Smart Denny

Annual Review and Impact Report 2025–2026

Reporting period: 9 January 2025 – 8 January 2026

SMART DENNY

Scottish Charity Number: SC038335

Registered Address:

Calren, North Haircraigs,

Head of Muir,

FK6 5JX

Stirlingshire

Telephone number: N/A

Email address: smartdenny6@gmail.com

Website: https://smartdenny.com/

Twitter / Facebook / Social Media profile name:

https://www.facebook.com/smartdenny6

Charity Trustees

Charity trustees for the period 9.1.2025-8.1.2026.

1. Dr Maggie Laidlaw (Chair)
2. Claire Daly (secretary) (left us in September 2025)
3. Anne Glowacki
4. Donna Laidlaw (Interim Secretary)
5. Fiona Arthur (Project Manager & Interim Treasurer)



Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 24 April 2018. It has a single-tier structure, and as such, the trustees are the members of the charity.

Executive Summary

Smart Denny continued to provide practical energy advice and community support throughout 2025–2026, with a particular focus on helping households understand their energy use, manage household costs and access appropriate support.

Our work combined regular monthly drop-in sessions with individual support through house visits and telephone advice. Referrals from the Local Community Link Worker helped us reach residents who may have required additional or more personalised support.

Alongside direct advice, we developed partnership activity with Fairer Warmth / Energy Equality (UK based charities), engaged with a local high school around their (Fairer Warmth) innovative energy education interactive game. We also continued to support local residents through our Winter Warmer Project and participated in community events such as Gala Day & Christmas Event.

After being approached by a member of the public, 2025 also saw us develop a steering group - **SHARED – Securing Holistic Assets from Responsible Energies for Denny & Dunipace** project. This project is intended to help the local community look beyond current funding arrangements and consider how future renewable energy developments could provide sustainable community benefits.

Overall, the year has been about combining immediate practical support with longer-term community development.

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1. Our Purpose

The organisation's purposes are to provide (educational) support and advice on efficient energy use and consumption, and lowering carbon outputs for families, individuals and households (and small charities) living in the district of Denny & Dunipace. The organisation's core purpose is to enhance the well-being and resilience of the Denny & Dunipace community by:

a) **Promoting Sustainable Energy Practices:** Providing accessible and practical educational resources, workshops, and personalised advice on energy efficiency and carbon footprint reduction to families, individuals, and households within the district. This includes empowering residents to make informed choices about energy consumption, understand renewable energy options, and implement cost-effective strategies for reducing their environmental impact.
b) **Addressing Fuel Poverty and Winter Vulnerability:** Offering vital emergency support and practical assistance to vulnerable residents during the winter months, ensuring

they have access to heating and warmth. This includes providing emergency fuel supplies, energy-saving equipment, and advocating for policies that address fuel poverty within the community.

c) **Building Community Capacity through Education and Skill Development:** Developing and delivering educational programs and workshops that equip residents with the knowledge and skills necessary to manage their domestic energy consumption effectively. These programs will cover topics such as energy-saving techniques, understanding energy bills, accessing available grants and funding, and promoting behavioural changes that lead to long-term energy savings.
d) **Fostering Community Collaboration and Advocacy:** Acting as a hub for community collaboration, facilitating dialogue and partnerships with local organisations, businesses, and authorities to address energy-related challenges. The organisation will advocate for policies and initiatives that promote sustainable energy practices and address fuel poverty within the Denny & Dunipace area, ensuring the community's voice is heard on these critical issues."
e) **The advancement of environmental protection or improvement:** Acting as a facilitator to foster sustainable practices and safeguarding natural resources for current and future generations. Through initiatives like, waste reduction programmes, and environmental education, the charity empowers residents to become active stewards of their surroundings. By promoting community-led projects, it cultivates a sense of shared responsibility, directly addressing local environmental challenges and contributing to a healthier, more resilient ecosystem.

Key Expansions and Refinements:

- **Emphasis on Community Resilience:** The purpose is framed around enhancing the overall well-being and resilience of the Denny & Dunipace community – including the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

- **Detailed Educational Approach:** It goes beyond simply providing resources and advice to include workshops and personalised support.
- **Focus on Practical Solutions:** The purpose highlights the importance of practical, cost-effective strategies.
- **Explicitly Addressing Fuel Poverty:** It emphasises the organisation's role in addressing fuel poverty and winter vulnerability.
- **Skill Development and Empowerment:** It includes building community capacity through education and skill development.
- **Community Collaboration and Advocacy:** It recognizes the importance of working with other local stakeholders and advocating for policy changes, including the advancement of environmental protection or improvement through reduction of carbon outputs and domestic energy reduction.

Smart Denny aims to support people within the local community by providing accessible information, practical assistance and opportunities to engage with energy-related issues.

