



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 and together make a difference to where we live.

South Seeds was started by a group of Southside residents back 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 over 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 benefits to local people. 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 over 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.
- There is a complex mix of socio-economic groups in our area and we've managed to design services relevant to residents from all backgrounds, regardless of tenure, ethnicity or income.



How do we work?

We put our success down to the fact that we're also a practically minded bunch who trust local people to find the best options for dealing with problems. Our work is about making a difference, so we spend our effort on those things we can see will make the biggest difference. Early on in our life 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. We've now followed this up 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. When we found that conservation guidelines were preventing installation of secondary glazing we tested different approaches and worked with Glasgow City Council to agree a solution, so that we can preserve the character of local tenements, and keep people warm. We also employ a local handyman able to fit simple energy measures like insulation, chimney balloons and draught-proofing for those without finance or ability to do so themselves. We've made our own 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?

Right now, South Seeds has a close eye on what our future holds. We've worked hard to secure additional income and diversify our funding. We've brought in £120,000 from other funding sources to conduct feasibility studies and run demonstration projects, and we're working towards being a social enterprise, bringing income in from those who can afford to pay towards work to improve their homes. But the stop-start nature of many energy grant schemes has meant we've not yet been able to develop a sustainable business around energy advice, grants and referrals for local residents. We have a clear plan to grow our work over time as a social enterprise, but right now we remain dependent on public funding.

Our Climate Challenge funding ends in March 2016 and we are currently looking at options for securing support across 2016 and beyond. We are in discussions with funders and partners and we are seeking further opportunities to continue our work alongside local people making the communities of South Glasgow better places to live.

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 (pictured left) 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.