

**energy
saving
trust**

Helping people more than ever

Our impact 2022/23



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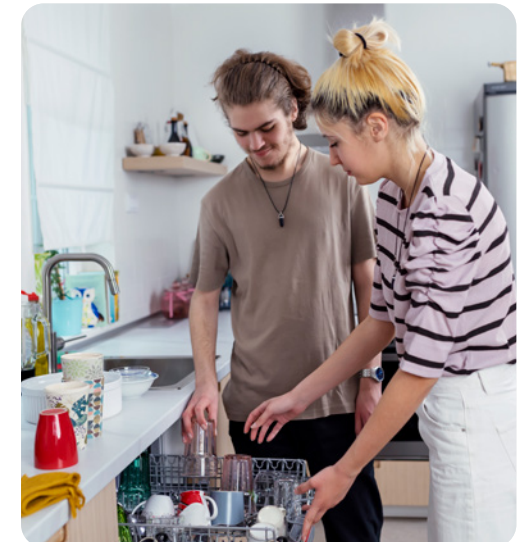
Barbara Anderson
Chair, Energy Saving Trust

This is a critical time for energy saving and carbon reduction throughout the UK. In addition, the economic pressures continue to be complex, affecting organisations and individuals alike.

Energy Saving Trust is a leading and respected driver of change in carbon reduction with over 30 years of experience, and we continue to see our impact increasing despite the challenging financial landscape. This year we reached over 12 million consumers and helped 75 organisations to reduce carbon emissions.

“
We continue to see our impact increasing despite the challenging financial landscape.
”

Further reading
[Our leadership](#)

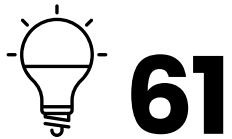


Foreword from our Chair

Increase our impact

We are here for the long term to deliver our mission of helping the UK transition to net zero. We are therefore keen to see even more organisations and consumers benefit from the expertise within our team.

Given the overwhelming need for energy saving expertise, we intend to focus on the areas in which we can make the most significant impact. Our newly developed three year strategy sets out a basis for growth that sees our impact increasing in England as well as in Scotland, Wales and Ireland.



Excellent Net Promoter Score rating of 61 for our energy programmes in Scotland and Wales.

Grow our services

Building on our current successful programmes, over the next three years we intend to grow our services to the commercial and third sectors. We can support their energy transition including changing their fleet to electric vehicles as well as helping with data on energy efficiency opportunities for their property portfolios. Surplus income from these projects will be reinvested in our broader objectives.

Such partnerships will also ensure we are able to reach and assist more people. With this in mind, we have already forged successful partnerships with large commercial partners like B&Q and Airbnb.

Energy Saving Trust exists to deliver our mission. The more diversified our markets and revenues are, the more we can deliver on our core mission.

“
Over the next three years we intend to grow our services to the commercial and third sectors.

”



Foreword from our Chief Executive

Investing in the business to achieve our mission



Mike Thornton
Chief Executive,
Energy Saving Trust

With energy bills set to remain at record highs for years to come and an ever-deepening climate crisis, Energy Saving Trust's mission is more important than ever.

The impact of the energy crisis on our customers – both households and businesses – has meant a lot more activity for our advice services and a great deal more cut-through for our messages.

And the important and hopeful point for the net zero transition is that the best longer-term solutions to the energy crisis are also low carbon solutions. More and better insulation on houses and buildings, more renewables, low carbon heating, these are all things which cut both carbon and energy bills.

“
The best longer-term solutions to the energy crisis are also low carbon solutions.
”

 **235**

Supported 235 community energy projects in Scotland and Wales.

Further reading →
[Helping your community](#)

Foreword from our Chief Executive

investments, not just a nice-to-have for the planet, so that is a clear opportunity to take them along the net zero journey.

So today we're more mainstream than we've ever been and we have been actively promoting energy efficiency, renewables and sustainable transport for 30 years. But if these last thirty years have been important, the

next ten will be crucial. We need to grow faster because if we fail to grow as fast as the climate emergency, we are in effect going backwards.