Our work recognises that energy costs are not simply a financial issue. Energy use is connected to household warmth, health and wellbeing, housing conditions, sustainability and the wider resilience of our communities.

Our approach therefore combines direct household advice with partnership working, education and community development.

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2. Key Activities During 2025–2026

Monthly Energy Advice Sessions

We provided monthly drop-in sessions offering advice on domestic energy use and household bills.

The sessions provided an accessible first point of contact for local residents and enabled people to discuss their individual circumstances in an informal setting.

Where more detailed support was required, we were able to provide:

- House visits.
- Private telephone advice.
- Individual guidance and signposting.
- Referrals to appropriate support.
- Supporting vulnerable householders to access necessary housing repairs in order to keep warm at home.

The **Local Community Link Worker** was an important referral route throughout the year.

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3. Partnership with Fairer Warmth and Energy Equality Charity

A new partnership with Fairer Warmth and Energy Equality Charity enabled us to engage directly with local households around the issue of damp and moisture within the home.

Households participating in the project were provided with damp meters and asked to move the equipment between rooms, recording readings across their homes.

Participants were subsequently asked to complete a survey to assess how useful they found the equipment.

This project provided practical information to participating households while also contributing to a better understanding of household conditions and residents' experiences. (see Appendices)

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4. Fairer Warmth/Energy Equality Project: Energy Education and Schools

Smart Denny also engaged with a local high school to test a developing interactive energy education game.

The game aims to help children and families understand the practical causes of heat loss within the home and identify ways of reducing energy use & cost.

The educational material also introduces the concepts of sustainable and greener energy use.

Working with young people provides an opportunity to develop energy education in a way that is engaging and accessible and can encourage conversations about energy use within the wider family.

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5. Community Engagement – Gala Day

Our participation in Gala Day provided an opportunity to combine fundraising with community engagement.

Visitors to the Smart Denny stand were able to receive free energy advice and information.

We also distributed practical energy-saving items, including:

- LED lightbulbs.
- Energy information fridge magnets.
- Household energy information.

Community events remain an important part of our approach because they provide an informal route into our services and allow us to engage with residents who may not otherwise attend dedicated advice sessions.

6. Winter Warmer Project/ Christmas Event

Our continued Winter Warmer Project provided practical assistance to households during the colder months. The project combined practical items with energy-saving measures, helping households to stay warmer while encouraging more efficient energy use.

At our Christmas stall, as part of a whole-town Christmas celebration and community event, we distributed:

Support Provided	**Number**	
Winter Warmer items, ranging from ww packs, fleece hoodies (adult and child) socks, blankets, draft excluders	106	
Winter Warmer Packs	40 donated to local high school	
LED Light Bulbs	47 Bayonet	19 Screw

7. S.H.A.R.E.D. Project (Securing Holistic Assets from Responsible Energies for Denny & Dunipace)

The SHARED project represents an important part of our longer-term development work.

The project brings together:

- Smart Denny
- Residents
- The Hope Hub
- The Community Council
- Foundation Scotland

The initial focus has been on establishing the foundations of a steering group to investigate current and emerging energy projects and consider how these could potentially generate community benefit assets for Denny and Dunipace.

Why This Matters

Many community funding opportunities are linked to particular projects or funding periods and will eventually come to an end.

It is therefore important to begin considering the longer-term sustainability of community activity and identifying new opportunities before existing funding streams disappear.

Renewable energy developments, including wind farm projects, can provide opportunities for communities to benefit from developments taking place in or around their area.

However, for these opportunities to have lasting value, local people need access to information and the opportunity to participate in discussions about how benefits could be used.

Community Participation

A key principle of **S.H.A.R.E.D.** is that knowledge should be shared locally.

Residents should understand:

- Where community benefit funding comes from.
- How renewable energy developments can contribute to communities.
- What opportunities may be available.
- How they can become involved.
- How community benefit could potentially be used to support local priorities.

The project therefore aims to support both information sharing and meaningful community involvement.

PP Presentations of our S.H.A.R.ED. project outline and development will be available soon on Smart Denny Website www.smartdenny.com

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8. Partnership Working

Partnership working has been central to our activities throughout the year.

Our work with the Local Community Link Worker, Warmth and Energy Equality Charity, the local high school, The Hope Hub, Community Council and local residents has enabled Smart Denny to extend its reach and respond to different aspects of community need.

These relationships are particularly important because no single organisation can address all of the challenges facing households and communities.

By sharing knowledge, making referrals and developing joint projects, we can provide a more connected approach.

