



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

## **Deputy First Minister to launch plan to cut carbon in the Southside of Glasgow**

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon will launch the next phase of a pioneering Glasgow initiative helping people in South Glasgow cut energy bills while also playing a part in helping Scotland meet its climate change targets.

South Seeds is a charity working in Govanhill, Crosshill, Queen's Park and Stathbungo in Glasgow's Southside and backed by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund.

South Seeds have put together the Energy Snapshot report which shows for the first time a detailed analysis of what measures and actions, on a street-by-street basis, are best suited to helping people manage their energy use. This research is backed up by thermal images of properties throughout the local areas, which will help us to identify the main sources of heat loss in different types of local buildings. We've also looked at tenure and building condition as well as mapped out areas where we can work with people to improve local greenspaces and support local food growing.

The main findings from the report are:

- The majority of the buildings in the area are classed as traditional older stock with solid walls. This means installing cavity wall insulation will not be possible.
- The Victorian tenements and town houses which make up the traditional older stock have a higher than normal window to wall ratio, meaning that heat loss through windows will be higher than is found in average Scottish properties. While double-glazing is present throughout the area, old windows in poor repair are common.
- Many tenement blocks have solum spaces (open areas under the ground floor timber joists) that prevent the timber floor from coming into contact with damp surfaces. This creates an easy route for heat to escape.
- Poorly fitting close doors and windows remain a problem in the area, and mean draughty closes will act as chimneys sucking heat from individual tenement flats.

- Where traditional buildings are owned and maintained by Registered Social Landlords, a programme of window maintenance is on-going. Effective action by such landlords means that these properties tend to have better thermal performance.
- Our area has a high proportion of private rented accommodation. Our impression is that some of the poorest condition properties in our area are owned by private landlords. The incentives for private landlords to access support to create energy efficient accommodation seem to be weak.

Lucy Gillie project manager at South Seeds said “cold days and high energy prices are a reminder to us all that we need to think about practical ways to cut energy use and bills. Our Energy Snapshot report shows us where the most pressing need is in South Glasgow and we want to use this launch to encourage local people looking to reduce their bills to get in touch.”

South Seeds works with local community groups and residents, helping people to cut their energy bills by installing energy efficiency measures and thinking about how they use energy in the home. South Seeds expects to help the local community save 7,439 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> which would be enough to fill Hampden Park over three times.

**ENDS**

**Notes for editors:**

1. For more information on South Seeds and our *Energy Catalyst Project* call Lucy Gillie, Project Manager (07790119021)
2. South Seeds is a charity, formally registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. Since December 2010, it has developed a range of energy, community gardening and arts projects to communities in the Southside of Glasgow. South Seeds was the first Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation formed in Scotland.
3. The Energy Snapshot report launch is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 3.45pm at The Community Hall at Samaritan House, Govanhill Housing Association, 79 Coplaw Street, Glasgow G42 0DF.
4. The Energy Snapshot report will be available to download from the South Seeds website [www.southseeds.org](http://www.southseeds.org) on Monday.
5. South Seeds will work with the 18,500 residents living in Govanhill, Crosshill, Queen’s Park and Stathbungo in Glasgow’s Southside. It will run until end May 2014.