

# Island Communities Fund – A Summary

**£2.6 million investment from the Scottish Government deliver a green economic recovery in Scotland's Island communities.**



THE ISLANDS  
SCOTLAND ACT 2018  
ACHD  
NAN EILEAN  
ALBA 2018

Launched June 2021 - Applications submitted July 2021 - Spend deadline end March 2022.

## Key Fund Statistics

**180**  
Applications  
received  
requesting  
**£16m**



**16%**  
Success Rate



**35**  
Projects  
Funded



**£2.6m**  
Invested

Benefitting  
**55**  
Islands

*"The hall will be part of the infrastructure that encourages people to stay or return to live on Hoy". Island of Hoy Development Trust, YM Hall refurbishment, Hoy, Orkney.*

*"The project has already made a tremendous difference, one we expect to continue for decades to come." Clan MacQuarrie Centre, Hebridean Community Garden, Isle of Lewis*

## Funded Activities



### Infrastructure

Building refurbishments, paths, community hub improvements, polycrubs, walls, groundworks, insulation, windows, underfloor heating, car park access, bike sheds



### Transport

Electric minibuses, electric delivery vans, bikes and e-bikes, electric vehicle and e-bike charge points



### Renewables

Ground source heat pumps, solar photovoltaic, wind turbines, energy monitoring, batteries, waste heat recovery exchanger, hybrid boat



### Making, growing and conservation

Spinning mill machinery, knitting machine, meat larder, gardens, grass harrows, tree nursery, marine survey boat

*"This project is instrumental in helping Eigg Trading to generate more income to support future development projects, enabling Eigg Trading and Eigg itself be more self-sustaining."*  
An Laimhrig Community Hub, Eigg Trading Ltd, Isle of Eigg

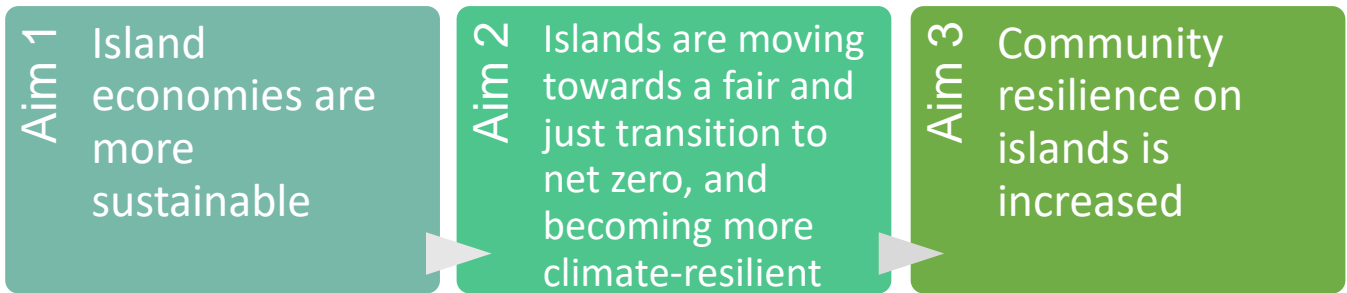


Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

INSPIRING SCOTLAND

## Fund Focus

Evidence was collected against how projects had met the Fund's three main aims:



The Island Communities Fund projects contributed to all the National Islands Plan Strategic Objectives. Those most strongly supported were:

- to contribute to Climate Change mitigation and adaptation and promote clean, affordable, and secure Energy.
- to improve and promote Sustainable Economic Development
- to improve and promote Environmental Wellbeing & deal with Biosecurity.

## Key Learning and Insight

### Criteria & Process

If funding is for one year, maximise the delivery period

Build in additional support throughout the process for community-led organisations with limited capacity

Be clear with applicants on their LA's share of the funding available

Where funding in advance of need was possible this supported grantees to deliver impact more effectively

### Learning & Reflection

Community organisations and SMEs can deliver significant impact at local island level

Large capital and infrastructure projects take time to develop, plan and deliver

Capital investment stimulates ambition, vision, and hope

Direct funding, rather than through local authorities, empowers island communities to deliver on their priorities

### Key Insight

Capacity of community anchor organisations is stretched

Housing, economic development and carbon net zero are key issues for Island communities

Demand for funding varied significantly across the 6 local authorities with islands

Demand for capital and revenue investment in Scotland's islands continues

### Looking Ahead

Community wealth building and place-based development will support sustainable and resilient Islands

Grantees felt positive that project impact would continue or be built upon over time.

### Key Challenges

Funding – meeting the cost of future demand, and securing sustainable income and funding is a pressing concern

People - recruiting and retaining staff and volunteers

### Do Differently?

Have more time to plan, apply for and deliver project

Allow for more research and planning in advance of application deadline