

SFT Outcomes Demonstrating progress with impact



2020 CASE STUDY

Outcome 10



Infrastructure-related carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions are reduced, supporting Scotland's transition to a low carbon economy

The Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme

24 hour electricity on Fair Isle

Situated halfway between Orkney and Shetland, the small community of 55 islanders living on Fair Isle had never had the 'luxury' of 24/7 electricity.

The three-mile long remote Scottish island had used a combination of wind and diesel power since the 1980s, but it had always been lights out at 11.30pm and back on again at 7.30am on nights when there was no wind. But all that has changed as a result of this Scottish Futures Trust (SFT)-supported project

The Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (LCITP) was established with the objective of accelerating the development and delivery of substantive low-carbon energy projects across Scotland.

It is led by Scottish Government, and SFT is a key delivery partner along with Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and sector specialists with support from European Structural and Investment Funds.

The £3.5m project, led by Fair Isle Electricity Company (FIEC) secured £1.5m funding from the LCITP and £250,000 from Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

As a result, the new renewable electricity system went live on Fair Isle in October 2018, which combines three wind turbine generators, a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic system and battery storage.

This is a community project which has brought round-the-clock power to one of the UK's most remote outposts and won top prize at the Scottish Green Energy Awards in December 2018.

Fair Isle's new renewable energy system replaces polluting diesel generators and has allowed islanders to use electricity round the clock for the first time.

Robert Mitchell, company director of FIEC, said: "As an important project in a fragile rural area, having reliable renewable power will make a huge difference now and in the future, and we hope that it will encourage more people to come and live on the island. It also provides a great opportunity for more businesses to start here.

"The new energy system will be cleaner and greener and will reduce reliance on expensive diesel, hence making living costs more sustainable. It's an ambitious project and is another step in ensuring that the community of Fair Isle continues to thrive."

