

A five-year review



South Seeds is an award-winning community-led organisation. We work to make the southside of Glasgow more sustainable and improve the lives of residents across the social spectrum

- We create food-growing opportunities
- Cut carbon emissions through energy efficiency
- Support the growth of renewables
- Install composting facilities
- Promote waste reduction

See what we've achieved in our first five years

SOUTH SEEDS has worked alongside more than 4,000 local residents, helping them to take action to reduce their carbon footprint, and improve their homes, tenements, back courts and local spaces. We've turned 23 derelict or run-down sites into green spaces and food-growing areas. We've led efforts to tidy up areas and tackle fly-tipping by working with residents to increase local pride.

We help people feel that problems can be overcome through local action, backed up by support and advice. We've delivered 587 home energy visits and audits: our advice on energy bills has helped many people switch to a better energy tariff, resolve debts and tackle problems with prepayment meters. Our work advising people on the Warm Home Discount has brought up to £4,000, in some months, to local people by securing support payments they are entitled to but didn't know how to access.

We have turned local frustration about derelict areas into pride. We work with residents, community groups and schools and now have a network of green spaces throughout our area, from allotment spaces and communal gardens to window boxes and raised beds, with regular groups of volunteers maintaining and developing these spaces.

The introduction of a network of composters in shared spaces means we have cut down on our area's waste generation and diverted 5.5 tonnes of waste from landfill. Now, more than 100 households are composting food waste.

How do we work?
We put our success down to being a



Building a compost bin at the Croft in Queen's Park



Tonnes of waste we've diverted from landfill



practically minded bunch who trust local people to find the best options to deal 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 followed this up with the Renewables Snapshot report which sets out where renewables will work in our area. Following this we produced the Renewable Heat report which explores



Spaces we've turned into food-growing areas

the area's geothermal potential and how heat can be used from the new waste processing centre at Polmadie. These three documents function as our plan of action, telling us where the biggest opportunities are to make the biggest differences in people's lives.

Our employees and volunteers get a kick out of making things better. When

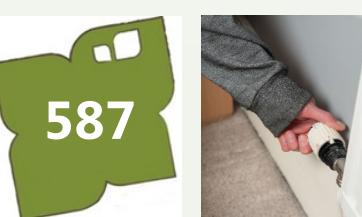
that we can preserve the character of tenements, and keep people warm.

We employ handymen able to fit simple energy measures such as insulation, chimney balloons and draughtproofing for those unable to do so themselves. And we've produced instructional YouTube films to help people fit these measures by themselves. Being practical means that we're locally driven; getting results means working for the community, and supporting them to help themselves. South Seeds initiated land reclamation work that is led by residents, who provide the energy, enthusiasm to transform the space and the means to look after the new space and start to involve the wider community. Our energy-efficiency referrals come mostly through word of mouth, as local people recommend us to friends and word spreads through the community.

Who's helped us do this?

Our big supporter has been the Scottish Government and its Climate Challenge Fund (CCF). We've used this to draw in funding from trusts and other public sources, and through local fundraising. Our CCF funding has helped us secure an additional £120,000 for the area.

We've benefited from funding from the ScottishPower Energy People



Home visits and energy audits we've delivered

we saw that energy grant schemes weren't structured for the type of properties in our area, we worked with the ScottishPower Energy People Trust to deliver support, focused on delivering underfloor insulation and draughtproofing, two measures which make a huge difference in older Glasgow tenements which are not aided by national grants.

When we found that conservation guidelines prevented the installation of secondary glazing we tested different approaches and worked with Glasgow City Council to agree a solution so



Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents reduced

backgrounds and cultures. We work with home owners, tenants and private sector landlords. People allow us into their homes, trusting us to help them cut their energy bills and improve their back courts and lanes. They do this because we take people as we find them, and make sure that our advice and support are tailored to their needs. We help people navigate complex systems such as securing an energy grant or fixing a tampered energy meter.

We engage with the Registers of Scotland to find out the ownership of derelict areas, and we negotiate on the community's behalf to agree ways of transforming this land, while agreeing lease arrangements with the site owners so they have peace of mind that their land is being cared for but their rights are respected.

We've been recognised for our achievements by organisations including Govanhill Housing Association, Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government itself. We've mentored other CCF projects locally as well as throughout Scotland, and have hosted visits of government officials to help them understand housing and energy issues first hand.



