

Scottish Government's Register of Community Benefits

Narrative report

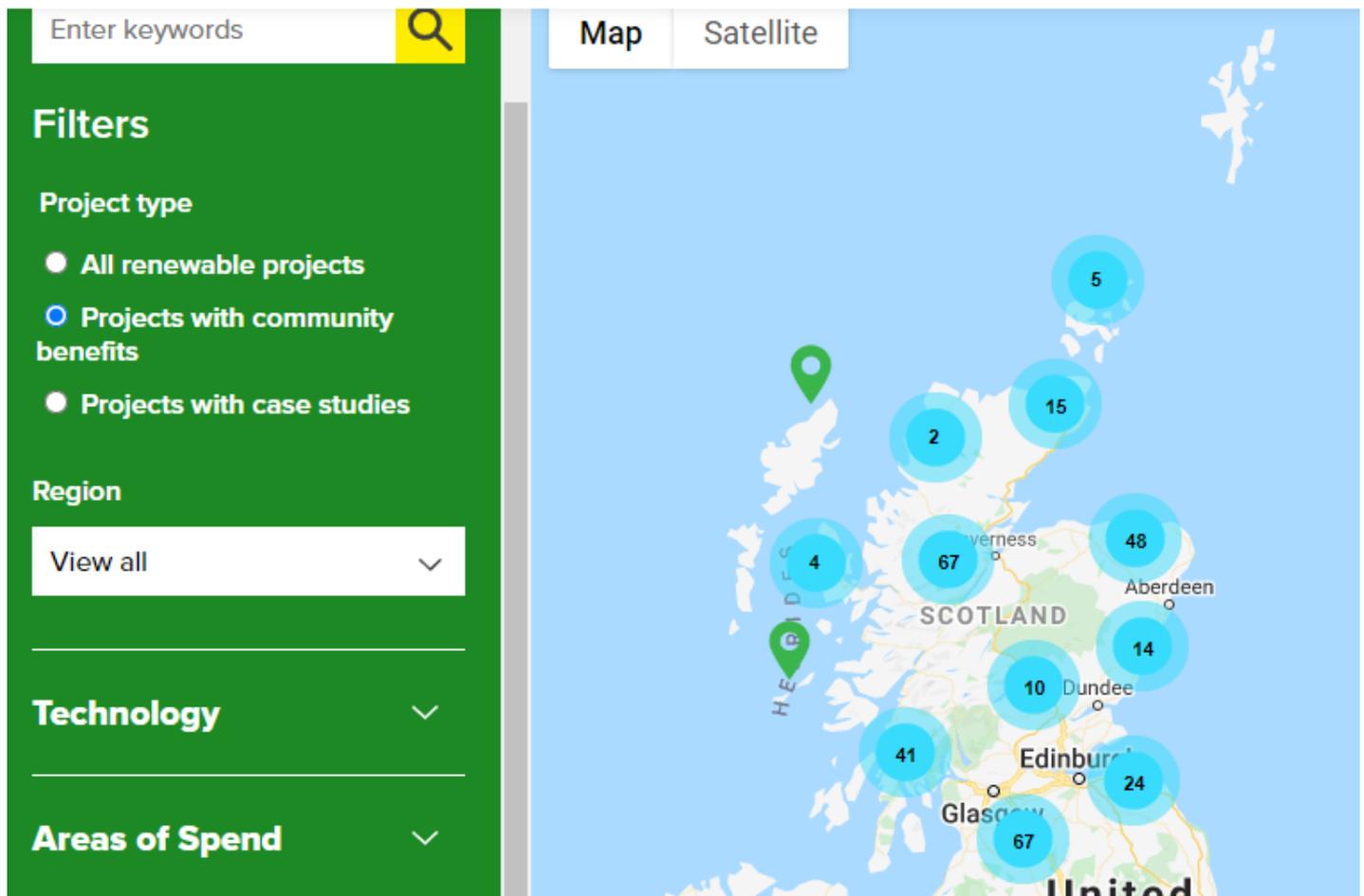


About the Register of Community Benefits

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 The Register may, therefore, hold inaccurate or outdated information and should be regarded as a guide to community benefit provisions across Scotland.



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 March 2022, the average value of recent projects was £3,930/MW/Yr and the total value of over benefits paid over the last 12 months was £22.8 million. These figures do not include wholly community owned projects as these tend to skew the figures to a higher average value.

Whilst the average value of community benefits is lower than the Scottish Government's recommendation of £5,000/MW/Yr, if we look only at records for onshore wind projects the average value increases to £4,276/MW/Yr.

You can find out more about how the figures are calculated in the drop-down on the [website](#).

Further information

What is the register? 

Community Benefits Register narrative report 

How are the average and total figures calculated? 

How to add your details 

How to update your details 

I can't find a development 

Projects supported by Community Benefits Fund 

Improvements made to the Register this year

Over recent years, 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, a spreadsheet of fields to update, or a phonecall. This has improved our ability to capture community benefits from the larger projects and, at present, we have 85% of wind, solar and hydro projects over 5MW with data attached. 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 56% 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.

When updating the website in October 2021, we added some new reporting features to our content management system. This includes the ability to add multiple projects to a spreadsheet for a developer or community to complete and send back. We can then upload these quickly to the website rather than duplicating effort by filling in the online forms. It also includes a report for us to interrogate the data we hold more efficiently.

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 also ask businesses and communities to provide feedback on the support provided by CARES in relation to making the most of community benefits.

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