



Club & Community Net Zero Fund, in partnership with Scottish Gas

Frequently Asked Questions



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What is the Partnership between Scottish Rugby and Scottish Gas?

Scottish Gas, part of Centrica, the largest home energy supplier in the UK, has partnered with Scottish Rugby to help the rugby community across Scotland reduce their energy bills and carbon footprint.

The deal will support all areas of the game, including the Women's game through shirt sponsorship for the Scotland Women's squad as they begin preparations for the new WXV tournament later this year, as well as supporting age grade squads within the women's development pathway.

Hive, the UK's leading smart energy platform, will become the naming partner for Edinburgh Rugby's home, where both they and Scotland Women play domestic fixtures, which will become Hive Stadium.

In addition, Scottish Gas has become naming partners of Murrayfield Stadium and will provide a decarbonisation plan and greener energy supply for the entire Murrayfield Estate from solar, wind, hydro power and biogas. The national stadium's official name is now 'Scottish Gas Murrayfield'.

How can Scottish Gas help Clubs reduce their energy Bills and Carbon?

Scottish Gas experts will work with Clubs to provide expert advice on how energy efficiency measures and building fabric improvements can be implemented which will improve the insulation of Clubs and use energy more efficiently.

The partnership is set to act as a catalyst for all communities to start transforming their buildings into healthier, more comfortable, more resilient places to work and play on the journey to zero-emissions.

A central initiative of the partnership is a £2million joint investment in the Club & Community Net Zero Fund across the five-year deal. Clubs will receive free tailored energy efficiency advice and will have the opportunity to access grants from the fund to help pay for improvements. Scottish Gas will use Scotland's largest clubhouse, Murrayfield, as a leading example by providing expert support and advice to identify and potentially fund future energy efficiency infrastructure projects.

And it's not just the nation's 47,000 rugby players that will benefit - by working directly with clubs, the partnership aims to engage communities across Scotland to deliver on the Scottish Government's net zero ambitions for 2045.

How can our Club take advantage of the Club and Community Net Zero Fund?

Clubs should use the application link on the [Scottish Rugby website](#) to register their interest in finding out more about how they can save money on their fuel bills and reduce their carbon footprint.

What happens once we apply to the Club and Community Fund?

The Club will be contacted by Scottish Gas and arrangements will be made for one of the Scottish Gas team to visit the Club. At this first meeting, the Clubhouse will be assessed, and Scottish Gas will work with Club members to find out what improvements could be made to the building fabric, heating, hot water and electrical appliances such as lighting, cooking etc.

This meeting will be held in the Clubhouse at a time that is convenient to Club members.

Scottish Gas will keep the Club and Scottish Rugby fully informed of planned visits and the current position of the Club's application process.

This partnership will provide over 130 Clubs with this expert advice and therefore it may take time before your Club is contacted by Scottish Gas.

What happens after the initial meeting with Scottish Gas?

The Club will be contacted by one of Scottish Gas's technical experts for a full survey to be carried out of the Club House. This is done free of charge with no obligation on the Club to action any of the advice.

Who will carry out the Survey?

The technical survey – or retrofit survey – will be carried out by a fully qualified Retrofit Coordinator. A Retrofit Coordinator is a certified Built Environment professional – usually an Architect - whose job is to assess buildings and make recommendations on how the construction and condition of the building, including the building services such as heating, hot water, ventilation, and lighting can be improved.

They will also oversee the management and design of all retrofit measures. To carry out this role, it is necessary for Retrofit Coordinators to attain the Level 5 Diploma in Retrofit Coordination and Risk Management.

What will the Survey cover?

The Retrofit Assessment is an in-depth assessment of the building, based on the following criteria.

- An Occupancy Assessment – An assessment of how and when the building is used,
- An Energy Assessment – An assessment of how energy is used and for what purpose,
- A Condition assessment of the property – An assessment of the materials used within the building to establish the energy efficiency and heat loss of the existing building.

The retrofit Survey usually takes a full day to complete due to the in-depth evaluation of the Club House by the Retrofit Coordinator.

What is produced for the Club after the survey has been completed?

A retrofit survey will be provided to the Club in digital format. This survey includes details of all the elements of the building such as the floor, wall, ceilings, roof, windows, doors, heating system, hot water system, electrical appliances such as lighting and cooking.

The survey will identify opportunities for improvement to all these elements.

The report will contain pictures and videos of problematic areas which need to be addressed (for example where heat is leaking from the building).

What do we do with the Report?

When the report has been produced, the retrofit Coordinator will revisit the Club with one of the Scottish Gas Team and a member of the Scottish Rugby Team to meet with Club members to discuss which improvements would give the club the most benefit.

A retrofit Plan and Budget will be established for the Clubhouse. Clubs will then decide on what actions they make, and Scottish Rugby will provide opportunities for Clubs to apply for grant funding through the Club and Community Fund. This application process will not be made available before September 2024.

How much money can we get from the Fund?

Each Clubhouse will be different in terms of how it is constructed and used. Each application will be assessed by the Club and Community Fund approval panel.

When are approvals made for applications to the fund?

The applications for funding will open in September-November each year, with the first round of applications opening in September-November 2024.