Additional residents now composting food waste





The Croft at Queen's Park, March 2015



The Croft at Queen's Park, July 2015

How South Seeds keeps on growing

You can't beat the goodness of homegrown produce and the chance to spend time in the great outdoors. But with waiting times of up to eight years for a Glasgow allotment, access to a patch of green space on which to get active and try your hand at gardening is strictly limited.

This is where South Seeds came in, reports community engagement officer Robin Ashton.

Back in 2011, we started off with one growing space, a plot on some derelict land at Agnew Lane where we planted fruit trees, wild flowers, and grew a large selection of vegetables with local volunteers and residents whose flats overlooked the site.

Fast forward five years, and we've set up and nurtured a network of community growing spaces in Govanhill, Crosshill and Queen's Park, and created a 24-plot gardening training facility: the Croft at Queen's Park, the winner of an It's Your Neighbourhood 2015 'Thriving' award - a national honour from Keep Scotland Beautiful.

We've also delivered home composting and compost bin-building



Robin Ashton and helpers in the Allison Street garden

workshops to more than 250 individuals and organisations.

Composting turns organic household waste such as vegetable peelings and tea bags into nutritious plant food, while diverting waste from landfill - reducing pollution and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Community gardens improve the look and feel of the area, particularly as there is such limited greenspace in this densely populated part of the southside of Glasgow.

What some of our clients had to say

"Our household waste has been cut dramatically since getting our compost bin, and neighbours in our close are also making good use of it. We've now built a few small vegetable beds in our shared backcourt, so the compost is not just taking away waste but helping feed us too"

Strathbungo resident, 2012



"It's great to learn from people in the other plots and we've felt connected to the wider area, not just the friendly gardening community which has grown up. The Croft has helped us put down roots in more ways than one"

Croft plot holder, 2015

Energy audits put residents in control

EVERYONE uses energy for showers or baths, for cooking and to heat their homes. Well, most of us use energy this way. Some residents are forced to choose whether they heat or eat. Some can afford to do neither. There are others who want to save money, and cut their carbon footprint, by using energy more efficiently. With a little support most of us can use energy more efficiently and cut carbon. Whatever the circumstances, South Seeds, and our energy officer Casey Dickson, can help. We spoke to Casey to find out more.

Why is your work important?

More than half of our clients are vulnerable – this includes people who are socially excluded, lonely, old, in poverty, financially insecure, have a substance abuse or mental health issue, or combinations of the above.

For many of our other more socially and financially secure clients, large draughty homes with a big carbon footprint, a greater environmental impact and higher bills are the energy issues they seek support for. Over the last five years South Seeds has been able to support and empower all of these clients through our free home energy audit, and we continue to help in this way. We can also help clients insulate and draughtproof their homes, either themselves or using our handyman service. We support residents to understand their heating controls, change their energy supplier or tariff, and to secure grants or funding for



Casey Dickson assesses a tenement window as part of the free home energy audits offered by South Seeds

which they may be eligible. All of these actions have saved local residents money and made their energy use more effective and efficient, and will continue to do so. This can dramatically improve people's quality of life.

Do you offer other services?

We deliver energy workshops to schools and community groups, run 'introduction to energy' sessions for recently arrived migrants, and take our energy stall and expertise to community events, parents' evenings, and local action plan meetings.

How did the energy work start?

At first, South Seeds partnered Home Energy Scotland to offer home energy checks. We didn't know the area as well as we do now, and didn't have a presence, so this involved door knocking and engaging residents at events. The Universal Insulation Scheme approached us after hearing about the number of

residents we had helped to complete home energy checks. We helped the scheme engage residents to get free loft insulation in tenement properties with shared roof space.

We realised that this part of the southside - where 80% of residents live in Victorian tenements - doesn't fit with the delivery of national energy-efficiency programmes. So we published our Energy Snapshot report which explained the energy-efficiency issues on a street-by-street basis. We then devised our own home energy audit, which we use to this day. It looks at everything, from how residents use energy to the fabric of the property and the efficiency of white goods. A detailed report with a check list is sent to the client in the post so they can read it at their leisure. We keep in contact with clients to support them to take the steps which will reduce their energy bills. The expertise we've built up means we are well placed to inform strategic thinking around energy locally.

