



Development
Trusts Association
Scotland

A Thriving Community-led Network

Workshop 10: Community Benefit Funds – Impact on Development Trusts





Workshop Plan

Introduction to Community Benefit Fund Landscape

- Morven Lyon, DTAS
- Christina Hinds, Local Energy Scotland

Foundation Scotland – Remit and Support

- Suzy Mercer, Foundation Scotland

SSE Renewables – Developer Perspective

- Lindsay Dougan, SSE Renewables

Interactive Q&A and Sum Up

- Morven Lyon and Ruth Evans, DTAS





DTAS Context

DTAS' Democratic Finance Programme

- What are the local sources of wealth?
- How can DTs assess this money?
- How can DTs feel more control and ownership of this money?
- Should DTAS have more involvement in CBF landscape?

DTAS' Annual Survey 2023 – 174 members responded

- 25% of responders in direct receipt of CBFs
- 33% incl. members who have applied to a CB Fund
- £5m total received per annum
- Ranging from £2k per annum to over £400k per annum
- Lots of (very varied) qualitative data



Community Benefit Funds

Christina Hinds
Shared Ownership Specialist



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About us



Local Energy Scotland is a consortium comprising:

CHANGEWORKS.



**energy
saving
trust**



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“Community benefits offer an opportunity for communities to benefit from their local renewable energy resource by engaging them in discussions to build a lasting relationship with the renewables industry that supports Scotland’s transition to a low carbon future.”

-From [Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments](#)
(www.gov.scot)



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CBF 2022



Average community
value from recent
projects

£4,500

Per mW per year

Total benefits paid in the
last year

£24,900,748



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CBF in future

SG Target

12GW by 2030

Community benefit total

£60,000,000



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Support from Local Energy Scotland

- Toolkit
- Guidance for communities and developers
- Signposting to legal/financial advice or other support



Resources



- [Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)
- [Community Benefits Toolkit - Local Energy Scotland](#)
- [Case studies - Local Energy Scotland](#)
- [Just Transition - A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Scottish Government response - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Contact Us



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Foundation Scotland
Scotland's Community Foundation

Community Benefit Funds & Foundation Scotland

Rachel Searle, Head of Communities & Impact
DTAS Conference, 25th August 2023

What are community benefit funds?

- Pioneered by the renewables sector
- Unprecedented and unfair
- Good Practice Principles

About Foundation Scotland

- Independent funder
- Part of a network of community foundations
- Stewards funds on behalf others
- Distributed £23m in 2022-2023
- Three teams - social investment, philanthropy and communities

What do we do in relation to CBs?

- **Set up** fund arrangements
- Fund **administration** – end to end
- Fund **reviews** (critical friend/troubleshooting)
- Specialist support for **incorporated** organisations
- **Lobbying**/policy influencing
- **Share** knowledge and learning – act as a resource

Our approach

- **Facilitate** fund design and decision-making processes that are **inclusive, accountable & community-led**
- **Context specific** – fund governance and administration arrangements take account of local context & capacity
- Promote & harness **community strengths**
- **Developmental** – capacity building

Some numbers

- Practice built over **c13** years
- **70+** community benefit funds involving circa **300+** communities
- **Clients** can be developers/project owners or community organisations
- **£7M+** p.a. community benefit distribution
- **400+** volunteer Panel or Board members
- Team of 14 **based across Scotland**
- **Lots of connecting with Development Trusts!**

Touch points with DTs

- Grantee
- Devolved' fund administrator
- Anchor fund administrator
- Where a Development Trust supports other groups also applying for funds
- Stakeholder when developing a new fund
- Stakeholder in a fund review
- Where funds are linked to establishing a new DT

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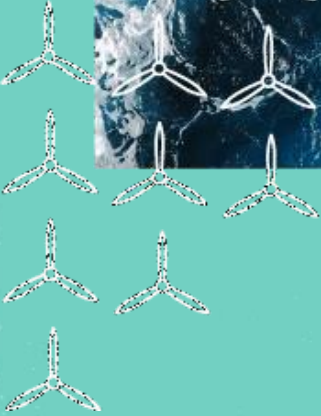
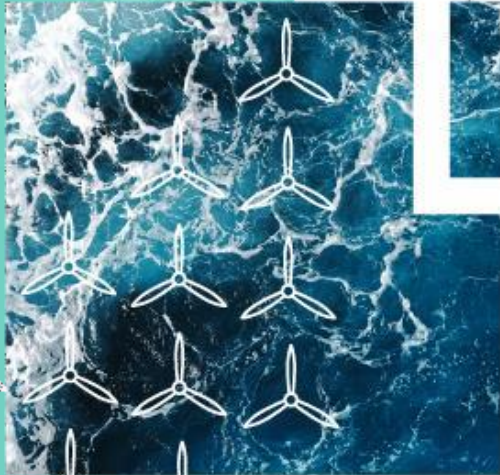
www.foundationscotland.org.uk

Investing in Communities

Lindsay Dougan

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August 2023



Responsible Developer



Size and Scale

UK and Ireland

- Work with over **150 communities**
- Currently deliver over **50 community commitments**
- Over **£315m** portfolio of investment
- Invested **£75m to date**



Funding Approach



Place based



Local decision making



Flexible Funding



Working with DTAS Members

- 35 Members supported in last two years
 - Capacity Building
 - New assets and services
 - Supporting self sustaining income streams
 - Encouraging additional investment into regions

Examples

- Fort Augustus Housing Project
- Dornoch Hub
- Comrie Bunkhouse



Supporting Net Zero

- Supporting local action
- £1 million investment to Highland Energy Efficiency Programme
- Etrick and Yarrow Housing
- Raasay Hydro Programme
- Galway Retrofit Academy





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