

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



WHO WE ARE

Community Energy Scotland is an independent Scottish charity and membership organisation that has been supporting communities across Scotland to develop their own renewable energy projects since 2007.

Vision

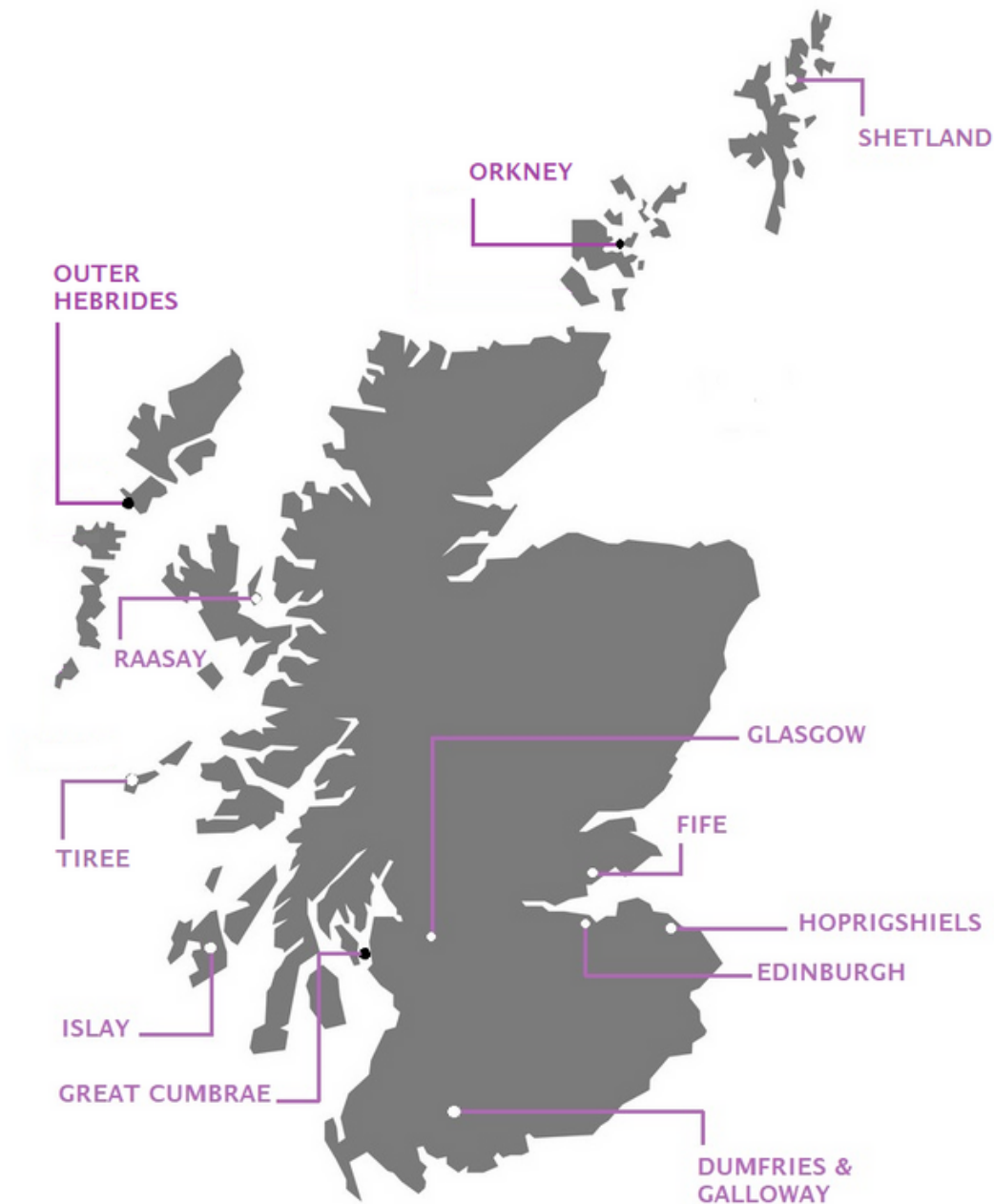
Our vision is of communities actively shaping a low-carbon society that values wellbeing for all.

Mission

We work with communities and our partners to support, promote and represent the community energy sector. We do this by providing technical assistance, knowledge sharing & championing the role of community-led action in the transition to a low-carbon future.



WHERE WE WORKED



2022-2023 OVERVIEW

A year of growth and change

Our **new CEO**, Zoe Holliday, took up post in September 2022 and brought with her a wealth of experience in third sector management and strategy in Scotland and abroad. With a background in sustainable energy and inter-organisational collaboration, Zoë has been working closely with the CES team on the organisation's strategy, structure and policies.

We also welcomed **6 new members of staff**, including a new Development Manager to identify and develop new CES projects and opportunities, and a further 5 project officers to support delivery of our growing project portfolio.

