Tiree Community Energy Projects

From poverty alleviation to coordinated climate action - through connecting with people

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Housing and fuel poverty on Tiree



63% of permanent households in fuel poverty



38% of permanent households in extreme fuel poverty

2022 estimates for permanent households

Sources: Fuel poverty estimates and residents' reports on insulation - Cruas research (2022). Housing occupancy - Isle Develop CIC (2023).

The Cruas Project

Cruas Crisis Grant (2022-23)

- **Over £50,000** in crisis grants to directly help households with the cost of living crisis – funded from wind turbine income
- Three rounds of payments helped connect most vulnerable households with wider support – progressively more targeted
- Long term outcome: **Vital information, and trusted contacts**

Home Energy Efficiency Tiree (HEET)

- **£2,500** from the Council's Supporting Communities Fund
- Free EPCs to permanent residents experiencing fuel poverty
- Support through our local Citizens Advice Bureau service
- Referrals to Home Energy Scotland

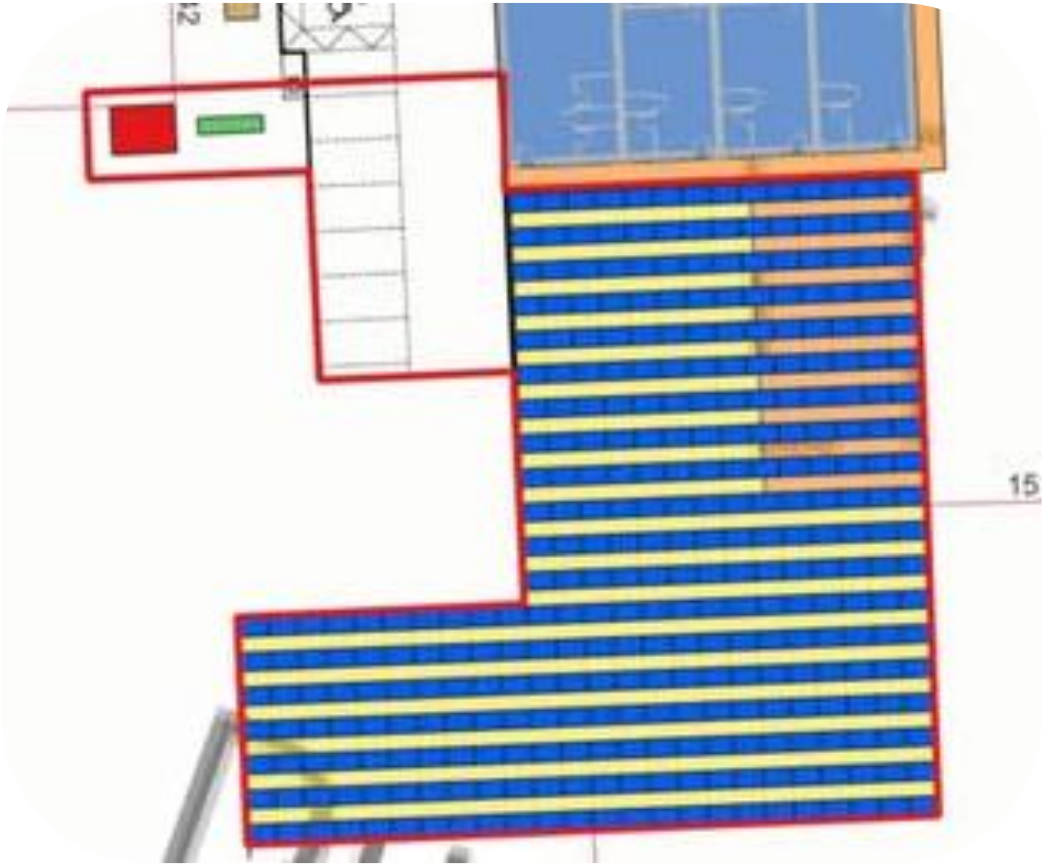
Developing the Tiree Energy Assessment Scheme (TEAS)

- Community Energy Scotland funds staff time to engage residents and coordinate support.
- Argyll & Bute Council and Home Energy Scotland work with the Trust to help households access existing funding.
- Insulation first, with solar and batteries considered where suitable.
- Engagement across Tiree, with initial targeted area outreach

Community Energy Growth Fund

Crossapol Business Units Solar PV array

- Development work in 2024-25
- Capital work 2025-2026 with AES Renewables
- 150kW PV + 50kW/102KWh Battery storage system fully online early 2026
- Supplies a 60kW rapid EV charger
- Our next project – 50kW PV/battery – will make the filling station grid-resilient
- Will require more complex grid upgrades – was held up by need for NESO application but this may now be avoided



Local project partnership pipeline

Project partnership pipeline

- Leveraging our experience to work with other community organisations locally
- Development support and partnership funding for their own CARES projects
- First already in development stage – 150kW PV array + BESS at Island Centre office building
- We'd like to keep going – potential projects include an array to support retaining local church building as community asset
- **Future tie-in: Local Energy Market?**

Ambition: Sustainable community services



In conclusion:

- People make projects
- Investing in them pays off!
- Building trust within the community first is important
- Partnerships with shared goals allow more to be achieved
- No substitute for lived experience at a local level
- National funding and support + Local delivery capacity and expertise gets things done

