



European Energy Network

The voluntary network of European Energy Agencies - at the heart of the clean energy transition

Name and Country of EⁿR Member

EST - United Kingdom

**energy
saving
trust**



Name of Project/Programme & Link to website

CARES in Scotland (Community and Renewable Energy Scheme) and WGES in Wales (Welsh Government Energy Service).

<https://www.localenergy.scot/funding>

Description of Project

Energy Saving Trust works on behalf of the Scottish and Welsh Governments to deliver the CARES in Scotland (Community and Renewable Energy Scheme) and WGES in Wales (Welsh Government Energy Service).

CARES and WGES both provide multiple different types of support to energy communities developing renewable energy projects including:

- Direct support from a nominated support officer who advises projects from inception through to installation and beyond. Advice covers subjects such as initial support to identify a viable project, guidance on the project development process, support on developing a business plan and help with accessing finance.
- Grants for early-stage project development costs (e.g. feasibility or system design). Grants for innovative projects (particularly around local energy systems).
- Loans for later stage development and capital costs (often used as bridging loans) and/or support in accessing other finance.
- Provision of tools and information to build the capacity and capabilities of communities to develop projects in future.

Aim/Expected Impact of Project

CARES provides support to help meet Scottish Government's targets for 1GW of renewable energy in community and local ownership by 2020 and 2GW by 2030. It supports Scottish Government wider energy strategy to increase the number of local energy systems, moving away from centralised fossil fuel plants and increasing renewables penetration.

WGES aims to help realise Wales' decarbonisation ambitions and supports both the public and community sectors in Wales in the development of local energy efficiency and renewable energy projects which reduce carbon emissions, provides cost savings, income generation and wider community benefits and overall, increasing the drive towards a low carbon economy.

Involvement of the Agency and Link to the EU Green Deal

Renovation Wave

Energy Saving Trust and the Carbon Trust in consortium lead the delivery of the WGES scheme across Wales.

Energy Saving Trust leads a consortium of partners called 'Local Energy Scotland' which manages and delivers the CARES scheme across Scotland.



The WGES and CARES schemes provide examples of approaches which contribute to the delivery of Article 22 of the RED and specifically support through providing *“tools to facilitate access to finance and information are available; and “regulatory and capacity-building support is provided to public authorities in enabling and setting up renewable energy communities, and in helping authorities to participate directly;”*. They are frontrunner examples of empowering regional and local energy communities as aimed in the Commission’s Climate Pact. The interlinkages between societal change and innovative technologies that are a focus of the Green Deal are well presented within CARES and WGES.