We **wrapped up our 3-year ReFlex project** which increased community asset ownership by funding community owned electric vehicles, trialled a car club shared asset model, and facilitated the collaboration of organisations supporting local energy needs.

We published the **Community Energy State of the Sector 2021**, in collaboration with Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales. The report describes how the sector is changing, highlights its potential, and provides a strong evidence base to encourage policy-makers to create a more supportive landscape for community energy at local and national level.



2022-2023 OVERVIEW

A year of growth and change

We began work on the Scottish Government's **Carbon Neutral Islands programme**, which aims to demonstrate the climate-resilience and low carbon potential of islands and help point the way to actions that can be taken elsewhere in Scotland to help lower emissions and meet Scotland's climate change targets.

A similar partnership project set out to create the **Uist Local Energy Plan**, which identifies the island group's existing and future energy needs (in terms of power, heat and transport) and sets out priorities for action.

Our new project **N76 Energy in Motion** began this year, supporting six communities in the South West of Scotland to develop low carbon transport initiatives.

Work continued on other projects including the **Heat Pump Plus** project, through which significant amounts of data on the performance of heat pumps in Orkney are being collated. We also continued to provide technical support to **Community Power Outer Hebrides** and **Community Power Orkney**, as well as ad hoc technical support answering queries from our members.

Our **Fishermen Three windfarm** (jointly owned with Berwickshire Housing Association) via our trading arm, Community Energy Scotland Trading Limited, continue to provide us with an important income stream to support project development and delivery, and reduce our reliance on grant funding.



IMPACT

Priority 1 - Increase community understanding and influence

Project work

3 new projects

7 continuing projects



Members

14 new members

18 member events

Communications

70,000 webpage views

14 webinars/blogs

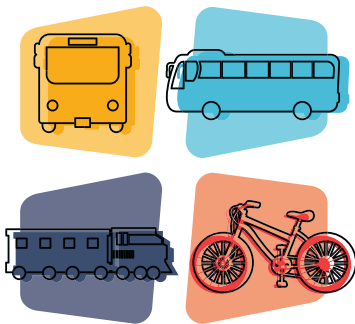
450 social media posts



IMPACT

Priority 2 - Control community energy costs and reduce fossil fuel use

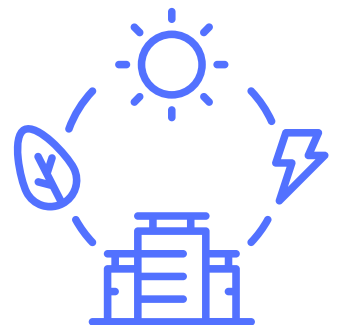
N76 Energy in Motion



6 in-depth
transport plans
produced

ReFlex

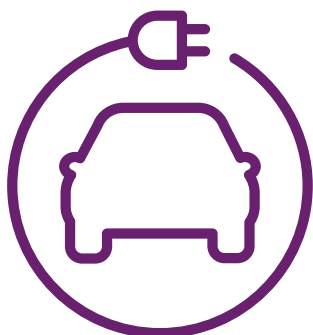
115 energy
monitors installed
in domestic
properties



Project Work



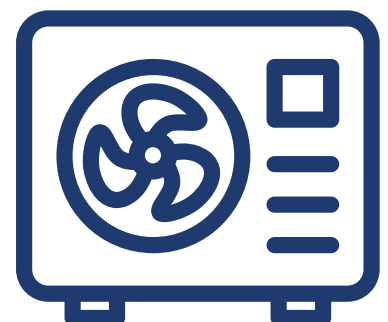
Orkney Car Club



5414 EV miles
driven with
potential
CO2e offset of
1500 kg

Heat Pump Plus

7 properties
fitted with
internet
connected
heat meters



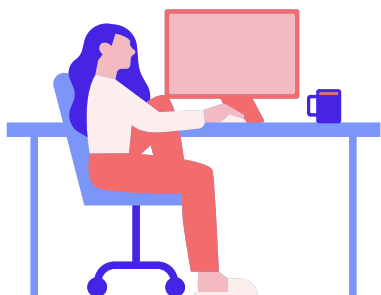
IMPACT

Priority 3 - Increase community ownership, control and benefit

Policy work

Continued support for the Local Electricity Bill

Work commences on State of the Sector 2022 research programme



Project work

Work commences on Carbon Neutral Islands

Completion of Uist Local Energy Plan

Supporting Net Zero Delivery Across Scottish Islands

Work commences on Islands Centre for Net Zero

IMPACT

Priority 4 - Make Community Energy Scotland sustainable and more effective

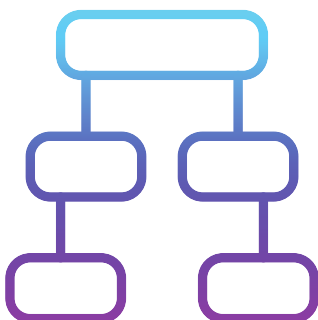
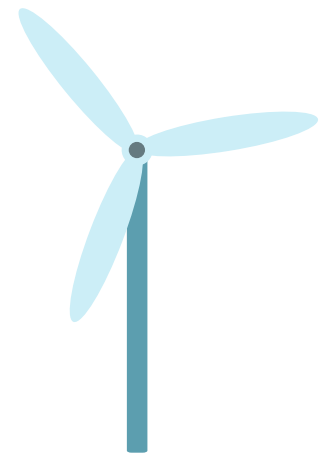


