



Who are we?

THE ANSWER is simple: we're a group of local people working together to help improve our part of south Glasgow by taking simple steps which add up to make a difference to where we live.

SOUTH SEEDS was started by a group of Southside residents in 2011, and five years later it is a successful award-winning charity with staff and volunteers working alongside residents to support regeneration and tackle climate change in the area. We've saved more than 11,000 tonnes of CO₂ through our actions.

BUT YOU won't often find us talking about climate change. That's because we think that the best ways to tackle climate change — cutting energy use, reducing waste and using local spaces to grow food — also bring immediate practical community benefits. So we talk about these things most of the time.



Residents helped to cut carbon



Home energy audits or visits



Spaces turned into food-growing areas



Tonnes of waste diverted from landfill



Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents reduced



Local people now composting food waste



What have we achieved?

- WE'VE worked alongside more than 4,000 residents, helping each of them to take action to reduce their own carbon footprint by improving their homes, tenements, backcourts and local spaces.



- WE'VE delivered 587 home energy visits and audits and turned 23 derelict or rundown spaces into local greenspaces and food-growing areas.
- WE'VE led local efforts to tidy up public areas, tackle fly-tipping and bring home composting into tenement backcourts by working with residents to increase local pride.
- WE'VE empowered residents to tackle local problems through signposting to relevant finance, opportunities and information, backed up by help and support from us to ensure action is taken forward.
- WE'VE managed to design services relevant to residents from all backgrounds — regardless of tenure, ethnicity or income — despite a complex mix of socio-economic groups in our area.

How do we work?

WE PUT our success down to being a practical bunch who trust local people to find the best solutions. Our work is about making a difference, so we focus on the things we can see will make the biggest difference. Early on, we commissioned the award-winning [Energy Snapshot report](#) which detailed what type of energy-efficiency action worked in which type of property on what street. South Seeds followed this with a [Renewables Snapshot report](#) identifying which renewable-energy technologies are appropriate for every household in our area.



Map from the Energy Snapshot report showing tenure, type and condition of housing stock



OUR EMPLOYEES and volunteers get a kick out of making things better. When we saw that energy grant schemes weren't structured correctly for the type of properties in our area, we worked with the ScottishPower Energy People Trust to design a new one. We found that conservation guidelines were preventing installation of secondary glazing so we tested different approaches and worked with Glasgow City Council to agree a solution — to preserve the character of local tenements, and keep people warm. We employ a handyman able to fit simple energy measures such as insulation, chimney balloons and draughtproofing for those without finance or ability to do so themselves. We've made YouTube films to help people understand how to fit these measures on their own and we've published newspapers to investigate more complex issues such as fly-tipping.

Where next?

SOUTH SEEDS has worked hard to secure income and diversify our funding. We've brought in £120,000 from sources in addition to core support from the Scottish Government Climate Challenge Fund to conduct studies and run demonstration projects, and we're working towards being a social enterprise, bringing in income from those who can afford to pay for home improvements. But the stop-start nature of many energy grant schemes has meant we've not been able to develop a sustainable business around energy advice, grants and referrals for residents. We have a clear plan to grow our work as a social enterprise, but right now we remain dependent on public funding.



AS THE Scottish parliamentary elections draw nearer, we're keen to share our experience and the lessons learned from working within the community to deliver action and improvement.

South Seeds believes

OUR COMMUNITIES are evolving and the Scottish Government could support people to integrate better on a day-to-day basis by improving public spaces and supporting residents to spend time mixing and connecting in these spaces.

BY WORKING TOGETHER, departments of the Scottish Government would ensure policies and services are joined up when they reach communities, thereby maximising the positive impact they have on people's lives.

UNDERUSED LOCAL LAND can be opened up so that people can transform stalled spaces for community benefit. We hope the Scottish Government land reform policy will enable local people to take positive action to improve communities.



COMMUNITY RESEARCH ensures grass-roots experience and local factors inform the delivery of outcomes. The Scottish Government could enable more practical community-led research and learn from real experience.

COMMUNITY-LED GROUPS demonstrate how services can be delivered differently or better outcomes achieved for residents by finding new solutions. If the Scottish Government supported community-led groups and larger delivery agencies to collaborate more effectively the result could be better services for communities, making them more resilient.

BY SUPPORTING successful community-led organisations such as South Seeds to find a route out of grant funding, and secure a more sustainable future, the Scottish Government will ensure there is a place for real experience in the regeneration of communities.

For more information

VISIT OUR website www.southseeds.org or email at info@southseeds.org. To check what we have been up to recently have a look at our social media: www.facebook.com/SouthSeeds or [@SouthSeeds](https://twitter.com/SouthSeeds). We have an office you can visit at 168 Butterbiggins Road in Govanhill on the Southside of Glasgow and you are welcome to call us on 0141 636 3959.