And the key to this rapid growth is to take advantage of the scaling that digital services can offer. We will continue to grow the telephone-based advice and support services we deliver as there will always be a need for these, not least for our many vulnerable customers who need our help most of all.

But to help the growing numbers of customers coming to us for advice, information and support, we will need to invest in effective, people-centred digital advice and tools. We do a lot of our work through digital means already but are now focused on building a complete and tailored digital customer journey for all those who use our service. A service which is easy to use and which meets all customers' needs.

“
We have been actively promoting energy efficiency, renewables and sustainable transport for 30 years.

”

Customer first

So, we'll be broadening and deepening our digital approach, this is a significant change for Energy Saving Trust but whilst we will as always aim to meet our customers' needs, our values will not change. We will continue to invest in the skills and wellbeing of our team, as our key asset, and in diversity and inclusion so that our team reflects our diverse audiences.

We will continue our successful and increasing provision of apprenticeships to provide effective routes into working for us for young people from the widest possible range of backgrounds. And we will continue to provide funding to our charitable foundation which helps young people, many from poorer backgrounds, to lead on and take effective climate action.

Further reading →

[The Foundation](#)

[Ofgem Energy Redress Scheme](#)

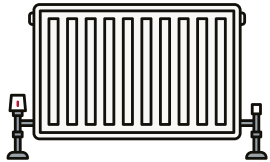


Our impact

Our year in numbers

139,000

Households **helped** with energy saving advice.



733



The revamped **Business Energy Scotland** service supported over **700 customers** in its first year, **delivering 773 energy reports** with recommendations.

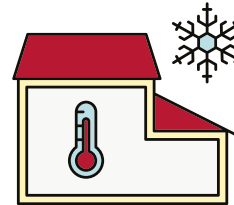
£217m

Helped people **save £217m** on their energy bills and **save 787,000tCO₂e** carbon through our **advice in Scotland**.



£122m

Awarded £122 million in loans to householders and businesses, to **improve energy efficiency**, **install renewables** or **switch to sustainable transport**.



75,000

Over 75,000 people received **tailored advice** through our digital tools, including the **Energy Efficiency Tool**, and the **Energy Advice Tool**.

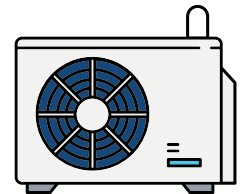


£6.2m

Provided funding to charities to distribute **£6.2m** in fuel vouchers to **90,000 households** in vulnerable situations through the Ofgem Energy Redress Scheme.

5,000

Installed and funded energy efficiency improvements in over **5,000 households in Scotland** through our joint venture Warmworks.



Our strategy

Targeting strategic growth areas to boost impact

Our strategic outlook identifies three growth areas which will significantly increase and accelerate our impact on the climate emergency.



Customer driven

We aim to expand our advice, information and support services for households and SMEs. These services drive a lot of the activity in the sustainable energy market, as we know from our Scottish experience. In an urgent transition such as the journey towards net zero, delivering solutions at pace is key.

We will increase our presence in the dominant English sustainable energy market. We already do significant amounts of work in England, but we're not as prominent here as we are in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We recognise that many more households or businesses across the UK could benefit from what we do. By putting infrastructure in place, we help our whole country move towards net zero.

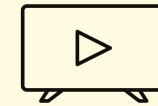
We aim to become customer driven and digitally led, where the majority route to our services is via digital channels. Not only will this allow us to help many more enquirers, it also affords these customers a simpler, speedier engagement journey.

Our corporate priorities are focused on growth. We will continue to grow our current range of activity. As the market evolves, however, we will innovate to ensure our services match changing needs and aspirations as closely as possible.

Increasing our impact is not necessarily about our size. It means partnering with others, including private sector companies, in order to influence larger numbers of households and small businesses

with our core messages in the areas of sustainable energy and transport.

We will continue to run an efficient, sustainable business, making a surplus for future investment in our mission. Energy Saving Trust has doubled its staff numbers in just three years. We are growing in line with our market while serving the needs of our sector – something we're proud of.



