



Foundation Scotland

Scotland's Community Foundation

Integrating climate action into funding policy and practice

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About Foundation Scotland

- A registered charity, formed in 1996
- Award grants in Scotland on behalf of a wide range of donors (c 400)
- Wide range of funding programmes - national and place-based
- Focus on grassroots activity
- Since 1996, distributed more than £130 million in grants, and now one of the largest funders of the voluntary sector in Scotland
- In 2021/22 we supported 2,055 groups through 108 funds to a total of £21.8 million
- 33 staff

About Foundation Scotland

- 66 community benefit funds (c. 30% of current CB funds in Scotland by value)
- Place-based - focus on improving life within a geographical community
- Most linked to renewable energy projects
- We assess applications, decision makers are usually a community panel
- £6M+ income (circa £23M across Scotland)
- Relationships with circa 300 communities (about 25% of CCs in Scotland)
- Advisor to Scottish Government cares programme on CB matters 2017-2020

Our Commitment...

The scale of the climate emergency, and the scale of the solutions needed, mean that this is an issue for all parts of civil society, and for all charitable foundations.

Our 2030 Strategy - 'Become a sustainable organisation - from financial, social justice and environmental viewpoints'

UN SDG13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

UK Funders Commitment to Climate Change – we became a signatory in 2020

COP26 and F20 event , November 2021



UK Funders Commitment on Climate Change

Commits us to:

- Educate and learn
- Commit resources to climate action
- Integrate into funding programmes
- Steward our investments for a post-carbon future
- Decarbonise our operations
- Report on progress



<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/our-impact/our-commitment-to-climate-change>

Climate Action Working Group



- Support from SMT and Board
- Cross-departmental representation
- First meeting March 2021
- Action around the 6 themes in the UK Commitment
- Reporting back
- Part of Scotland Funders Forum sub-group on climate action, links with EFN

Challenges

- Top down versus bottom-up approach to fund strategy
- New topic for many - level of knowledge / understanding
- Relevance to groups not focussed explicitly on climate change - 'what should / can I do?'
- Group capacity



Third Sector and Net Zero survey

Conducted by SCVO and SENScot of their membership

Published in September 2021

Of the 549 third sector organisations that responded:

- 87% have not set/don't know if they have set a carbon neutral target;
- 89% have not measured their organisation's carbon footprint; and
- just under 50% of respondents think the climate crisis is either not important or only slightly to moderately important.

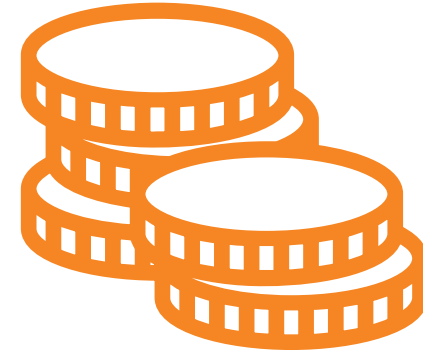
Educate and Learn

- Training for all staff
- Green Champion Training for Finance & Ops staff
- Workshop for Panel members
- CAWG Intranet page with news and events
- Attendance at EFN events
- New webpage for applicants
- Board training?



Commit resources

- Considered additional funding, but decided to focus on integration
- Now looking at increases to grants in line with cost of living / energy costs and green tech
- Staff time
- Financed carbon footprint study



Commit resources

Financial Considerations for Sustainable Solutions	
Costs or savings:	Example:
Immediate savings	Virtual meetings rather than travel Re-using items / recycling materials
Costs upfront, but long-term savings	Building insulation
Higher costs, but opportunities to fundraise	New programmes of activity Electric vehicles instead of petrol-fuelled
Cost neutral, just different	Vegan / Vegetarian catering as standard at events Peat-free gardening

Integrate



Partnered with Business Energy Scotland – energy opportunity assessments



Integrated a question on environmental impacts into the application process



Introduced new indicators in our grant monitoring on local activity towards climate action and sustainability.

Integrate



‘Design your project for people and planet’ webpage



Sign-posting to / promotion of further sources of support



Begun working with new and existing donors and panels on integration into Fund strategies.

Funds: Vattenfall Unlock Our Future

Supports charitable projects in **Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire** that address at least three of the following criteria:

- contribute to a **climate smarter world** with sustainability at its core
- invest in **community facilities** and activities that are fit for the future and environmentally sustainable, especially community spaces and transport
- support **creative solutions**
- ensure a **legacy and lasting impact**, which clearly brings benefit to the local community.