AT SOUTH SEEDS we've worked hard to find solutions to some of the problems our community faces, such as energy use, waste management, food production and the need to be as environmentally friendly as possible in our lifestyles. Here's how we've tried to help over the past five years

Projects making a difference to southside life

April 2011

April 2011 – March 2012
South Seeds' first Scottish Government Climate Challenge-funded project established a community garden at Agnew Lane and worked with Home Energy Scotland to support residents to reduce energy through a programme of home energy checks

June – July 2011
Our sculpture project employed an art teacher who worked with 10 residents, with their work then going on display in the project area



2012



2013

Ongoing since spring 2013 To develop our award-winning Croft project we transformed a disused tennis court into an adopt-a-plot community training garden. Each year 24 growers are trained at the Croft before taking their skills out into the southside community to encourage growing produce in back courts, front gardens and shared spaces. To find out more about how the Croft works, read the Govanhill Gazette Croft special edition which documented its first year

July 2012 – June 2014
South Seeds' second Climate Challenge-funded project published the award-winning Energy Snapshot Report, which documented the condition, tenure and type of property in the area on a street-by-street basis. South Seeds developed a bespoke energy audit for southside properties. Further community gardens were developed in Queen's Drive Lane and Allison Street after the shock of Agnew Lane being flattened by the land owner



2014



2014

November 2014 – February 2015
With support from Zero Waste Scotland South Seeds tackled the complex issues surrounding waste on the southside by publishing research into an area blighted by fly-tipping

2015

July 2014 – April 2015
Scottish Power Energy People Trust supported South Seeds to develop an energy-saving handyman service



2015

August 2014 – March 2016 Our third Climate Challenge-funded project continued to deliver an energy auditing service and further developed the energy-saving handyman service. In addition to this a compost and food waste programme for multi-occupancy buildings was delivered



June – October 2015 With support from Local Energy Scotland, South Seeds investigated the possibilities for renewable heat in the area and published a 41-page technical report on the potential options

2016

September 2015 – February 2016 South Seeds installed seven sets of double and secondary glazing for vulnerable residents to help them reduce their energy bills, and helped them to find out more about how tenement windows can be made more energy efficient

Pictures, clockwise, from top left: a community composting facility in Strathbungo; a South Seeds handyman at work; the Croft harvest festival celebration; energy-saving light bulbs being fitted; preparing the ground at the Croft site; and Robin Ashton, community engagement officer, being presented with a Keep Scotland Beautiful award



A lesson at the Alison Street community garden and, below, an energy-awareness day

View from the board

SOUTH SEEDS was the first Scottish charitable incorporated organisation (SCIO), set up in April 2011 by a group of concerned local residents keen to ensure a sustainable future for the southside of Glasgow.

Kirstie Penman and Reuben

Chesters were key in pulling together board members, applying for funds and getting the charity registered and started. Founding member Martin Sanders has been with us throughout.

The board of trustees has always included southside residents, and helps steer a course that meets the current needs of the community, while looking ahead to what might have an impact in the future and how South Seeds can influence this. We welcome discussions with anyone in the community who feels they can help us to support the area further.

Our role is to ensure South Seeds continues to deliver on our



constitution, including: advancing environmental protection and improvement; advancing education in relation to low-carbon lifestyles, gardening, food production and healthy eating; relieving poverty by promoting environmental, economic and socially

sustainable practices; and encouraging all to engage in environmental improvement projects.

Some of the long-term strategic work is yet to be visible and we hope to bring about significant

further change in the sustainability of the southside.

There have been some huge changes on the southside over the past five years and some amazing achievements by the South Seeds team. Over the next five years, working with others in the community, city wide and nationally, we intend that South Seeds continues to play an integral role in delivering further positive change to the area.

Simon Morris, chair, South Seeds

Richer or poorer, we're here to help

South Seeds delivers across the social spectrum in our target area, as demonstrated by this selection of clients who we have supported

Name: Amal

Issues: Parent with five children. Doesn't speak or read English. In receipt of benefits. Partner living in the Netherlands but seeking work in Scotland. Poor-quality private let and hard-to-reach landlord



Amal was referred to us by the Welfare Hub and in her first flat we provided an energy audit and LED bulbs, and set up a payment plan with her energy provider.