Research

40 Scottish responses to the UK State of the Sector survey

Organisational sustainability

21.7 GWh of electricity generated from our jointly-owned windfarm



Team Building

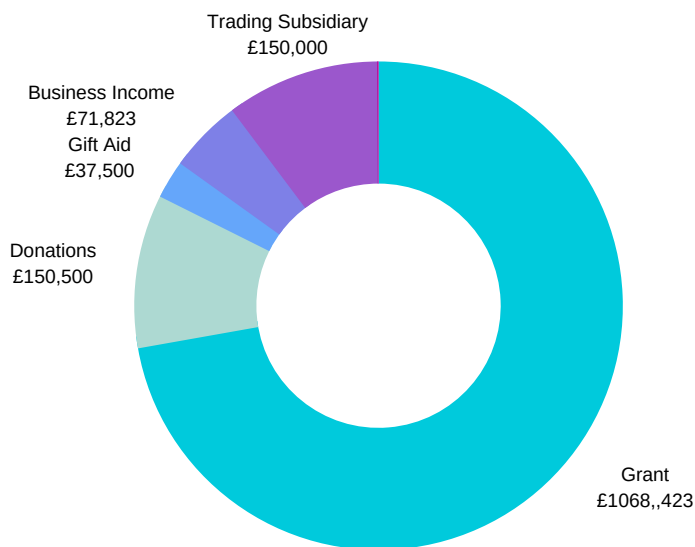
Internal organisational structure review

Staff consultation via our satisfaction survey

FINANCES

*UNAUDITED

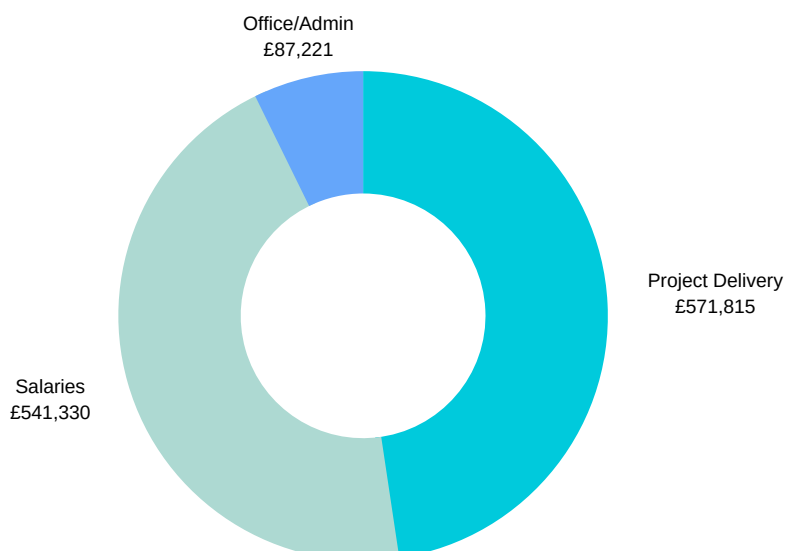
Income



Our jointly-owned Fishermen Three windfarm is a crucial source of unrestricted funds which generates a long-term, sustainable income stream to support the core charitable activities of CES.

The main grant funding sources were from the delivery of the following projects: Carbon Neutral Islands, the ReFLEX Project, Heat Pumps Plus and N76.

Expenditure



The full audited accounts for 2022-23 will be available on request once agreed by our Board of Directors in December.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The CES Strategy 2023 - 2026 sets out four key priorities to guide our work over the next three years. We will work with a wide range of communities and other organisations and partners in order to achieve these.

1. Building communities'

understanding of, and capacity to benefit from, all aspects of the energy system

2. Working with community groups to increase resilience and give them **ownership over energy generation and demand and the ability to influence and prosper from equitable benefits of a decarbonised society.**

3. Being the national voice on

community energy; amplifying the voice and value of our members in order to **engage, advocate and influence the wider energy system.**

4. Ensure that CES continues to be **relevant, resilient and sustainable in a changing world**

Become a member

'Community' membership is for constituted community groups and 'Supporter' membership is for everyone else with an interest in our work

Join up, contact us with any queries, or find out more on our website.



www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk



info@communityenergyscotland.org.uk