- C.£340K awarded in three years
- <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/unlock-our-future>



Transport

Virtual
Walking Cycling
Car share
E-vehicles

Time and cost saving / inclusion
Mental and physical health
Cost savings
Air quality

International travel

Heating and other building uses

Insulation
LED lighting
Heat pumps

Thermal comfort
Lower running costs

Renovation or build w/o considering climate

Goods and materials

Reduce, reuse, repair, recycle

Cost savings
New skills
community connections

Unnecessary materials

Food

Grow your own
Plant based foods
Surplus redistribution

Mental and physical health

Food waste

Carbon storage

Regenerative farming, peat restoration, woodland

Wildlife
Amenity value

Peat use
Reduced green spaces

Webpage

- Why / our commitment and expectations
- Cost considerations
- Buildings
- Travel
- Waste/resource use
- Enhancing biodiversity
- Case studies throughout
- What else can 3rd sector do?

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/help-for-applicants/projects-for-people-and-planet>



Grants are going to ...



Local
Energy
Action
Plans &
Climate
Awareness



Habitat
Restoration



Transport

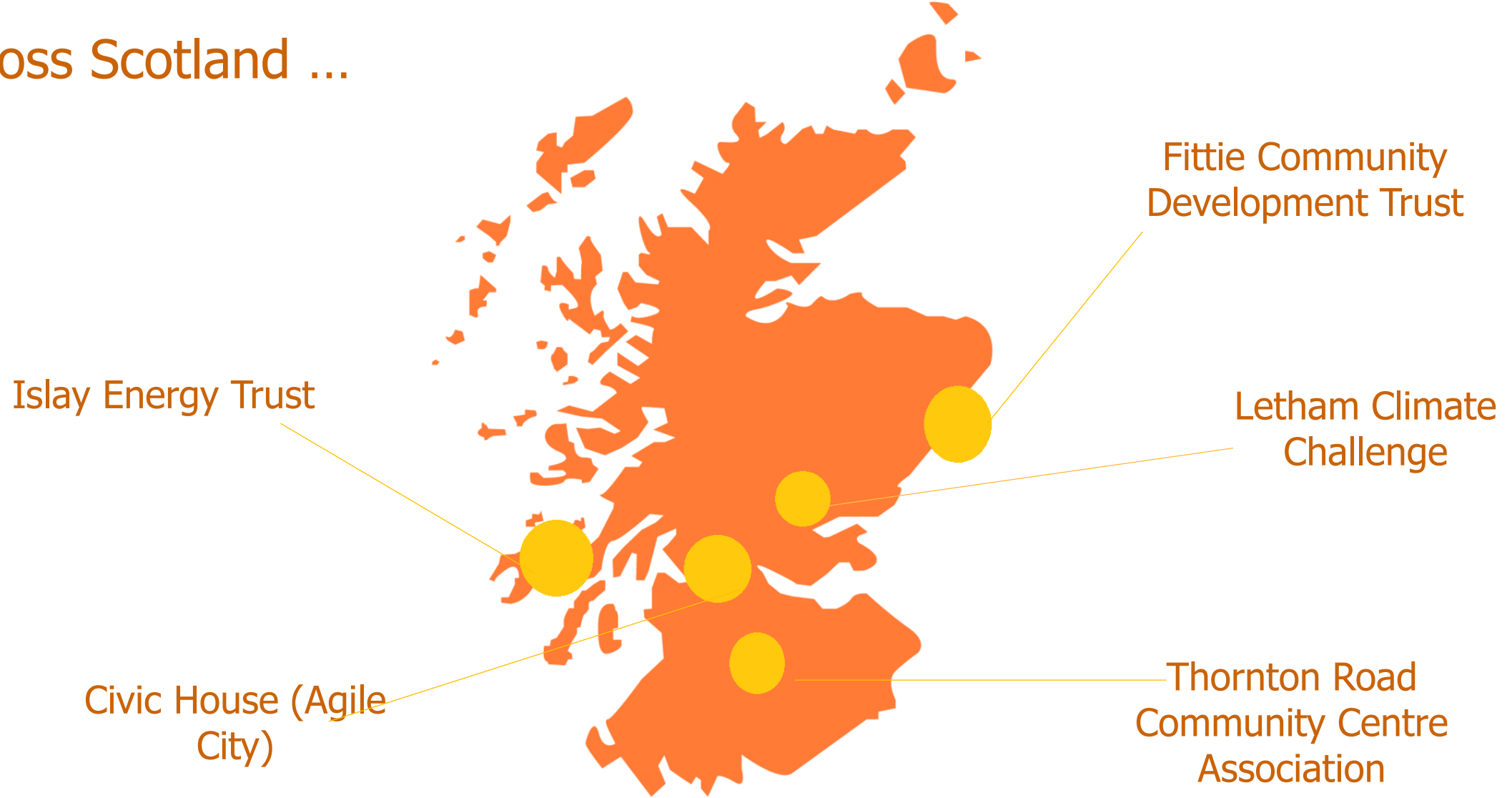


Community
facilities

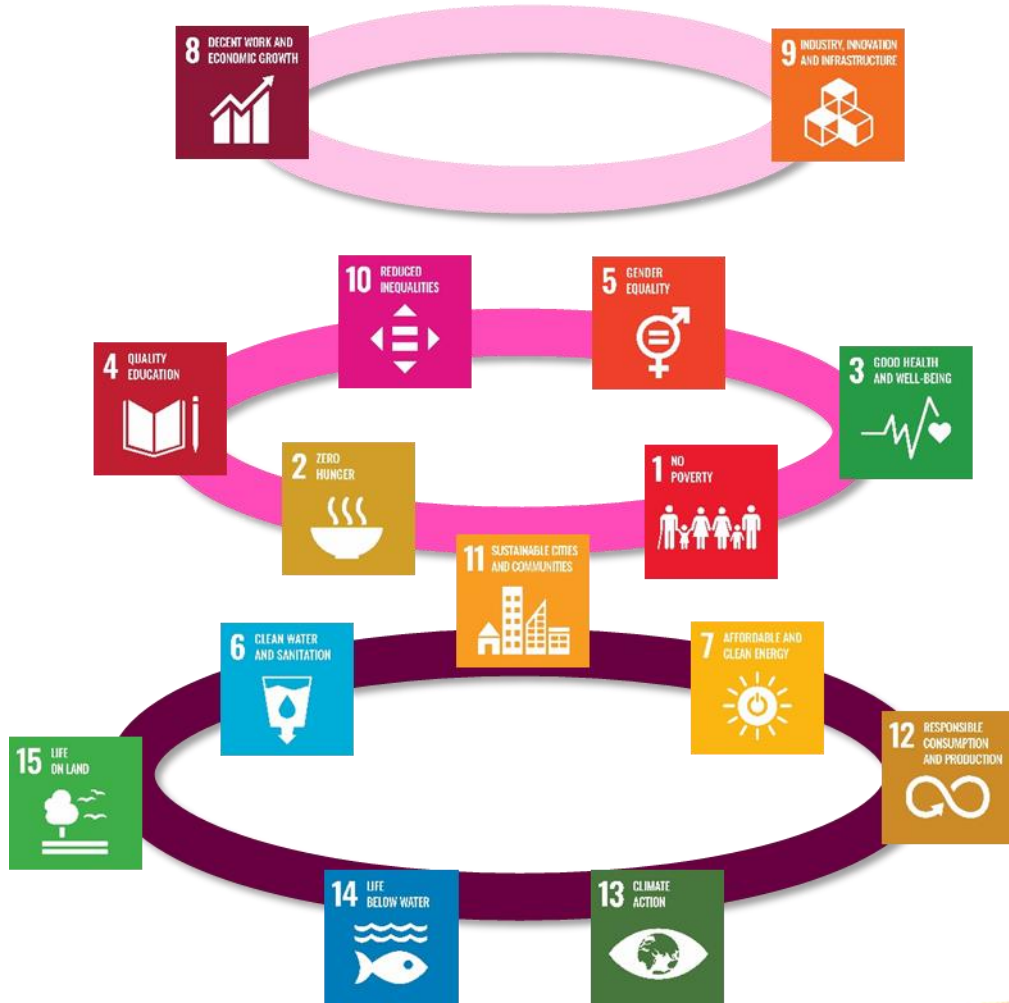


Re-use and
recycling

Across Scotland ...



