

COMMUNITIES CASE STUDY

HOME
ENERGY
SCOTLAND

GATE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL IS A VIBRANT CHURCH GROUP IN DUNDEE THAT DELIVERS PROJECTS TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

THEIR 'CARBON SAVING PROJECT' IS FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S CLIMATE CHALLENGE FUND. IT AIMS TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THEIR CHURCH BUILDING AND ACROSS THEIR COMMUNITY BY SUPPORTING THOSE IN FUEL POVERTY.

Gate Church International is a member of Eco-Congregation Scotland and aspires to be Scotland's greenest church. Their work focuses on the delivery of engagement events and home energy efficiency visits to vulnerable people within their community, which often results in referrals to Home Energy Scotland.

GATE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL STARTED WORKING WITH HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND IN 2014, AFTER RECEIVING THEIR FIRST CLIMATE CHALLENGE FUND GRANT, AND THE PARTNERSHIP HAS FLOURISHED EVER SINCE.

The partnership means community members can access free home energy efficiency resources, and check if they're eligible for government grants for further improvements. As Lynsey Penny, Gate Church International's Project Coordinator explains: "Our relationship with Home Energy Scotland has been invaluable, from steering us towards the correct training programmes, to giving their advice when we needed it. And all the resources they create for community groups have been so helpful!"

Gate Church International used part of their Climate Challenge Fund grant to implement a range of energy efficiency improvements to their building. They were supported by Resource Efficient Scotland who produced an energy audit of the identified measures that the group included in their grant application.



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ONE OF THE TOOLS GATE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL FOUND MOST USEFUL WAS THE REFERRAL PORTAL. THE ONLINE TOOL ALLOWS ORGANISATIONS TO REFER CLIENTS TO HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND FOR ADVICE AND GRANT ELIGIBILITY CHECKS.

Lynsey explains: “We use the portal to refer around two to three people a week. It couldn’t be easier to use – it only takes two minutes and can be done from anywhere. We’d highly recommend it”.

There’s no doubt that the Carbon Saving Project has had an effect. In 2017/18, Gate Church International saved more than 19 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide. After carrying out all energy efficiency measures to their own building, they reduced gas usage by 63%, electricity usage by 67% and water usage by 20%. They have also helped people in fuel poverty to reduce energy emissions; reduce their energy bills and support them to get out of long-term debt.

The heart-warming examples of community members who have benefited from life-changing home improvements really demonstrate the value of the partnership.

“We referred one particular client that we met through a food bank”, Lynsey explains. “He ended up getting all sorts of energy efficiency measures, including cavity wall insulation and a new boiler. He said it had completely changed his life! With help from Home Energy Scotland, it means turning on the heating isn’t quite so expensive and can help people to reduce their fuel debt.”

[Watch Gate Church International’s film about its Carbon Saving Project](#)

Our outreach and engagement team are based across Scotland and work closely with community groups to support energy and transport projects.

Call 0131 555 8668 or email hes_partnerships@est.org.uk to find out more.