When Amal moved to a larger flat, so there was more room for her five children, her bills grew out of proportion to the increased space. Our audit found that her electricity meter was set on the wrong rate and that the flat carried an existing gas debt of £1,911.11, swallowing up any top-ups she made.

Numerous contacts with her supplier were met with dramatically different levels of service such as contradictory answers to many queries, requested call-backs not coming, and it taking weeks for Amal to be credited with the money she was owed.

Changing suppliers brought issues including errors in meter readings adding £729 of debt to her electricity account, her gas remaining cut off and the wrong tariffs set.

We engaged with Amal more than 20 times, eventually resolving her supplier issues, ensuring her 'debts' were cleared and her money returned.

An energy-awareness information session as part of Strathbungo's annual community gathering



Name: Frank and friends

Issues: Residents of a sheltered housing complex in Crosshill keen to cut their carbon emissions by composting



Set in an area of green space and lawns, and with keen gardeners among the residents of the 29 one-bedroomed bungalows, a Crosshill sheltered housing complex contacted us to help them cut their carbon footprint by introducing composting facilities.

Following an assessment of the site, we designed and delivered a compost bin with an easy-to-lift lid and two bays - so the compost can be rotated - and an easy-access door which makes turning less of a chore.

After providing caddies with liners and an induction session, residents

enthusiastically began turning their organic household and garden material, such as vegetable peelings, tea bags and grass cuttings, into compost ideal for potting up seedlings and house plants.

Frank, one of the residents, said: 'We're really pleased - the bin is a great talking point and we're very glad to be doing our bit for the environment.'

Name: Maria and family

Issues: Cold, privately rented flat with cracked, draughty



windows, with no locks, and holes in the ill-fitting front door. Landlord unconvinced of need to take action

Working mother Maria lives in a second-floor tenement flat with her husband and two young daughters.

'Of the many things wrong with the flat, the windows were the worst,' says Maria. 'Several panes were cracked and there were draughts round the edges.' Worst of all, there were no locks. One day her three-year-old managed to open a window by herself while Maria was in another room. Another time, Maria found her with her finger in the hole in the pane. 'Safety was a constant worry,' she adds.

The family sometimes slept in their clothes to keep warm, regularly got colds or flu, and noise from the street kept them awake at night. They would also visit friends' houses to warm up.

Maria approached South Seeds for help, and we secured funding to install double glazing, with child locks.

The flat is now much warmer, easier to heat, quieter and safer - and the family is less prone to illnesses or infections. 'We are really pleased and happy with the change,' says Maria.

● See southseeds.org for more information

Joined-up approach: South Seeds and its partners deliver for the community

Meet some of the local groups, businesses, schools and agencies we've worked with to help create a more sustainable southside

Al Mahdi Foundation, a local mosque, asked for support and mentoring from us. They shadowed a home energy audit and we helped them create a database for their energy-efficiency project

Annette Street Primary School took some of their youngest children who don't have English as a first language for lessons in the community garden we built a block away from the school. Their eco committee cleared space at the garden so we could double the size of the growing area



Bakery 47, a café and bakery, allowed us to set up a stall about saving energy in the home on their busiest day of trading

Big Noise, a charity which



engages with all the primary school children in the area and is growing rapidly, employed our handyman service

The Chalet, an arts venue, gave us space to exhibit information from our Energy Snapshot report for residents to see.

Clean Glasgow, a support organisation run by Glasgow City Council to improve the city, drops off bin bags, litter pickers and gloves when we are doing a clean-up

Crofters, the people who grow at our adopt-a-bed scheme, have requested home energy audits from us

issues, often fuel debt, to us and we refer clients with welfare needs to them. We have run two energy-in-the-home workshops with their translation support in Slovakian and Romanian for new migrants

Glendale Primary School Eco committee asked us to deliver a workshop about saving energy. This was cascaded to all classes over seven. We are regularly invited to run stalls at school events and teachers have handed out our energy-saving information for young people to take home

Govanhill Baths asked us to run workshops and drop-in sessions mainly focusing on draughtproofing and saving energy. We have worked with particular groups which meet in the baths to support them to access the Warm Home Discount or reduce food waste. The baths also asked us to install a compost bin on communal land they look after



Govanhill Housing Association publishes articles in its tenants' newsletter about our services. The association is also interested in our strategic work to identify how local housing can become more energy efficient and renewables can be installed

Govanhill Library regularly ask us to run energy-saving drop-in sessions. We have also built window boxes for their external window ledges.

