Community-owned wind farm
Isle of Lewis



2005: The beginning

Volunteers gathered for a community meeting to discuss how renewables could work for the 18 villages of the Point and Sandwick area.

The group agreed key aims:

- To build a commercial scale, community wind farm
- For all villages to share ownership
- Benefit to the wider Western Isles
- To deliver millions of community income over the potential lifetime of the project
- Create a legacy of well being and community cohesion.

2015 – turbines fully operational







A decade on…

- Our 100% community-owned commercial enterprise now operates and maintains the UK's largest community wind farm
- **More than £10,000,000 in community grants plus leveraged funding of more than £3.5M**
- Funding groups from local schools and charities to large scale capital projects of redevelopment and restoration.







Garrabost Mill restoration

The 19th century Garrabost Mill is being restored to working condition and developed into a new cultural heritage centre to showcase crofting social history:

- Creating jobs as part of a new community-owned enterprise
- Encouraging community partnership and collaboration
- Meeting an emerging tourism gap
- Safeguarding a building of historical interest
- Employing local contractors during the restoration period
- Conserving crofting social history for future generations.



Community group Garrabost Mill Trust are running the project with funding from PST, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Third Sector Hebrides.

Croft Woodlands

Since 2016, crofters from Barra to the Butt of Lewis have planted more than 287,176 native trees on croft land.

This project, funded by PST in partnership with Woodland Trust Scotland creates:

- Future shelter
- Wildlife habitat
- Soil improvements
- Support for ancient remnant forest
- Landscape diversity which is transforming our treeless islands.



Energy Support Unit

- PST serves approximately 1,600 households across crofting communities
- Some of the highest levels of fuel poverty in Scotland
- Delivering a confidential, targeted hardship fund for vulnerable households
- Additional Winter Packs of dehumidifiers, warm over blankets and air fryers, to those most in need.
- Assessing the key drivers of fuel poverty in our area and making recommendations to local and national government.
- **£511,000 in direct support, reaching around 570 households.**



Investing in our communities

POINT AND SANDWICK TRUST
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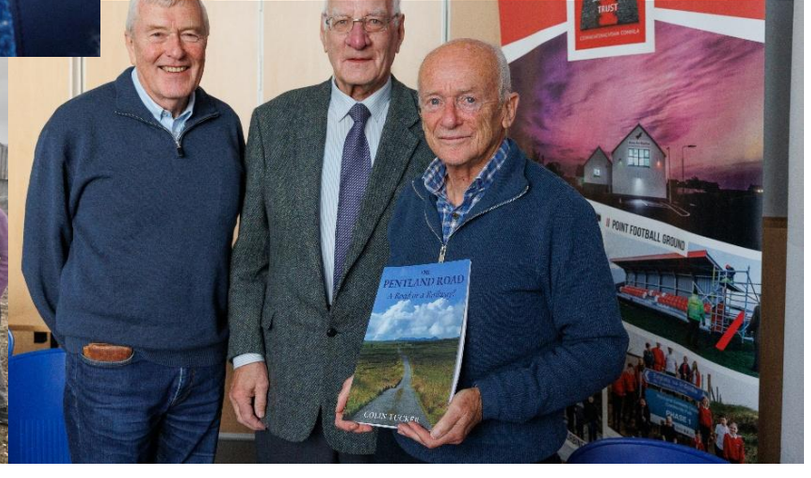












Creating opportunities

PST invests in education, skills development and employment opportunities, helping people across the Western Isles build their futures.

Our support includes:

- Apprenticeships and training opportunities, including collaboration with the Arnish Yard and Navantia.
- Scholarships, student awards and support for further and higher education.
- Investment in innovation and emerging technologies, including hydrogen.
- Partnerships that help develop local skills, create opportunities and strengthen the island economy.





