

Repowering wind farms – an opportunity for communities

- Douglas Tollemache, Scottish Government
- Rebecca Carr, Forestry & Land Scotland
- Chris Morris, Local Energy Scotland
- Open to Q&A / discussion

Forestry and Land Scotland are piloting an opportunity for community organisations to develop renewable energy projects on public land when sites come up for repowering. You'll find out more about this opportunity and the support that's available to go through the process.

Forestry and Land Scotland Pilot and the Community Asset Transfer Process

Rebecca Carr,
Community Asset Transfer Manager
Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)





Forestry and Land Scotland

- Responsible for the stewardship of Scotland's national forests and land on behalf of Scottish Ministers in line with the [Forestry and Land Management \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#)
- Since 2017, we have completed 31 community asset transfers, including 2 community hydro leases, and host over 100 community projects
- 25 operational wind farms totalling 1.2GW and 86 hydro schemes totalling 59 MW
[Renewables schemes on the FLS national Forests and land](#)
- Largest provider of outdoor recreation opportunities in Scotland, underpinning £246M of annual value to the tourism economy with a focus on rural areas
- We manage more than a third of the land primarily for nature, and protect threatened and endangered species and habitats
- Deliver a sustainable timber harvest to underpin Scotland's £1.1 billion forestry sector



Pilot sites

Scheme Name	Indicative repowering year	Size on FLS land (MW)	Total Windfarm Size (MW)
Black Law	2032	20.70	187.63
An Suidhe	2033	19.30	
Camster	2035	22.00	50.00
Myres Hill	2036	2.00	
Stroupster	2038	16.10	29.90
Burn of Whilk	2038	22.50	
Clashindarroch	2041	36.90	43.00
A' Chruach	2043	42.60	
Beinn An Tuirc 3	2047	50.00	
West Benhar	2048	30.10	



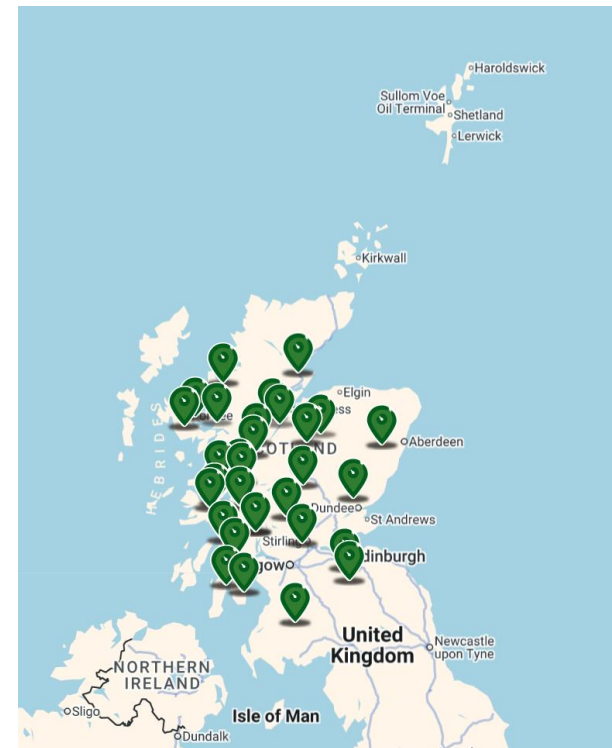


Community Asset Transfer Scheme

- CATS notification
 - evaluation criteria
 - eligibility
 - site information
 - guidance and sources of support

<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/CATS>

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/asset-transfer/>



Repowering - development pathway and CARES support

Chris Morris,

Manager

Local Energy Scotland



LOCALENERGY.SCOT
0808 808 2288
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

