for the charity after staff costs, so gives us the greatest opportunity for savings. The insulation and double glazing has already had a noticeable effect on comfort levels, and this will hopefully be reflected in utility bills in the near future.

Cavity-wall insulation can offer cost savings and improved comfort levels. It can however exacerbate existing issues and highlight unknown problems with the fabric of the building. Despite the render to the Community Centre being checked before drilling started, the installation of insulation has brought to our attention the ingress of water through cracks in the render. Water can now cross the cavity and cause damp inside the building. The lesson learned is that the building has to be 100% watertight before installing cavity wall insulation. Refurbishing aged community centres is not a new thing – communities throughout Scotland are each re-inventing the wheel when it comes to redevelopment plans. Networking with other groups for joint tendering and procurement may be worth considering in future.

### Contact Details

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