Scotland's Public Sector Clean Heat Development Fund

Funding of up to £28,000 has been awarded to the Highland Council through the Scottish Government Scotland's Public Sector Clean Heat Development Fund. This funding will allow the undertaking of feasibility studies at five Council sites which are all are off-gas and currently use oil-fired heating. The studies will develop, compare and evaluate practical options for decarbonising the existing heating systems. The studies will assess electric heating e.g. heat pumps as the principal option, together with other eligible technologies e.g. HVO where site conditions indicate that these may be viable.

ZE HDV Skill Challenge - 2

The Council has secured £92,050.92 through the Transport Scotland Zero Emission Heavy Duty Vehicle (ZE HDV) Skills Challenge Fund to deliver a skills hub.

The hub will deliver four e-learning modules and a fleet planning toolkit. The aim is to create a resource that serves as a proof of concept and can be expanded to support the transition to zero emission heavy duty vehicles across both the public and private sectors. The ambition is for the hub to have relevance and application across Scotland and the wider UK.

To maximise public value, all resources will be made open source, enabling any organisation to access and use them. The planning toolkit will also be available as an offline resource.

SHNZHF 2026/27 Funding Award

The Council has successfully secured over £1 million from the Scottish Government Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund for 2026/27. This grant funding will support the delivery of clean heating and energy efficiency measures to up to 76 Council homes in Inverness.

The grant will support the installation of a range of measures, including:

- Air Source Heat Pump Systems
- Solar PV
- Double Glazing
- Insulated Doors
- Loft Insulation
- External Wall Insulation
- Cavity Wall Insulation

Energy Efficient Homes – Privately owned and rented properties

The Council has secured £4 million of Scottish Government Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Scheme (EES:ABS) funding for 2026/27 to deliver retrofit energy efficiency improvements to eligible privately owned and rented properties.

This includes more than £1 million of additional EES:ABS funding secured by the Council over and above its original allocation, recognising the significant level of need in Highland arising from high rates of fuel poverty and the prevalence of older, less energy-efficient housing.

Additionally, the Team has secured £400,000 from SSE Renewable for 2026/27, as part of a two-year £750,000 grant award to support eligible Highland residents living in extreme fuel poverty.

Officers will continue to actively pursue additional external funding opportunities to maximise the benefits and impact for Highland communities.

Chartered Institute of Housing Awards 2026

The Chartered Institute of Housing has recognised the Council's D-C project by shortlisting it in their upcoming national awards. The project is a finalist in the Net Zero in Housing category and acknowledges the achievements in delivering energy efficiency works in council houses across Highland communities, achieving carbon emission savings and mitigating fuel poverty among households.

North of Scotland EV Infrastructure Project

Now that the migration of our public EV chargers from Charge Place Scotland to the network operator, EZO, is complete, the next phase of the EV Infrastructure Project, Pathfinder, has begun.

This phase is the expansion of our charging network across the North of Scotland, as part of the inter-council partnership with Highland, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray councils.

The aim of this programme is to improve access to public charging, while supporting the transition to electric vehicles across the region.