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9. Key Achievements

During the reporting year, Smart Denny:

- Continued monthly energy advice drop-in sessions.
- Provided individual advice through house visits and telephone support.
- Received referrals through the Local Community Link Worker.
- Supported local households through the damp meter project.
- Worked with a local high school to test an interactive energy education game.
- Provided free energy advice and energy-saving items at Gala Day.
- Distributed Winter Warmer packs.
- Distributed adult and children's fleece hoodies.
- Provided blankets and LED lightbulbs to local households.
- Began developing the SHARED steering group.
- Started exploring future renewable energy and community benefit opportunities.
- Continued building connections with residents and local community organisations.

These activities meet our key purposes of

1. **Promoting Sustainable Energy Practices**
2. **Addressing Fuel Poverty and Winter Vulnerability**
3. **Building Community Capacity through Education and Skill Development:**
4. **Fostering Community Collaboration and Advocacy**
5. **The advancement of environmental protection or improvement**

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10. Challenges and Learning

Like many community organisations, Smart Denny operates in a changing environment where household costs, energy prices, and demand for support can put additional pressure on local families.

One of the key lessons from the year has been the importance of making advice accessible and flexible. Not everyone will attend a formal advice appointment, which is why community drop-ins, local events, referrals, house visits and telephone advice all have a role to play.

Our partnership work has also reinforced the importance of looking beyond immediate needs and considering longer-term opportunities for the community. The development of SHARED reflects this approach.

We Ongoing difficulties with securing new treasurer and secretary - however we we collaborating with our town CVS affiliate to advertise through wider avenues and secure additional trustees.

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11. Priorities for 2026–2027

Looking ahead, our priorities are to:

Continue direct household support

Maintain accessible energy advice and support for local residents.

Strengthen referral pathways

Continue developing links with the Local Community Link Worker and other local organisations.

Develop partnership projects

Build on our work with organisations involved in energy, housing, education and community development.

Continue community engagement

Use local events and community activities to reach residents who may not access traditional advice services. Create newsletter for our growing membership

Develop SHARED

Continue building the steering group and researching renewable energy developments and potential community benefit opportunities.

Increase local knowledge

Help residents understand renewable energy, community benefit funding and the opportunities available to communities.

Support community involvement

Ensure local residents have opportunities to contribute to discussions about future developments and community priorities.

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12. Finances

Date	9.1.2025	8.1.2026
Balance	£15249.73	£14592.07

13. Conclusion

The 2025–2026 year has been one of continued activity, partnership development and forward planning for Smart Denny.

Our practical energy advice remains at the heart of our work, helping local households navigate energy use and household costs. At the same time, our partnership projects and the development of SHARED are helping us think more broadly about the future of Denny and Dunipace.

We believe that supporting people today and planning for the future need to go hand in hand.

We would like to thank all of the residents, volunteers, partner organisations, community groups, funders and individuals who have supported Smart Denny during the year.

Their involvement has helped us continue our work and provides a strong foundation for the year ahead.

Smart Denny
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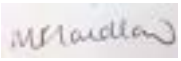
Signed: *Fiona Arhur* **Fiona Arthur (Project Manager)**

Signed:  **Dr. M Laidlaw (Chair)**

Viewed & approved by Donna Laidlaw (Trustee)

14. APPENDICES

A. **Fairer Warmth/Smart Denny - Damp Meters**
B. **Christmas Event / Letter from High School**
C. **S.H.A.R.E.D.**

SMART DENNY
at
Denny's Christmas Event!

Join us for a festive celebration like no other as 'Smart Denny', a local charity dedicated to tackling fuel poverty and helping families stay warm at Christmas, makes a special appearance at Denny's Christmas Event!
Experience the magic of the holiday season with warm company and the generous spirit of Smart Denny. We have adult and kids oodies, winter warm packs, hats, scarves, warm socks, draft excluders, and LED bulbs to give away.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to ensure your family is warm this Christmas while enjoying a truly memorable Christmas experience of the town event!

See you there!







Denny High School
Herbertshire Park, Denny, FK6 6EE
01324 827440 | dennyhighschool@education.falkirk.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr Paul Dunn

19 December 2025

Dear Ms Arthur

Thank you very much for the delivery of the 40 Winter Warmer Packs.

These were delivered to families in need by our school community group and they were very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Mr Jamie Baxter
Head of House



PROBLEMS WITH DAMP?

SMART DENNY

with

FairerWarmth.com



Smart Denny is working with Fairer Warmth (https://www.fairerwarmth.com/) to offer clear, practical, low-cost steps to make your home **drier**, **warmer** & **Healthier**.
We are especially keen to help individuals and families who have problems with damp or mould in their homes.

Please know - You're not alone! Ask us at SMART DENNY about a **FREE sensor loan** to help you monitor your humidity and CO2. - Complete a short questionnaire after a loan to enter a £50 voucher prize draw

You can also get free practical help today at https://mould-tool.fairerwarmth.com. There is no login needed. Try our tools (photo-based action plan, CO_2simulator, condensation checker)

smartdenny6@gmail.com

wwwsmartdenny.com

SMART DENNY

SMART DENNY is a local grassroots charity with aims of reducing energy use in the town, tackling fuel poverty and using energy as a catalyst for harnessing the collective power of the community to create a positive impact.