CARES

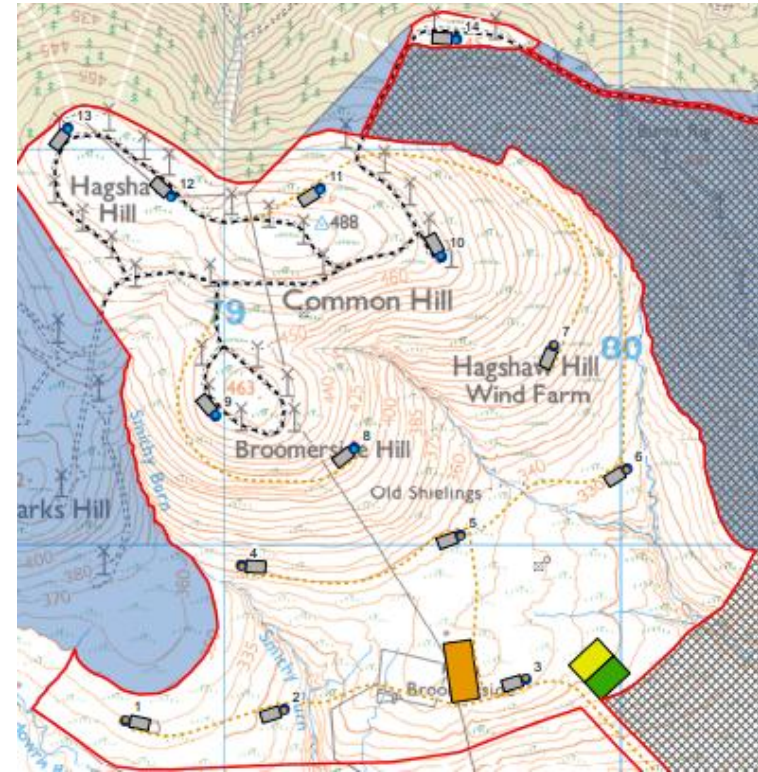


What is repowering?

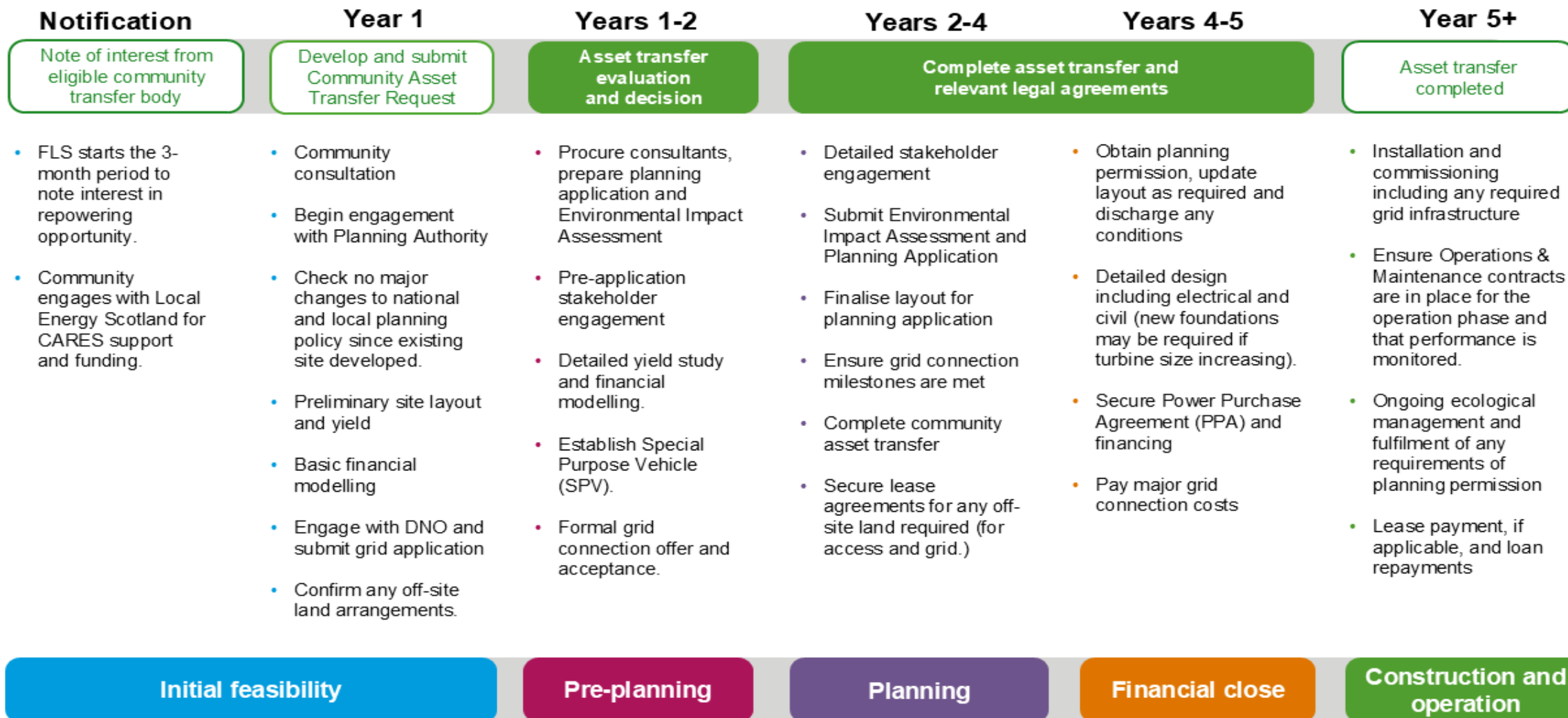
- Useful life of a wind turbine is around 25 yrs. Repowering is replacing the existing wind farm with a new one after decommissioning the old site.
- Typically involves installing fewer, modern, larger and more efficient turbines.
- Not many projects have repowered yet, but it's a similar process to a new site with a new planning consent required etc.
- All sites will be unique; they will vary in terms of what existing infrastructure can be reused and environmental factors.
- Extends and potentially increases the clean power generated at the site.

