

Local and Community energy: From global issues to local action

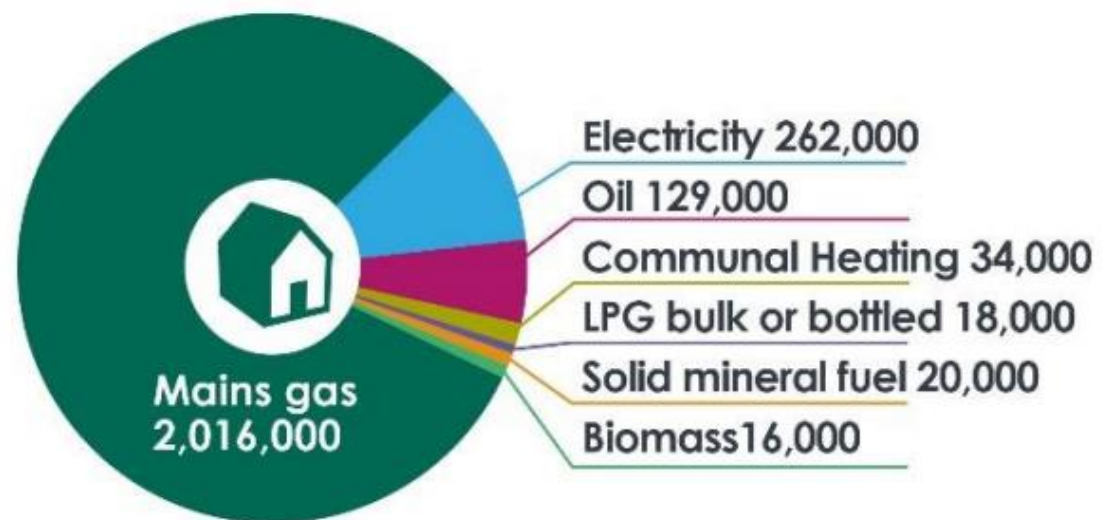
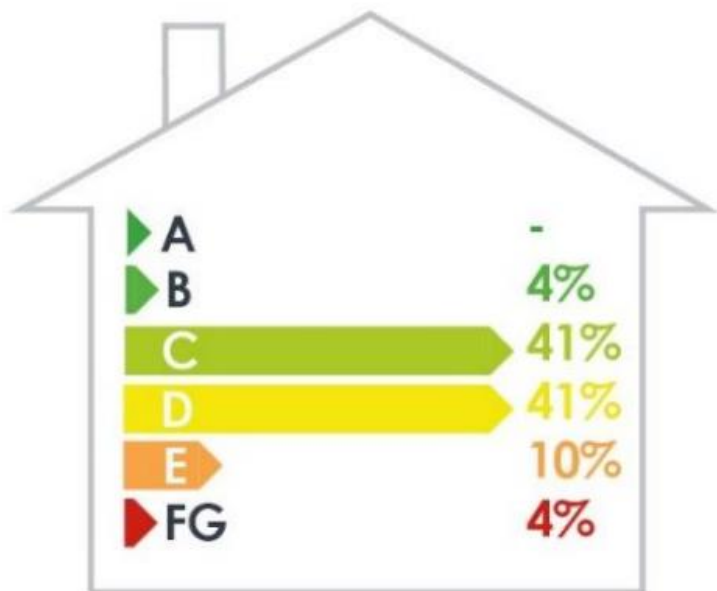
Sue Kearns
Deputy Director
Heat in Buildings Division