12.1m

Reached 12.1 million people through our campaigns and encouraged 2.3 million people to take action. Reached 6.5 million people through our website. We were mentioned in the media over 7,000 times.

Further reading →

Who we are

Responding to the energy crisis – matching ideas with action

During a year of stark signals and fast-moving events, Energy Saving Trust responded to policy priorities at the highest level while shaping messages to help people every day.

While our policy work tied the energy crisis to energy security and our mission to tackle the climate emergency through decarbonisation, one aspect became much more acute – affordability.

In the last year, household energy bills have doubled. It's fair to say we've lived through an energy shock on a scale unseen since the 1970s. Against this challenging backdrop, and in the face of multiple changes of government, our policy asks have remained consistent.

Three key issues stand out. There is a significant policy gap in England around the need for a national advice service for consumers which would help people to retrofit their homes and switch to low carbon heating. In turn this should support a national retrofit scheme to improve the energy efficiency of our homes. Additionally, there is a need for a coherent decarbonisation strategy for business, and particularly support for SMEs.


As the numbers facing fuel poverty in our country rocketed to 6.5 million, our advocacy work took on an urgent focus. The UK government needed to provide concrete solutions to the problems people faced. We made the case that helping to decarbonise homes, businesses and transport is a key long term solution to lowering bills and improving energy security.

 **55**

We influenced policy development by engaging with over 55 consultations, calls for evidence and enquiries.

This focus is present in our response in August 2022 to Ofgem's price cap announcement, and in our 2023 statement responding to the UK Government's budget. We were pleased to see the independent Net Zero Review, to which we contributed, consider robustly the interlinked energy challenges we confront – demand, security, affordability.



Further reading 
Policy

Helping households struggling with their fuel bills

Our marketing response to the energy crisis relied on a strong piece of research identifying seven segments within our audience, from the cost-conscious to the environmentally invested. Using this insight, we targeted those consumers who were most worried about soaring energy bills.

With our website as an advice gateway, we published our top ten tips for saving energy, focusing on simple behavioural changes – taking all appliances off standby mode, for example – that required no financial investment. And through our straight-talking ‘explainer’ blogs, we helped demystify the issues of the day for large numbers of anxious households looking to lower their fuel bills.

“
On price cap day, we were on Radio 4’s Woman’s Hour – a media coup for us.
”

After the first price cap announcement in April 2022, we pushed out our energy saving data to the mass media – TV, tabloid and broadsheets. By the time of the second announcement in August, they were coming back to us for more. On price cap day itself, our head of energy was on Radio 4’s Woman’s Hour talking about ways to cut energy use at home – a media coup for us.

We acted in concert on energy tips with Citizens Advice. We amplified the government’s It All Adds Up campaign including Nesta’s handy tool for optimising boiler flow. Additionally we supported charity One Home in their insulation campaign by providing energy saving facts.

But the centrepiece of our marketing efforts in support of people affected by the energy crisis was our hugely successful Warm Home Hacks campaign. It featured an interactive web page – enquirers could explore a virtual house room by room in order to identify savings – and a green renovation guide for those with resources to invest in energy efficiency improvements.



 **5.6m**

Our Warm Home Hacks marketing campaign reached 5.6 million people on social media and generated 80,000 website interactions.

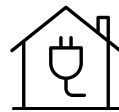
Further reading
[Warm home hacks](#)



Expanding the scope and reach of our energy advice services

As the energy and cost-of-living crises took hold, the external environment for energy advice saw unprecedented change. A new cohort of consumers began accessing our services for the first time.

For many, the challenge was to keep homes warm. Following a 20% increase in resources to the network, Home Energy Scotland advised 21% more households in 2022-23 than it did the previous year. The number of potentially fuel poor households supported was 67% higher than in the preceding year.



140k

By year's end, Home Energy Scotland's services had reached 140,000 households, up from 114,000 the previous year.



Funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by Energy Saving Trust, Home Energy Scotland offers free advice to consumers, private landlords and businesses via five regional centres. Advice focuses on energy efficiency, renewables, and low carbon heating options like heat pumps, with an eye too on the behavioural changes that yield fuel bill savings as well as carbon savings.

We also manage referrals to Warmer Homes Scotland, the Scottish Government's programme providing home energy efficiency improvements, plus some renewables, to households likely to be in fuel poverty. Last year, our referrals to Warmer Homes Scotland were 75% higher than the preceding year.



Inclusivity is a defining characteristic of the support that Home Energy Scotland delivers. Says programme manager Sophia Bates: 'Yes, we're seeing a different profile – the proportion of people contacting us who say they are struggling or worried about their fuel bills has gone up from a third to two thirds. The whole point of our services, however, is that there's something for everyone in society.'

We're proud to have won a Happy To Translate award last year in recognition of a diverse culture that reaches out to all.

“
They [Home Energy Scotland advisor] really helped me. It was a choice between food and energy, and the help provided made it easier for me to be able to buy food, as well as help provided with energy. It has been a huge saving grace, thank you.

”

M.G.

Record case numbers, altered motivations

In Wales, where we deliver the Welsh Government warm homes programme Nest, demand for services has soared over the past twelve months. Launched in 2011, Nest would typically support around 15,000 fuel poor households annually with financial assistance targeting energy efficiency improvements. Last year, we helped 22,000 households. Over the same period, we saw a 106% rise in our call volumes, and a 474% increase in customers seeking support through the web call back facility.

At the same time, we witnessed a marked shift in enquirer motivation. Nest advice centre manager Gaynor Nelson explains: 'Increasingly, our customers wanted information they could trust, rather than free measures. Advice was key when it came to cutting their fuel bills and their energy use.'

As winter began to bite, we received additional funding from the Welsh Government for a special campaign directing customers to our self-service advice website using social media, radio, TV and leaflet drops. Our Every Nest Is Different campaign had a target of two million to reach across Wales for households. In fact, the campaign was seen or heard five million times with 265,000 interactions such as the website.



5m

Every Nest Is Different was seen or heard five million times with 265,000 interactions with the campaign content.



“

Having recently received a boiler, radiators and solar panels, I can attest to how **FANTASTIC** this programme is. In just the first two weeks of this month, we have produced **155kWh** of energy. From 6 May to 5 June we used **124kWh**. How thankful!

”

Nest programme customer, Wales

Helping more customers than ever before in Northern Ireland

Energy Saving Trust manages the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP), an £8m grant fund collected annually from domestic and commercial electricity customers through a public service obligation.

Households benefit from NISEP by accessing grants for energy efficiency improvements, including boiler upgrades and smart heating controls. Vulnerable customers account for 80 per cent of funds.



The energy crisis has had impacts in Northern Ireland, where dependence on oil heating is high, and UK Government help with energy bills has worked differently.

Energy Saving Trust posted a useful energy bills support ‘explainer’ blog for Northern Ireland and published a web page listing 10 top energy saving tips covering oil, gas and electricity.

Last October, our annual Energy Saving Week advice initiative reached over 170,000 consumers in Northern Ireland via social media, a 44% increase on the previous year, and led to 7,000 website visits, 13 times more than the year before.

Says group head of energy Laura McGadie: ‘Where households or businesses have the resources to invest in cutting bills, we’re seeing much more interest in that. In Northern Ireland, as elsewhere, our advice is about helping people frame their choices to retain a sense of control.’



170k

Energy Saving Week advice initiative reached over 170,000 consumers in Northern Ireland via social media, a 44% increase on the previous year.

“

Super job, would never have been able to have the new heating system installed if it had not been for the grant. Very pleased, our house has been so much warmer since changing to gas.

”

Customer, Northern Ireland

New services – building our capacity, ramping up our support

In a year of challenge for many, Energy Saving Trust has successfully taken on new services as part of our expanding advice offering to households and businesses.