SMART DENNY

SMART DENNY is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) CHARITY Number: SC048335

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. What is thiss for? A.This is a trial to see how useful the sensors are. There is no "wrong way" to use the device, and any and all feedback is welcome through the questionnaire.

Q. Does the sensor collect or send any personal data? A. No. The device does not connect to the internet and sends no data to us. It can be optionally connected to a personal phone, but this is not required for the trial and entirely optional.

Q. How is the sensor powered? Does it need charging? A. It is rechargeable and/or can be left plugged in. It uses a standard USB-C cable, which should be provided with the unit.

Q. Where is the best place to put the sensor? A.It is best to move it around throughout the duration you have the monitor.

- For humidity, you should place it near a trouble spot (like a cold, damp wall or a window with condensation).
- For CO_2, suggest starting with the bedroom overnight, as this is where stale air is most likely to build up.

Q. What is the £50 voucher for? A. It's a prize draw. Every resident who completes the trial and answers the questionnaire will be entered into a draw to win a £50 voucher for a major retailer.

Q. What are the conditions for entering the prize draw? A. You must complete the questionnaire and provide your contact details. The winner will be drawn and contacted after the trials end in March 2026.

Q. How long is the loan for? A. Ideally, they would be collected and redistributed after one month, but this is flexible depending on the organisation.

Q. I will get cold by opening windows or drying outside. What can I do? A. A humidifier or vented tumble dryer can remove water without opening a window. A window can be opened with the door closed in a room drying clothes, or a bathroom, without cooling the whole house. If you can open windows without becoming too cold, open them wide on opposite sides of your home for just 5-10 minutes. This creates a quick through-draught that swaps the air but doesn't cool down the walls and furniture. Your home will warm up again more quickly. Dryer air is also quicker to heat



with FairerWarmth.com

FREE AIR QUALITY SENSOR LOAN

Name.....

Street.....

Postcode.....

Email.....

Telephone Number.....

Do you have problems with damp in your home?.....

If so, how many rooms are affected?.....

Do you need help to set up the monitor and access the website/questionnaire (if applicable)?

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SHARED: *Securing Holistic Assets from Responsible Energies for Denny District*

SHARED is a sub-group of the Charity SMART Denny

We are a dedicated group of local residents from Denny & District, including members of Smart Denny (SCI048335), The Hope Hub, and local residents. We have come together to form a steering group with a crucial goal: to proactively secure **Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs)** from current and future energy developments in and around our area.

Denny & District currently receives an annual contribution of **£66,000 (inflation-adjusted)** from existing wind farms, a vital source of funding that supports our community. However, this funding is temporary and will eventually cease. It's imperative that **we act now** to ensure our community continues to benefit from these developments long into the future. We cannot allow future community benefits to bypass the Denny District. The steering group is composed entirely of volunteers dedicated to this mission. We have no personal stake in this work other than seeing our community thrive.

Our Aims and Objectives:

- **Secure Robust Community Benefit Agreements:** We propose to collaborate directly with developers to establish comprehensive CBAs. Our goal is to negotiate significant funding and resources that can be directly invested in crucial community projects. This could include initiatives supporting education, local businesses, enhancing our parks, or implementing energy-efficiency programs. To achieve this, we will form a small, dedicated team of local volunteers to represent the community in these negotiations.
- **Champion Community Involvement:** We are committed to ensuring active community participation in all decision-making processes. We will advocate for transparent negotiations and create clear forums for residents to voice their preferences and priorities. We would like to utilise the experience and knowledge of other community project leaders or knowledgeable members of the public and to join our steering group, or sign up as members of SMART Denny, ensuring strong ties with established community representation.
- **Prioritise Environmental Stewardship:** While embracing renewable technologies, we will ensure that all developments minimise their environmental impact and align with the ecological priorities of the Denny community.
- **Transparent Fund Management through Foundation Scotland:** To guarantee trust and effective oversight, we will continue the community fund partnership with **Foundation Scotland**. As a highly respected and experienced organisation, they will continue to **hold and manage all funds** derived from Community Benefit Agreements and similar arrangements, ensuring financial transparency and responsible allocation. At no time will we have personal or direct access to any secured funding.

As a valued resident of Denny District, we would be most grateful for your support with this project.

- **Fiona Arthur** (Project Manager, SMART Denny/ Senior business consultant, SEPA)
- **Dr Maggie Laidlaw** (Chair/Founder, SMART Denny) §
- **John Locke** (The Hope Hub) (S.H.A.R.E.D Community and Strategic Support)
- **Jake Buchanan** (S.H.A.R.E.D Lead Historical & Infrastructure Advisor)