Repowering example - Scottish Powers Hagshaw Hill Windfarm

- Located near Douglas in South Lanarkshire
- The original site was 26 turbines. Installed in 1995.
- These have been replaced with 14 more powerful models (up-to 200m to tip height) and site extended.
- Capacity increased from 16 MW to 79MW.



Illustrative development & CAT process



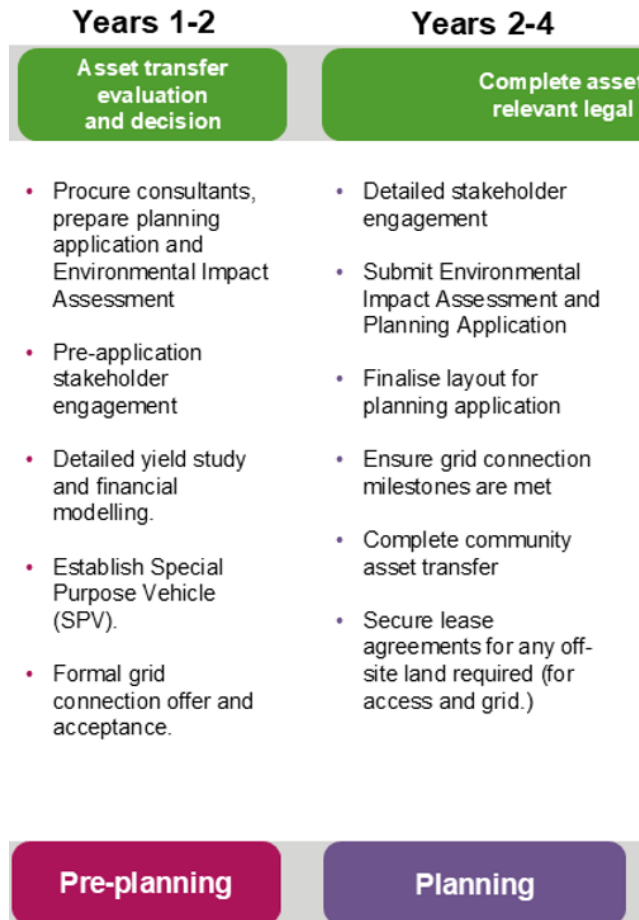
Initial feasibility

Notification	Year 1
<p>Note of interest from eligible community transfer body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLS starts the 3-month period to note interest in repowering opportunity. • Community engages with Local Energy Scotland for CARES support and funding. 	<p>Develop and submit Community Asset Transfer Request</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community consultation • Begin engagement with Planning Authority • Check no major changes to national and local planning policy since existing site developed. • Preliminary site layout and yield • Basic financial modelling • Engage with DNO and submit grid application • Confirm any off-site land arrangements.

Initial feasibility

- Engage with Local Energy Scotland for funding and support.
- Employ consultants to undertake feasibility study.
- Research the existing project and communities involved.
- Whilst early in the process your team should start:
 - Engagement and consultation – community, Planning Authority, DNO.
 - Assessment of planning restrictions
 - Site layout options and yield.
 - Basic financial modelling
 - Off-site land arrangements – access, grid etc.
- Information to submit a CAR request

Pre-planning and planning



- Ongoing engagement with Local Energy Scotland for support.
- Consultants prepare planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Grid, lease, detailed energy yield, project vehicle, layout, detailed engagement, PPA and financial modelling.
- Once consented:
 - move towards financial close, asset transfer, detailed design and procurement.
- Illustrative timeline – expect it will take longer than 5 years to go from notification to construction.

Considerations

- Complex projects requiring high-capacity communities:
 - Communities aren't expected to have all the skills.
 - Need a professional team / partnership.
 - Capacity can be built but project team needs to be committed, led well, with good governance.
- Community engagement:
 - Significant infrastructure projects – new layout will have different local impacts, construction impacts etc.
 - Ensure fairness across the local community with different local communities wanting different roles.
- Existing project and tenant on FLS site
 - As its repowering there will be a developer operating an energy project under lease with FLS.
 - Timings, decommissioning, environmental restorations, using existing structures.
- Long-term:
 - Generational project requiring capacity, commitment and succession planning.
 - Long-term community revenue to take forward communities' priorities (40-year operational lease).

Potential support and funding



Phase	Activities	Funding and support
Initial feasibility CAT note of interest/request.	Understanding development route and viability. Progressing the CAT process.	Local Energy Scotland/CARES key funder Lottery and Ofgem Redress. Community Ownership Support Service (COSS). Professional advisors – planning, technical, legal, financial.
Detailed feasibility and planning.	2-4 years of detailed design, environmental impact assessments etc	As above – but more in-depth.
Funding and financial close.	Procurement, contracts, seeking investment and due diligence.	CARES and Professional advisors. Project finance – GBE, SNIB, commercial funders, Thrive, SIS, Triodos etc
Construction	Community oversight, juggling numerous requirements. efficient decision making.	Project Manager. Funders. Local Energy Scotland.
Operation	Governance, O&M contracts, habitat management plans. Manage community income	Operational team

Options

- Full ownership won't be the right route for all communities.
- Look at options to partner, for example with neighboring communities.
- If you don't progress the CAT option the FLS pilot site will be offered through a competitive process. Communities will still benefit:
 - Community benefit payments
 - AND option to invest in the project and part-own (shared ownership).
 - CARES support for these routes as well.



Questions and contributions



More information of Forestry and Land Scotland pilot:
<https://localenergy.scot/forestry-and-land-scotland/>

LOCALENERGY.SCOT
0808 808 2288
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

CARES





3pm – 3.45pm Networking break

Please visit the stands to talk about support to help progress your project:

- Local Energy Scotland
- Business Energy Scotland
- Community Energy Scotland
- Civic
- Social Investment Scotland
- Ofgem Redress Fund
- The National Lottery Community Funds
- Scottish Power Energy Networks
- SSE Renewables
- SSEN Transmission

Make your way back to the auditorium after the break for the final session of the day.

LOCALENERGY.SCOT
0808 808 2288
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

CARES