In April 2022 we launched a revitalised Business Energy Scotland service against the backdrop of a cost-of-doing-business crisis that sparked unprecedented levels of demand from hard-hit SMEs.

Funded by the Scottish Government, Business Energy Scotland is an advice service helping SMEs on the path to net zero. It helps businesses to improve their energy efficiency to reduce energy use and costs and adopt new technologies that reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, so curbing carbon emissions.

Business Energy Scotland programme manager Douglas Harding recalls: 'Some of our customers were in dire straits. We faced a tsunami of often difficult enquiries coming through the door.'

“

Over the last year Business Energy Scotland has provided vital help with heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency to SMEs across Scotland. We have seen unprecedented levels of demand as a result of the energy and cost-of-doing-business crisis. I'm delighted that the service has been able to help thousands of Scottish businesses. In its second year I hope to see Business Energy Scotland helping many more small firms to play their part in accelerating progress towards our net-zero targets.

”

Patrick Harvie, Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights



Patrick Harvie officially announcing the launch of Business Energy Scotland at All Energy, May 2022.

The revamped service supported over 700 customers in its first year, delivering 773 energy reports with recommendations, and enabling 365 interest-free SME loan applications.

It also identified over £10m worth of cost savings for businesses, and around 10,000 tonnes of annualised carbon savings, earning the thanks of the Scottish Government, and additional funding, along the way.

As more and more SMEs engaged proactively with the service, 98% of enquirers had specific projects in mind, 70% were aware of funding opportunities, and 66% were interested in solar specifically.

Marketing communications manager Andrew Leahy says: 'The rise in solar enquiries has been driven by the cost of electricity and battery storage of self-generated electricity is increasingly a common measure. The cost of electricity was the big driver here and battery storage of self-generated electricity is increasingly a common measure.'

 **£10m**

In its first year, Business Energy Scotland identified over £10m worth of cost savings for businesses, and over 10,000 tonnes of annualised carbon savings.



Further reading →

[Business Energy Scotland](#)

Matching our advice to the needs of the capital

In London, Energy Saving Trust is now delivering a new advice service on behalf of the Mayor’s Office and the Greater London Authority. In its pilot year, Energy Advice London advises Londoners on measures they can take to save energy at home, make their homes more energy efficient and how to access financial support to help with bills.

Launched in November 2022 in the teeth of a gathering cost-of-living storm, the new service was mobilised in just 12 weeks in order to offer rapid support to Londoners struggling with their energy bills as the winter began to bite.

Energy Advice London recognises that large numbers of people who live in the capital are renters, tailoring its advice accordingly. Renters often lack the scope to make energy-saving improvements at home. What behavioural changes, the service asks, can they make to save money on bills?

Although it has telephone and email channels, Energy Advice London is configured primarily as a digital offering. Where the service excels is in delivering advice and support that is genuinely local – enquirers can filter content according to which borough they live in.

Might Londoners be more digitally disposed than others in the UK when it comes to accessing advice services? Perhaps, says Energy Saving Trust senior programme manager Julie Wood: ‘This is about access whenever and wherever. It’s important to consider London’s night-time economy, and to recognise the possibility that some of our customers might be outside general office hours.’

Elsewhere, Energy Saving Trust is working with North of Tyne Combined Authority to develop the business case for a retrofit and energy one-stop shop to help drive decarbonisation of the region’s housing stock. Last year, we were also commissioned by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to research opportunities to engage better with hard-to-reach consumers, including those digitally excluded. Both projects draw on our expertise, experience and instinct for best practice.

“
The Mayor’s Energy Advice London service is an important resource funded by City Hall to support Londoners through the cost-of-living crisis by providing free and impartial advice, helping people to manage their bills while keeping their homes warm. Energy Saving Trust’s experience in providing energy advice has enabled Londoners get the support they need to reduce their energy costs.
”

The Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues



Julie Wood, Emma Goulding and Alex Turcu from Energy Advice London team, Deputy Mayor of London Debbie Weekes-Bernard in the centre; at a Cost of Living event Feb 23.

