

Learning from previous studies

1.1 Overview

In many communities across Scotland, work has already been done that looks at energy or transport projects in the local area. It's important to seek out this information when gathering data for your LEP, because it can help answer several questions:

- What priorities for action (e.g. improved insulation for homes, or a community renewable energy scheme) were previously identified? What organisation made this decision?
- Where feasibility work has been done, and what did it look at? What were the findings?
- Where transport system changes were considered, what recommendations were made?

It's useful to investigate a range of potential sources to find this information, and there are several places you can find them. For example, a number of different organisations might have carried out feasibility studies for energy or transport projects, and individual businesses or landowners may also have looked at opportunities in their own buildings and land. Below you'll find a list of suggested sources.

Table 1 Potential sources of information for previous energy and transport work

Organisation	Areas of interest	Examples of feasibility studies / programmes of works
Local authority	Low carbon energy generation Building insulation Electric vehicle charging points Public transport timetables	Programme of insulation improvements to residential property Feasibility of district heating schemes that can meet large sources of heat demand from local authority buildings Streetlight upgrade programme Installation of electric vehicle charging points Smarter bus timetable scheduling Planning application details for larger scale renewable energy projects
Transport Scotland / Regional Transport Partnerships	Introduction of low emission vehicles Road upgrades, extensions or traffic re-routing Extended public transport and smart communication systems	Installation of electric vehicle charging points Pilot schemes for low emission buses, HGV, etc. Feasibility of road upgrades or extensions
Registered social landlord	Programme of building insulation works Changes to heating supply systems Income from energy generation	Programme of insulation for hard-to-treat residential properties District heating feasibility schemes Use of heat pumps for space heating instead of electric storage heaters

Enterprise agency	Economic benefit studies Transport studies	Emerging low carbon market skill requirements and how to develop them locally Low carbon fuels and production capacity Delivery of ultra-low emission vehicles
Community trust	Energy generation Energy efficiency Accessible transport	Feasibility of community-operated renewable energy generation (e.g. wind, solar PV, hydro, etc.) Operation of low-emission community minibus Implementing a car club or car share scheme
Individual business or landowner	Energy generation Revenue generation	Opportunities for renewable energy generation Feasibility of supplying biomass or other fuels into the low carbon market

Note: This list is a starting point, but there are likely to be other organisations and individuals to look into.

1.2 Using the information

Previous work identified can provide a range of useful information, which can generally be split into the following categories:

Technology

Understanding what technologies have been implemented locally, or what options have previously been considered.

Financial

Financial viability information – anticipated cost benefits, scale of investment needed to make projects happen, and potential sources of investment (grant funding, etc.).

Benefits

Scale of benefits accrued (or estimated to be achievable) for a project or programme of works. Who would benefit from the implementation and over what time period?

Experience

What was the outcome of the work? If it didn't get implemented, what prevented it from happening? If a project was taken forward, who was involved and can their experience be used in the development of your LEP?