Holycross Primary School ask us to run drop-in save-energy-in-the-home sessions at parents' evenings. They have also requested energy-saving workshops for the eco committee.



Hutchesons' Grammar School asked us to run a stall at their eco week

Jamieson Court residents live in sheltered accommodation for older people. They have asked us to come to their coffee mornings to look at their energy bills and share energy-saving advice

Larkfield Community Centre asked us for drop-in sessions for centre users on winter weekday mornings

Locavore is a shop selling local produce which has asked us to run energy advice drop-ins in store. Locavore has also supported us to provide great food at harvest celebrations

Nan McKay Community Hall ask us to run drop-in sessions, particularly around accessing the Warm Home Discount. We have also

delivered workshops for people participating in classes to learn English as a second language to help them understand how energy is used and paid for in the UK

Oasis at Wallacewell, a community group in the east of Glasgow, bought a series of composting workshops from us which include the installation of a compost bin



Roshni, a mental health charity for black and minority ethnic people, asked us to run a stall at their information event

Southside Housing Association has published several articles in its newsletters. They were also keen to have their own composting facilities, so South Seeds installed a compost bin on site and provided an induction session for staff



St Albert's Primary School requested compost bin facilities to be installed in their school, which was followed by composting support sessions for teachers and children

St Bride's Primary School asked for raised beds to be installed so they could start growing vegetables in the playground, which is tarmacked

The Space, a shop providing support for migrants, asked for drop-in sessions about how energy is used

What does South Seeds mean to you?

"South Seeds has produced highly commendable and detailed reports which are a valuable resource for us and other stakeholders working to create a more sustainable Glasgow"
Duncan Booker, Sustainable Glasgow manager, Glasgow City Council

"I'm delighted with the great work South Seeds is doing on the southside across a range of areas. Working with the community they are bringing real improvements and helping to find local solutions to local problems"

Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister and constituency MSP

"I welcome South Seeds' energy-efficiency work, particularly supporting residents of hard-to-treat tenement properties reduce their energy bills. I look forward to hearing about future plans to support citizens reduce their carbon footprint and maximise energy savings on the southside"

Soraya Siddique, executive member for citizens and communities, Glasgow City Council



Net result: locals enjoy an RSPB event held at South Seeds' Queen's Drive Lane garden

"South Seeds is a fantastic organisation which is a real jewel in the crown of Govanhill. Having recently visited South Seeds, I'm incredibly impressed with their work and contribution to the local community, particularly in the important work of sustainability and energy efficiency. They make a significant contribution to community cohesion on the southside, and I am

delighted to give them my full support"
Alison Thewliss constituency MP

"It was a pleasure to visit South Seeds and see their professional approach to delivering a project with a wide range of environmental and community benefits"

Jonathan Waite, senior policy advisor, Climate Change Hub, Scottish Government

And the award winner is ...

It's not just us and local residents who think our work in the community is beneficial and worthwhile.

Over the years we've picked up a number of awards, including the prestigious 2013 **Innovation in Housing** award from the Saltire Society, which said: "South Seeds' innovative Energy Snapshot report helps residents and stakeholders visualise what needs to be done on both a practical and policy level to improve the energy efficiency of housing in the area."

In 2014, we won a Scottish Government **Greener Together** award and an

It's Your Neighbourhood (Thriving) award from Keep Scotland Beautiful, which we doubled in 2015 with two Thriving accolades, while also winning two **Evening Times Streets Ahead** awards, including being named overall winner.

We were also a finalist for the 2015 **Inspired! People Make Glasgow** accolade, and were named **best community initiative** in the inaugural Glasgow Awards.

South Seeds operations officer Lisa Peebles, right, with the Saltire Society award



Produced by South Seeds, 168 Butterbiggins Road, Glasgow G42 7AL

South Seeds' board meets once a month and we would like to thank them for all their strategic support and encouragement over the years.

For more information about what we do, or if you have any questions, please telephone South Seeds on 0141 636 3959, email info@southseeds.org, visit www.southseeds.org, or check us out on Facebook.com/SouthSeeds or @SouthSeeds on Twitter.

South Seeds is a Scottish charitable incorporated organisation, registered in Scotland (number SC042244)