Further reading →
[Energy advice for London](#)

Extending our digital and commercial links with big brands

Successful partnerships with major household names like Airbnb allow us to reach even more consumers with our trusted cost-cutting and energy-saving advice.

Spreading the word on energy efficiency

Energy Saving Trust has worked with Airbnb in the past year to help its host community act on energy efficiency and retrofitting, so enhancing its listings.

As part of the accommodation platform's sustainable hosting plan, we offered personalised home energy checks for Airbnb hosts and administered £1m of Airbnb grant funding for energy efficiency improvements and renovations. Interested parties were directed to local suppliers and installers.

Grants of up to £3,000 allowed hosts to cut their carbon emissions and to make long-term savings on bills so as to ease the cost of living – the reason cited by many for hosting in the first place.

“

Airbnb is committed to helping UK homes be more sustainable and affordable by improving their energy efficiency. As the climate and cost of living crises continue, this work is more important than ever. Our pioneering collaboration with the Energy Saving Trust has been foundational to the progress we have made so far, and we look forward to continuing our partnership to help more families drive sustainable change across the UK.

”

Amanda Cupples, General Manager for Northern Europe, Airbnb



 **£1m**

We offered personalised home energy checks for Airbnb hosts and administered £1m of Airbnb grant funding for energy efficiency improvements and renovations.

Improving the energy efficiency of our homes and switching to low carbon heating systems are the most effective ways to cut energy costs today and tomorrow. Energy Saving Trust knows the value of tailored advice – it helps Airbnb hosts and others get the best outcome from their investment.

Elsewhere, new cooking appliance facts and figures gathered by our insight teams have featured prominently on Jamie’s £1 Wonders, the popular Channel 4 vehicle for celebrity chef Jamie Oliver.

We followed this up with PR surrounding our cooking appliance data, which received coverage in the Sun, Daily Express and HuffPost. Cooking is a hot topic, and not just on the taste front. It’s an area where we see growing interest as consumers look to adopt a greener lifestyle and save money day to day.

Energy Saving Trust’s group head of business development Inga Jirgensone says: ‘High profile endorsements of our agenda are very exciting. It’s great to see Jamie take the lead here by helping his audience to be more energy conscious. You can’t put a price on that.’

Meanwhile, we continue to increase our cut-through with financial organisations, including leading banks and building societies. There’s a real appetite here for engaging with customers on energy efficiency. For these forward-thinking clients, the credibility our brand confers is key.

Digital expertise

Digital innovation is key to confronting the climate emergency and driving change within the energy advice sector. That’s why Energy Saving Trust has acquired software expert Solstice Associates.

The software design uses Energy Saving Trust’s proven Dynamic Engine tool, a solution that models every possible suite of energy-saving improvements in combination to

identify the optimum package or plan for each household based on budget and aspiration. This is a customer journey that links saving money on bills with taking key steps towards decarbonisation.

And Dynamic Engine offers a chance to expand. Says director at Solstice Dave Cattermole: ‘We’re already discussing a step-change in capability which will allow a huge scaling up of enquiry and response. The doors to next steps are very much open.’



Further reading →
[Home energy tips](#)

Decarbonising transport – increasing scale, widening reach

Going further and faster on the road to decarbonisation means building capacity for greater impact while prioritising access to low carbon transport options for a wider range of consumers.



Through our close partnership with Transport Scotland we continue to deliver a broad spectrum of funding for electric vehicles (EV) charging infrastructure and eBikes, allowing many more people to spread the cost of lower-carbon transport options as part of a greener lifestyle.

Energy Saving Trust is at the forefront of funding provision in this context, acting as a point of sale for individuals and groups looking to unlock grants for specialist use, including community transport use, and for consumers and businesses seeking interest-free loans for EVs more widely.

Our funding allocation for these schemes from Transport Scotland is of the order of £40m annually and we currently have a loan book of some £114m, taking in funding for cars, vans and eBikes in Scotland.

LEVI – expanding EV infrastructure region by region

In England, we are helping local authorities scale up the availability of EV charging points through the expansion of our Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund.

