

Scottish Government's Register of Community Benefits

Narrative report – November 2020



About the Register of Community Benefits

The Scottish Government's [Register of Community Benefits](#) (the Register) shows renewable energy projects in Scotland and allows renewable energy businesses and communities to upload details of any community benefit packages attached to these projects. The results are displayed in a searchable online map. The details can also be viewed as an A-Z project list.

The Register is not an exhaustive list of all operational projects, although we do add in all projects listed as operational in the BEIS Renewable Energy Planning database and where we are requested to by a community or renewable energy business.

The quality and accuracy of the information on the Register relies on the information provided by the community or renewable energy business submitting it. The Register may, therefore, hold inaccurate or outdated information and should be regarded as a guide to community benefit provisions across Scotland.

Keyword search

Enter keywords...

Map Satellite

- All Renewable Projects
- Projects with community benefits
- Projects with case studies

Select Region

Technology

Areas of Spend

Developers

Reset filters

10

22

53

59

24

34

67

31

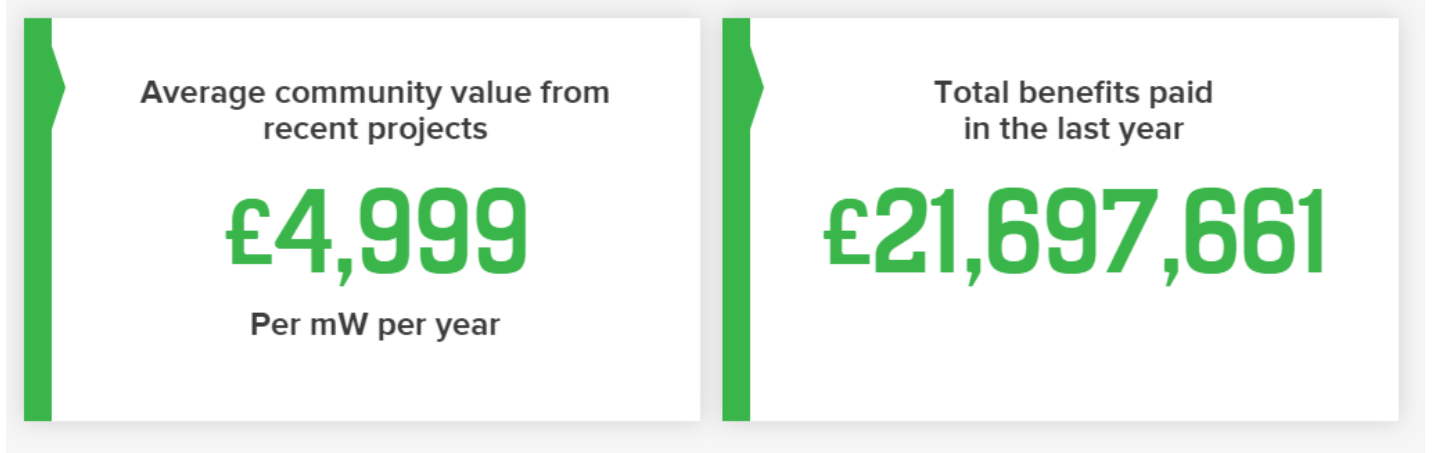
SCOTLAND

United Kingdom

NORTHERN IRELAND

Isle of Man

Headline figures



The public facing side of the website displays two figures. The first is an average of the value from recent projects in £/MW/Yr, the other is the total value from all recorded operational projects which has been offered to communities over the last year. As of November 2020, these values were an average of £4,999/MW/Yr, in accordance with the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles and at total value of almost £21.7 million. These figures do not include community wholly community owned projects as these tend to skew the figures to a higher average value. You can find out more about how the figures are calculated in the drop-down on the [website](#).