Our approach to community investment

Funding charitable organisations and community projects

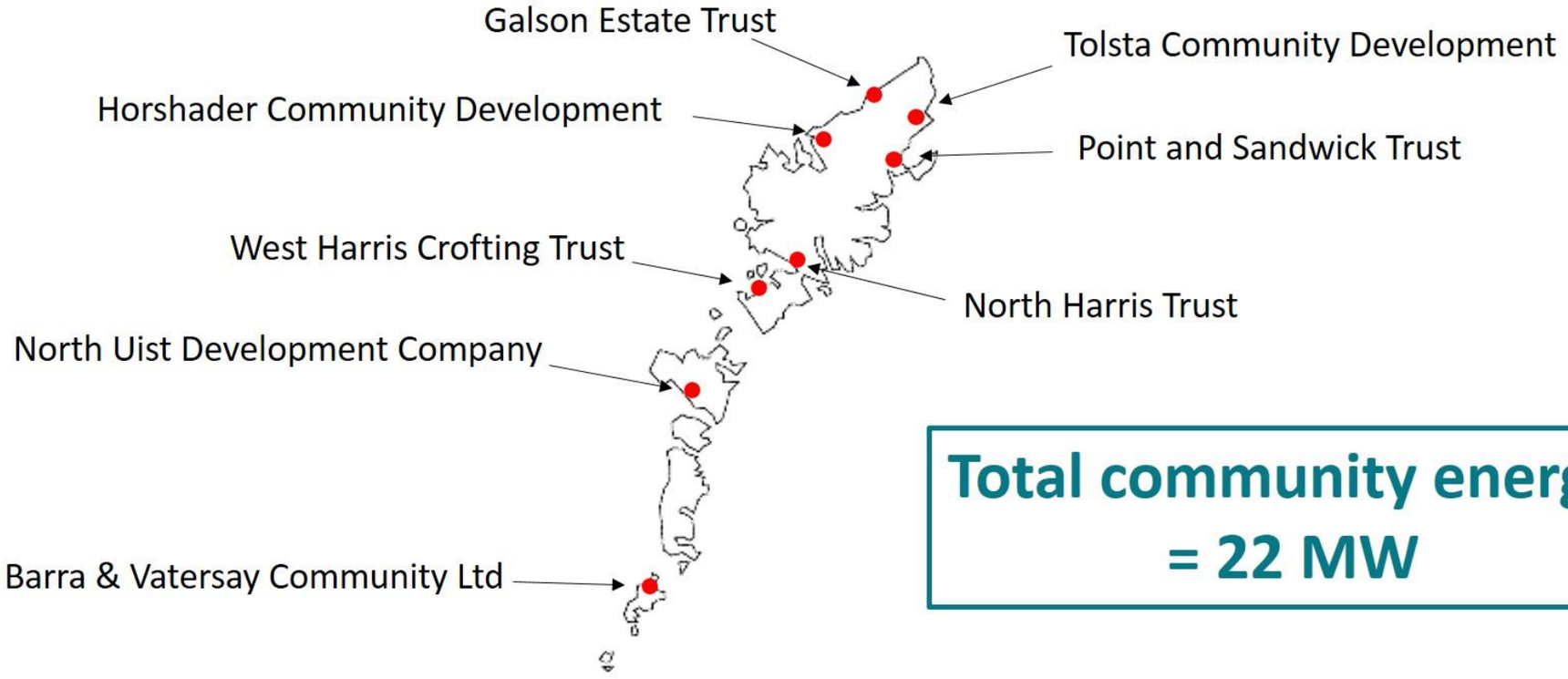
- PST awards grants to charitable organisations and community projects, rather than making individual grant awards. These projects can provide direct support to people in need, as demonstrated by the Energy Support Unit's targeted assistance to vulnerable households.

Complementing, not replacing, government responsibilities

- PST invests in projects that deliver additional community benefits, rather than funding services that should be the responsibility of government.

We’re in good company

Community owned energy in the Western Isles



Total community energy = 22 MW

Community wind farms are more beneficial

- PST commissioned an independent report into the comparison of community owned and privately owned wind farms.
- Compared nine community owned and four private wind farms in Scotland
- Findings showed community projects give 34 times more benefit to their community.
- Confirming what we have always believed:

Community owned projects bring far more to the area than those operated on a corporate basis.



Community-owned wind pays communities 34 more than private

Posted 17th June 2021

aquatera
environmental services and products

AN INDEPENDENT report has found Scotland's community-owned wind farms have provided, on average, 34 times more benefit payments to local communities than privately owned wind farms.

The report, produced by Aquatera Ltd on behalf of Point and Sandwick Development Trust, compared nine community owned and four private wind farms in Scotland and found that returns from the community owned wind farms average £170,000 per installed MW per annum, far exceeding the community benefit payment industry standard of £5,000 per installed MW per annum.

Thank you, any questions?