Now fully fledged following a successful pilot in its first year, LEVI is delivered with our partners PA Consulting and Cenex and represents a £450m investment over a further three years by the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV).

While it encompasses EV charging infrastructure of many kinds, LEVI has a particular operational focus on helping people who lack a driveway. Here, the programme removes a major barrier to EV take-up and unlocks a range of charging solutions for local authorities up and down the land.

Energy Saving Trust's role in delivering LEVI includes a vital quality assurance component. The scheme helps individual and combined local authorities bid successfully for OZEV funding using a best practice model developed during the pilot phase.

Underlying all the work of the programme is an inbuilt innovation imperative that looks beyond technology in order to make the commercial case. Result: individuals and businesses charge their vehicles at an acceptable rate, chargepoint companies secure a long enough contract to get a return on their investment, and local authorities deliver a cost-conscious service on behalf of residents.

Energy Saving Trust's group head of transport Tim Anderson says: 'LEVI is about much more than giving away money. Our role is to help create a business model where everyone wins.'



Removing barriers to EV take-up by disabled people

As part of efforts to increase the accessibility of low carbon transport options, Energy Saving Trust hosts projects exploring the suitability of electric vehicles for disabled people. We've also been working with Motability and the Department for Transport to fully understand the barriers for disabled people in switching to EVs, including barriers resulting from charging infrastructure as well as from vehicles.

Here, efforts focus on drawing up a set of best practice principles and designing a BSI standard to show how operators can deliver infrastructure that considers the space around charging bays and access to charging cables, among other potential barriers.

Meanwhile, our hugely popular Plugged-In Communities initiative continues to unlock vital funding for zero emission vehicles for organisations that run community transport in Scotland. The scheme has offered £1.6m in the last year to cover vehicles used to transport the most vulnerable in society, thus supporting our diversity and inclusion agenda while helping to drive down emissions.

Through these and other transport programmes we continue to mark progress on the journey towards decarbonisation. As emissions from road use remain stubbornly high, the opportunity exists to reconfigure completely the way we think about transport.

Says Tim: 'Looking beyond electrification we need to explore different ways of travelling. How can we reduce our mileage? How can we make bus and rail travel more appealing? How can we make active travel the norm? The big prize is to transform our whole relationship with transport.'

38,700

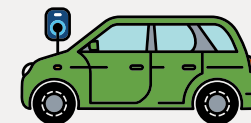
Public EV charging stations in the UK have more than trebled in four years, up from 10,300 in 2019 to 38,700 in 2023.

£12m

In Scotland, for electric vehicles in the public sector, nearly £12m has been committed to purchase zero emission vehicles in 2020.

£34m

In Scotland, in the last year we offered 1,372 loans totalling £34m towards electric cars, vans and taxis. For ebikes, a further 1,014 loans were offered totalling £3.2m.



Further reading →
[Government fund launch](#)

Strengthening collaborations to grow our international impact

A maximum achievements rating for our flagship energy access initiative was the highlight of an international programme shaped by hard-working coalitions and partnerships.

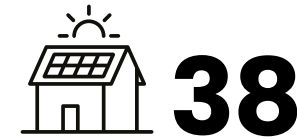
The Low Energy Inclusive Appliances (LEIA) programme aims to accelerate the availability, efficiency and affordability of electrical appliances for off- and weak-grid households, small businesses and smallholder farmers, enabling access to clean energy for the world's poorest.

A top-ranking A++ score from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) is the icing on the cake for our biggest international programme.

And we are delighted that LEIA has been extended with fresh funding from the UK aid funded Transforming Energy Access (TEA) platform and IKEA Foundation – a massive boost for the Efficiency for Access coalition, for which we serve as Secretariat, together with CLASP. The global coalition continues to grow, attracting new donors, investors and partners, and exceeding expectations in respect of funding with £280m leveraged to accelerate growth in off- and weak-grid appliances markets since 2017.

LEIA appliances have enabled 3.5 million more people to gain energy access over the past year, taking the total to 12.5 million since the start of the programme.

