

## HOME-GROWN ENERGY IN THE HOME NATIONS

# Scotland



31,310

overall installations  
across Scotland

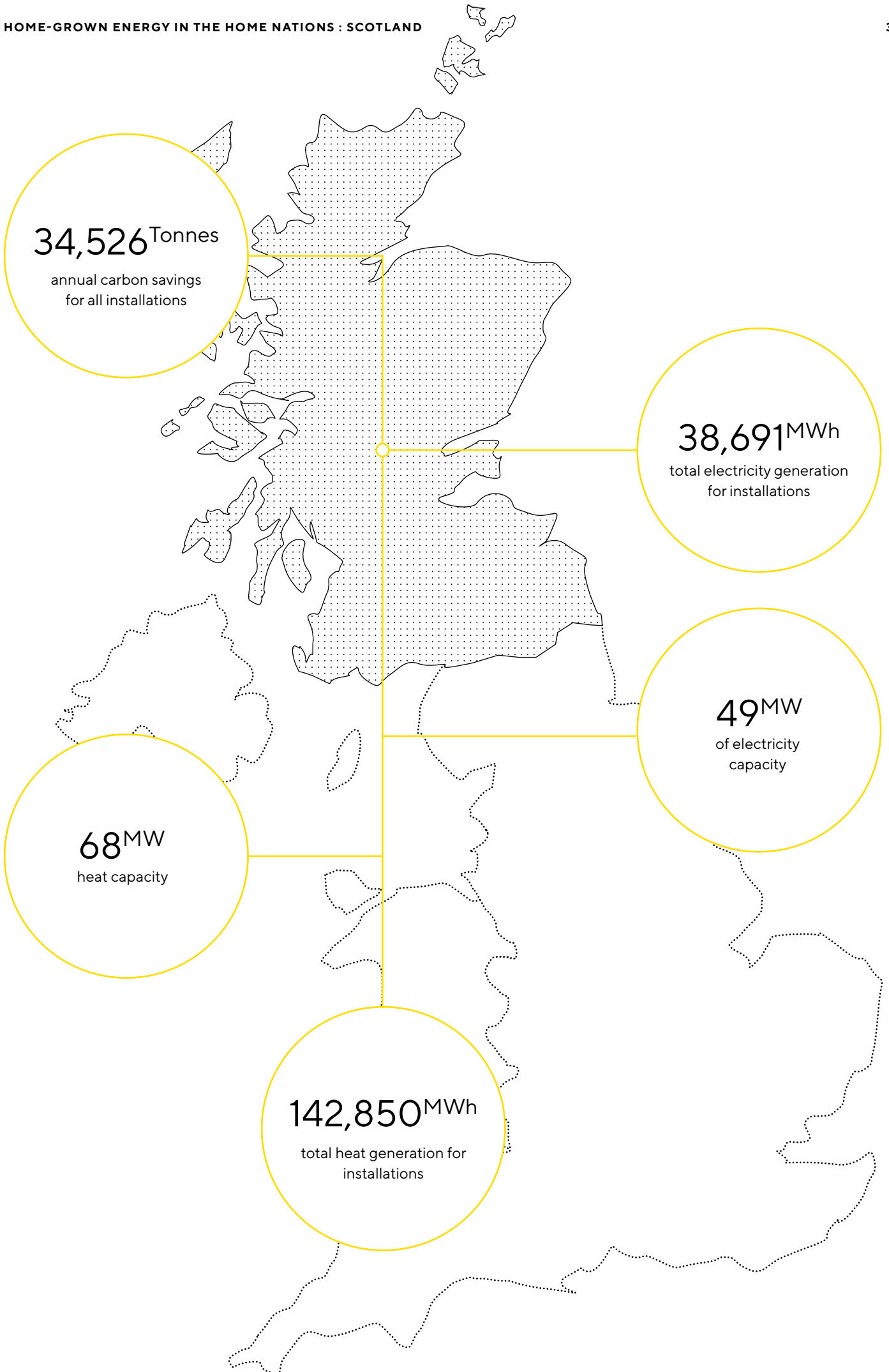
Although England had three times more installations than Scotland's 31,310 installations overall, Scotland had the highest adoption rate. Between March 2020 and December 2021, approximately 1.3% of homes in Scotland installed renewable technologies.

