

As you will know recent General Synod's have committed the SEC to working towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. (See attached paper prepared by the Church in Society Committee Technical Group on Climate Action for this year's General Synod for more information. Work is continuing on the Toolkit referred to in the paper – I understand that it should be available by the end of the summer.)

We have received the following from the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) which may be of interest to churches that are considering alternative energy systems:

Let's do net zero community buildings

Achieving net zero means we all need to take action.

Climate change and nature loss are the greatest threats facing the world's population. They're not distant far away problems – they're here in Scotland and we're seeing the impact. That's why we need everyone – businesses, communities, industry and individuals – to come with us to net zero and take action to change.

The Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) is here to help you and others on this journey to net zero. CARES is offering grant funding, advice and support to community organisations that want to decarbonise their community buildings by installing low carbon or renewable technologies, such as heat pumps or solar panels.

CARES funding is available for many types of community building, including:

- community cafes
- community hubs
- faith buildings
- public halls
- community halls and community centres.

CARES has already supported many community organisations throughout Scotland to successfully install renewable technologies in their community buildings. You can read about these projects on our website, including:

- [Inverness Masjid](#) installed solar panels at its mosque, and with further assistance from CARES, installed battery storage too.
- [Aboyne and Mid-Deeside Community Shed](#) installed four air source heat pumps to provide space heating at its community shed.
- [Loch Ness Hub](#) installed solar panels and an air source heat pump to decarbonise the building's heat and energy supply.

Who can apply?

Applicants must be constituted non-profit distributing community organisations, including organisations with charitable status, that are established and operating across a geographically defined community ('local community organisations') or faith groups.

How much is available?

Through a combination of grants and loans, CARES can fund up to 100% of the eligible project costs. This funding call will operate on a first-come basis.

Full information is on [the Local Energy Scotland website](#).

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