Steward our Investments



We invest in

- ✓ Financial inclusion
- ✓ Impact enablers
- ✓ Sustainable infrastructure

We avoid

- ✗ Armaments
- ✗ Gambling
- ✗ Political corruption
- ✗ Poor governance

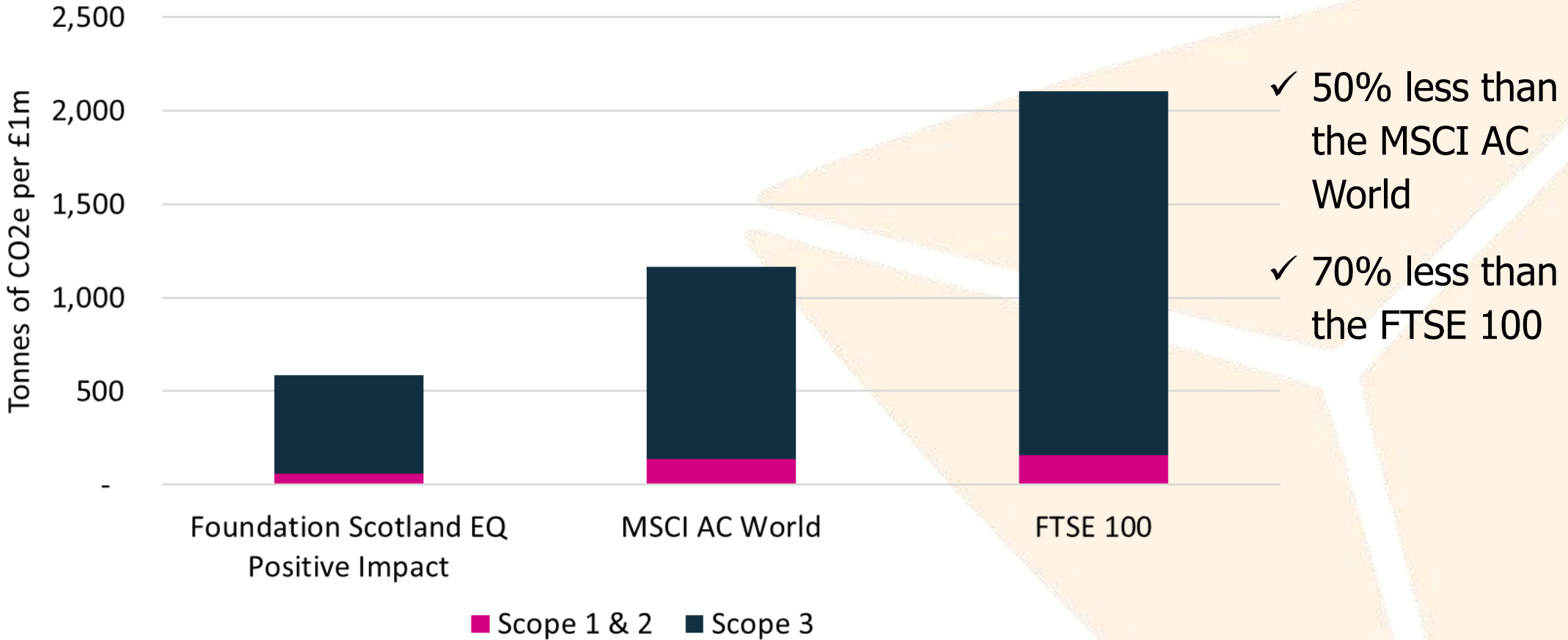
- ✓ Healthcare
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Affordable housing
- ✓ Social care
- ✓ Sanitation
- ✓ Sustainable food

- ✗ Tobacco
- ✗ Alcohol
- ✗ Pornography
- ✗ Human rights abuses
- ✗ Poor labour standards
- ✗ High sugar/fat foods

- ✓ Clean energy
- ✓ Energy efficiency
- ✓ Circular economy
- ✓ Natural resource conservation
- ✓ Sustainable transport

- ✗ Mining
- ✗ Coal
- ✗ Fossil fuel extraction
- ✗ Poor environmental practices

Portfolio carbon analysis



Source: Urgentem, December 2020.

De-carbonise our Operations

- Environmental policy
- No longer have offices
- Measuring our carbon footprint
- Challenges:
 - Quantification / accuracy
 - Control / influence, e.g. investments and pensions
- Focus on key areas we have control over, but seek to influence suppliers
- Sustainable options to off-set residual emissions.



Reporting

- ACF – annually (FCCC)
- Our annual report
- Website
- Donors
- UKCF QA5 process?



Looking forward...

- Demand / acceptance for climate-focus in funds / programmes is **growing post COP-26**
- Explicitly climate-focused programmes have their place, but **biggest wins likely in integration / mainstreaming**
- The cost-of-living crisis, poverty, and climate justice are all hot topics and play into what we need to do and how. There are **opportunities for win-win**
- Success of climate action can be **less clear-cut and more difficult to measure**. The long-term nature of these solutions can make it more difficult to derive / identify short-term success
- Value in **linking communities working on climate action** to learn from each other – through existing networks or our own convening role.



Thank you ...

