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Houston's of Lockerbie secures funding to replace old buses with clean, electric models thanks to partnering with ScottishPower



Customer profile

Name: Houston's of Lockerbie

Location: Lockerbie

Fleet size: 40 vehicles

Service provided by ScottishPower: Energy management consultancy, EV Charging

Houston's of Lockerbie is a family-run bus and coach operator providing valuable community transport and connectivity services. The business runs local routes covering Carlisle, Moffat and Gatehouse of Fleet, as well as day trips around the UK.

Houston's of Lockerbie and ScottishPower

When the Scottish Government launched the Zero Emission Bus Challenge Fund (ScotZEB) in 2021, ScottishPower partnered with Houston's of Lockerbie to develop their application. The aim was to help, the independent bus operator secure funding to support their transition to clean, green electric buses.

Energy management consultancy

Key support ScottishPower provided to help Houston's of Lockerbie develop their ScotZEB application:

- To begin, ScottishPower consulted with Houston's of Lockerbie on their ideas for future growth, before planning the steps required to achieve their goals.
- ScottishPower then contacted the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) on their behalf to determine if there were any grid limitations to the plans.
- Once the details were confirmed, including how many electric buses Houston's of Lockerbie would need, ScottishPower went to work on planning the onsite infrastructure.
- ScottishPower then created a bespoke proposal, which outlined Houston's of Lockerbie's goals, along with a detailed plan with a cost proposal.
- Houston's of Lockerbie then submitted a well-developed, competitive and costed funding application to ScotZEB.
- After successfully securing the funding, ScottishPower completed a full on-site design for the installation of two onsite EV charging points.



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Results

Thanks to working in partnership with ScottishPower, Houston's of Lockerbie successfully secured a significant grant from ScotZEB and will soon be able to provide the local communities they serve with access to clean, public transport.

The grant will also bring Houston's of Lockerbie a number of benefits, including:

- Ability to create a sustainable fleet
- Boost their green credentials and attract new customers
- Save money through reduced reliance on rising fuel costs
- Help to decarbonise the local communities on their bus routes

“The support we received from ScottishPower when applying for funding was invaluable. Thanks to their help our application was successful, and we are now looking forward to offering cleaner transport within our community. We hope to continue working closely with ScottishPower to explore more sustainable choices.

- Willie Houston, Managing Director, Houston's of Lockerbie

What next?

Houston's of Lockerbie is continuing to work with ScottishPower on their journey to becoming more sustainable. They have already purchased two electric vehicle chargers for their bus depot and are exploring the opportunity to add solar panels and battery storage.