Further information

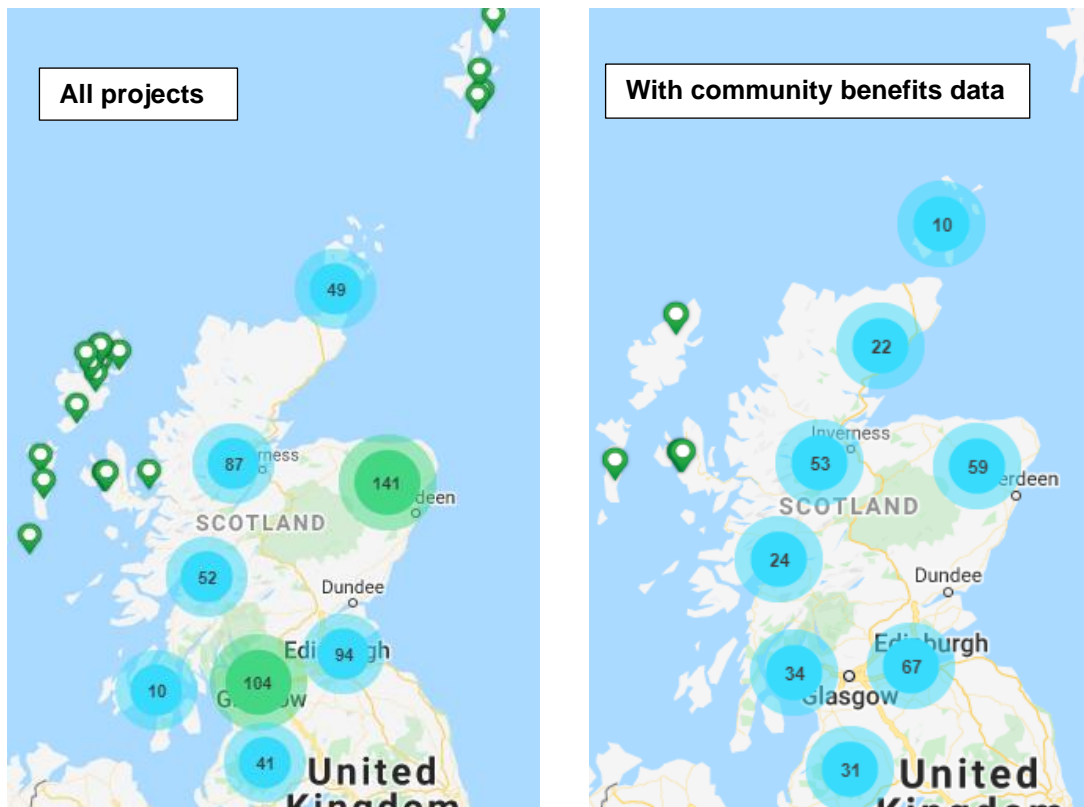
- 1 What is the Register?
- 2 **How are the average and total figures calculated?**
- 3 How to add your details
- 4 How to update your details
- 5 I can't find a development
- 6 Projects supported by Community Benefits Fund
- 7 Areas of spend filter descriptions

Improvements made to the Register this year

Last year we added the functionality to upload case studies to project records and for these to be filterable on the project map. Over the last year we have been uploading case studies, project examples and community actions plans through this function and now over 15% of projects have additional material attached. This material includes a combination of examples from the Local Energy Scotland website and from websites of other organisations.

Over the last year we have built up relationships with several of the larger renewable energy businesses, providing them with a named contact to provide updates to and making the process of providing updates as easy as possible – offering this via the online webforms, an spreadsheet of fields to update or a phonecall. This has improved our ability to capture community benefits from

the larger projects and we now have 75% of projects over 5MW with data attached and we are now noticing that renewable energy businesses are requesting updates be made, rather than waiting for us to ask. This more personalised approach also helps to convey the benefits of providing updates. Approximately 50% of all projects (any capacity and any technology) have data attached.



We are grateful to those renewable energy businesses who have provided information over the past year and we continue to encourage those who haven't yet shared information with us to do so.

We contacted community organisations in February 2020 alongside the promotion of the new Community Benefits Toolkit to ask them to update the Register. The response from community organisations was low. It was not long after our promotion that the covid pandemic hit and many community organisations were prioritising the provision of services to their communities, this may have had an impact on response rates.

Further development considerations

As part of our communications with renewable energy businesses and communities we will ask them about any improvements they would like to see on the site, including any ideas they have for showcasing new case studies or good practice examples.

We will keep the questionnaires under review to ensure that they allow for full details of packages of benefits to be submitted.