September 2022



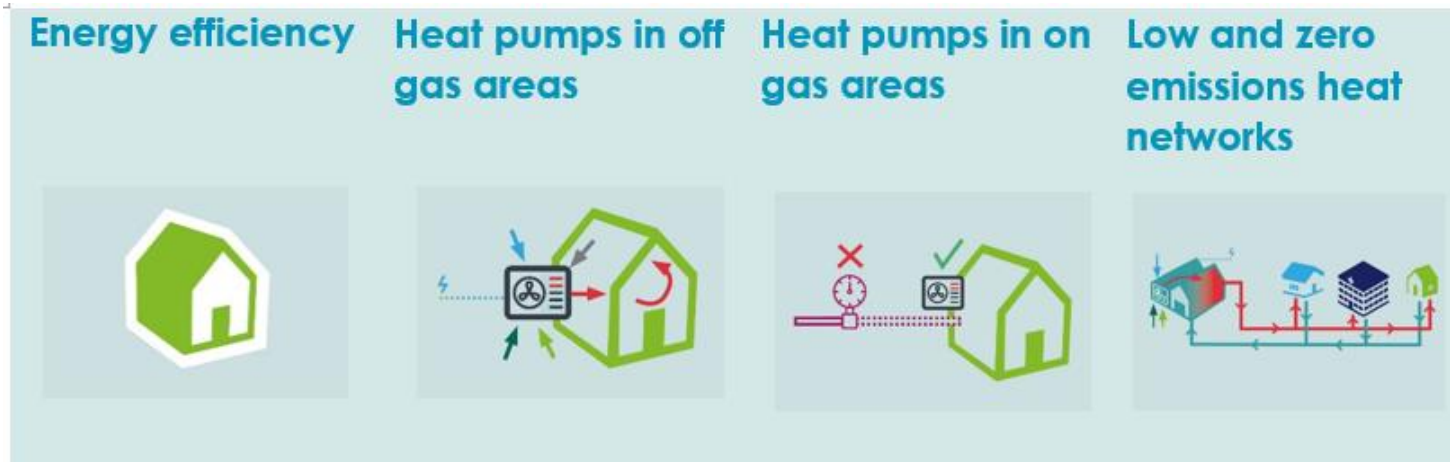
Heat in Buildings Strategy

- Statutory targets:
 - 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
 - Net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045
 - No more than 5% of households fuel poor by 2040



Heat in Buildings and Communities

- Decarbonisation of the equivalent of 50,000 non-domestic buildings by 2030
- Heat transition will look different in different communities
- The Local Energy Policy Statement (2021)
 - Outlines the need for greater focus on – and priority given to – decarbonisation as the driver for community-led action.
 - Sets out the key principles, and associated outcomes, that we wish to see adopted to ensure an inclusive energy transition with people and communities at its centre



Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES)

- Focus on decarbonisation of heat in buildings.
- A range of projects in communities across Scotland.
- Previous 'Let's Do Net Zero Community Buildings' funding call awarded over £2.6 million in funding.
- Community energy projects have huge potential to help communities.
- Current 'Let's do Net Zero Community Buildings' funding call open on a rolling basis and exciting projects already coming through.



Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (ESJTP)

- The ESJTP will provide a roadmap for the energy sector.
- Community and local energy can play a pivotal role in unlocking a Just Transition to net zero.
- Engagement events to support and inform the ESJTP development.
- Consultation due to be published later this year. Please do input!



Community Benefits and Shared Ownership

- Integral part of renewable energy developments in Scotland to ensure benefits flow to communities.
- Our Good Practice Principles set out recommended national standards to support Community Benefit and Shared Ownership opportunities.
- Over £22.8 million has been paid out in community benefits to local communities over the past 12 months.
- CARES is also available to support with Community Benefit and Shared Ownership opportunities.
- A review of the GPPs for Community Benefits from Offshore Renewable Energy Developments is due to commence later this year, with a consultation to follow next year.

Average community value
from recent projects

£3,978

Per mW per year

Total benefits paid in the
last year

£22,861,041

Source: [Just Transition: A Fairer, Greener Scotland \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Conclusion

- Scotland has a legacy of strong community engagement in local renewable energy projects.
- Community energy is uniquely placed to help unlock – and seize the opportunities – presented by a Just Transition to net zero.
- Opportunity to put greater focus on decarbonisation as the driver for community-led action.
- Potential to enhance community resilience and improve quality of life through creation of local jobs; upskilling of local people; reduction in energy costs; and by enabling greater investment in local economies.
- Vital in terms of achieving a Just Transition to net zero and increasingly important in the context of the current cost of living crisis.