Of the top 10 areas across the whole of the UK with the highest proportion of households installing small-scale renewable technologies, seven were in Scotland.

None of the bottom 10 areas in the study period were in Scotland, cementing the nation's position as the UK's low carbon powerhouse.



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Unlike in England, renewables are almost as widespread in major cities as in rural areas. For example, Glasgow saw the second highest number of installations of ground/water source heat pumps of any area in the UK.

Scotland was particularly notable for solar PV installations, with 70% of the top 10 installation areas being Scottish. At the top of the list was Aberdeenshire, where approximately one in 41 homes have solar PV installations.

**The Scottish policy landscape:  
March 2020 – December 2021**

Energy policy is devolved in Scotland, and the policy environment is supporting the installation of renewable technology at scale.

The Heat in Buildings Strategy (HIBS), introduced in October 2021, set out a pathway to zero emissions in buildings by 2045 and detailed a series of near-term actions, as well as a range of further, longer-term commitments to accelerate the transformation of the nation's building stock. Its vision is for more than one million homes in Scotland to convert to zero emissions heating by 2030. As such, emissions from heat in buildings will have to fall by 68% by 2030 as compared to 2020.

Other measures in Scotland include the Private Rented Sector Landlord Loan, Warmer Homes Scotland Scheme, and the Home Energy Scotland Loan scheme, which are available for both private and public households to help cover the costs of installing renewables.



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**1 Million**  
homes in Scotland  
to convert to zero  
emissions heating by  
2030 (HIBS)

# Leading the UK in small-scale renewables: Orkney Renewable Energy Forum



**WEBSITE**

[oref.co.uk](http://oref.co.uk)

At a regional level, the Orkney Islands are the standout low carbon powerhouse across the whole of the UK, with the equivalent of one-in-five homes having some form of MCS certified small-scale installation since 2008.

The Orkney Renewable Energy Forum (OREF) works to reduce the Islands' dependency on fossil fuels and motivate homeowners to take steps towards net-zero.

One of the main drivers for renewable heating and power in Orkney is the cost of energy. The climate in Orkney is generally wetter, windier and cooler than many other places in the UK, so heating is generally on for longer in the year meaning that energy prices are a particular issue.

Wind power was of initial interest in Orkney, with the Islands' population of just over 22,000 people installing over one-ninth of all FIT-eligible wind power in the UK but this has since expanded to include domestic solar PV electricity.

The falling cost of solar PV has seen its popularity grow. OREF reports that the availability of certified battery storage systems alongside solar panels has helped this demand grow even further. The average cost of solar panels is now 88% lower in Orkney than it was in 2010.



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There are also local policies driving the uptake of small-scale renewables alongside the hard work of OREF members. The Orkney Islands Council has implemented its Sustainable Energy Strategy until 2025 and a supporting Action Plan. The strategy sets specific targets for Orkney to reduce carbon emissions, eradicate fuel poverty, develop a secure net-zero energy supply and position itself as a globally recognised region for innovation in energy systems.

Home Energy Scotland also introduced interest-free loans of up to £17,500 for homeowners fitting renewable heating and energy technologies, making the upfront capital costs of systems more affordable and achievable for the average homeowner. The move has led to an uptake of renewable heating systems alongside energy technologies, with Orkney also recording high levels of air source heat pump installations.

The OREF hopes to continue its work of the past 22 years into the future and keep growing its now 150-strong membership of local individuals and businesses. Speaking of the importance of community collaboration, they told us they regularly ‘gather together to discuss energy conservation and new renewable technologies, and, in doing so, we inform ourselves and also motivate others to take steps.’

**£17,500**  
 interest-free loans introduced by Home Energy Scotland

  
 Orkney has recorded high levels of air source heat pump installations



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 • An installer carrying out an air source heat pump installation – a popular renewable energy technology on Orkney  
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