Through our involvement and presence at the Global Off-Grid Solar Forum & Expo in Kigali in October we continued to shine a light on solar appliances, with discussions moving from the side lines to centre stage. We were delighted to support 25 local companies to participate in the conference and showcase their innovative products. A more concerted effort is needed within the sector to truly level the playing field for local companies, including more flexible financing, tailored technical assistance, peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and coordinated policy interventions.



38

LEIA's R&D programme has helped 38 companies develop solar technologies that boost clean energy access.



Further reading →

Low Energy Inclusive Appliances programme

Innovating for clean energy access

At the heart of LEIA is the Efficiency for Access R&D Fund. Over the past five years it has supported 38 projects spanning 17 new and horizon technologies that boost clean energy access, including cooling, healthcare, agriculture, interoperability and Internet of Things (IoT) motors and emobility.

Many of the projects focused on developing and improving technologies that are efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable, such as Agsol's solar-powered MicroMill, Neopenda's neoGuard vital signs monitor, and Amped Innovation's solar refrigerator. Just under 60% of projects achieved notable improvements in efficiency, and over half delivered cost reductions. Across all projects supported almost thirty two thousand beneficiaries were reached, 60% of whom were women, with 732 people gaining new skills and close to a thousand jobs created.



The Efficiency for Access Design Challenge, delivered in partnership with Engineers Without Borders UK, continues to go from strength to strength. A global multi-disciplinary competition, it empowers university student teams to accelerate clean energy access through the development of innovative appliances.

Last year, and for the first time, the possibility of forming inter-university teams was introduced to promote collaboration between global north and global south universities. Top honours went to students from City University of London (UK) and the Independent University (Bangladesh) who scooped the gold award for their design of a solar direct drive cold storage system for off-grid preservation of fish and other perishable goods.

This year sees us offer an expanded package of support for students with an eye on inspiring and helping them to travel further on their innovation journeys. Energy Saving Trust's head of international Emilie Carmichael says: 'Our goal is to enable Design Challenge students to fulfil their career ambitions within the sector. We are delighted to launch a new Internship Programme for students, in partnership with the Energy Access Talent Initiative, a fellow programme under the TEA platform. In the future we hope to extend this further with support for students who dream of setting up businesses and becoming entrepreneurs.'

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Energy Saving Trust at 30 – our passion is for our mission

Three decades on from our modest beginnings, our ever-expanding role and reach are guided at all times by our mission to tackle the climate emergency.

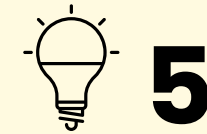
Energy Saving Trust began life back in 1992 with just two employees and with a brief that focused primarily on promoting energy conservation.

Established following the landmark United Nations Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, we set out initially to work with big energy companies at a time when public and political attention were turning increasingly to addressing the problems of cold homes and wasted energy around the world.

Since then, we've watched governments at home and abroad move steadily towards low carbon and renewable energy positions while shifting away from coal and fossil fuels. We've supported these policy journeys at the highest levels while also working with a growing number of corporate and non-governmental partners across the globe.

In November 2022 we marked our 30th birthday with a company-wide virtual conference. We've been a constant source of advice and support to households and businesses as successive domestic energy bills and global agreements have reinforced the critical need for energy efficiency and carbon reductions in the face of a deepening climate crisis. Our own chief executive, Mike Thornton, noted that the journey towards net zero isn't just about numbers – it's also about bringing people along. That is why we are here.

In 2022 our employee numbers rose to 500 – an increase of 182 per cent since 2002. We are proud of our investment in people with an apprenticeship scheme, investment



Energy Saving Trust ranked in the top 5 Best Companies to work for in the utilities sector.

in diversity and inclusion and in professional development, an electric vehicle leasing scheme and interest free loans for team members wanting to cut their carbon emissions. And our people are also proud to be tackling the climate emergency, together and with passion.



Energy Saving Trust is an independent organisation working to address the climate emergency.

July 2023

energysavingtrust.org.uk

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Our impact 2022/23