Name: [**Energy Agency (Scotland, UK)**](https://www.energyagency.org.uk/)

**Sustainable finance model:** (with added value – local sustainability, reduction in carbon emissions, transition to net zero and ecological benefits) **(Fund and Support)**

The Energy Agency is a charitable organisation delivering energy efficiency measures and fuel poverty advice to homes, businesses and communities in southwest Scotland, alongside awareness raising around renewable energy, sustainable transport and reducing carbon emissions. Energy Agency provides free, impartial energy advice to clients directly, at events and via developed materials. They work with different health and social care professionals providing a holistic approach to combating fuel poverty and related issues. Mainly funded by public money including area-based schemes for energy efficiency measures from Scottish Government; financial inclusion budgets from local councils and Energy Company Obligation funding – many of these funds are short-term.

To create a more sustainable funding stream the Energy Agency developed and installed a hydroelectric scheme. The [Nethermills Hydro Scheme](https://www.energyagency.org.uk/renewables/nethermills-hydro-scheme) consists of a 90kW Archimedean single screw turbine designed and built by Vandezande (Belgium). Situated in the River Ayr at an existing weir, historically used by a corn mill. The clean, green energy generated is used locally by Ayrshire College, and excess is exported back to the grid providing income for the Energy Agency.

To finance the project the Energy Agency set-up a subsidiary company – Energy Agency Renewables Ltd – which installed, owns and operates the Nethermills Hydro plant. The £1 million demonstration project used regional contractors, and collaborated with the local community, neighbouring Ayrshire college, environment agencies, archaeologists, and biologists to monitor the environmental impacts and minimise disruption. There is an expected 50–60 year lifespan for the technology creating long-term sustainable finance to support the Energy Agency’s vital energy efficiency and fuel poverty work.

Added Value:

* Local sustainability (electricity used at source, contributing to net zero transition).
* CO2 emissions reduction.
* Demonstrator project for Renewables and Green Technology education courses delivered by Ayrshire College.
* Ecological benefits of improved access for fish and eels migration, the installation of a fish counter allows real-time monitoring of the health of the river.

[Energy Agency | Free and Impartial Energy Advice | Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway | Scotland](https://www.energyagency.org.uk/)

