

CARES conference: Idea to Impact – Community Energy in Action

Community
engagement for
shared ownership



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Welcome



Speakers:

Mark Brennan, Local Energy Scotland
Skye community collaboration case study

Suzy Mercer, Foundation Scotland
Glenkens & District Trust case study

Shared Ownership: the context

“ - any structure which involves a community group as a financial partner over the lifetime of a renewable energy project.”

.... from “Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Shared Ownership of Onshore Renewable Energy Developments”

- Not £5k/ MW/ Annum or “equivalent” community benefit fund.
- Shared ownership is separate and additional to the community benefit fund.
- Separate good practice principles booklet available for further information on community benefit funds.

Shared Ownership: the challenge for community engagement

- How do community leaders/organisations negotiate with developers for the benefit of the community, even with significant opposition to the development itself?
- How do community leaders/organisations ensure transparency with their wider community members?
- How do community groups fit their own community engagement around a project that they don't own, on a timeline, goals, and process owned by a private developer?

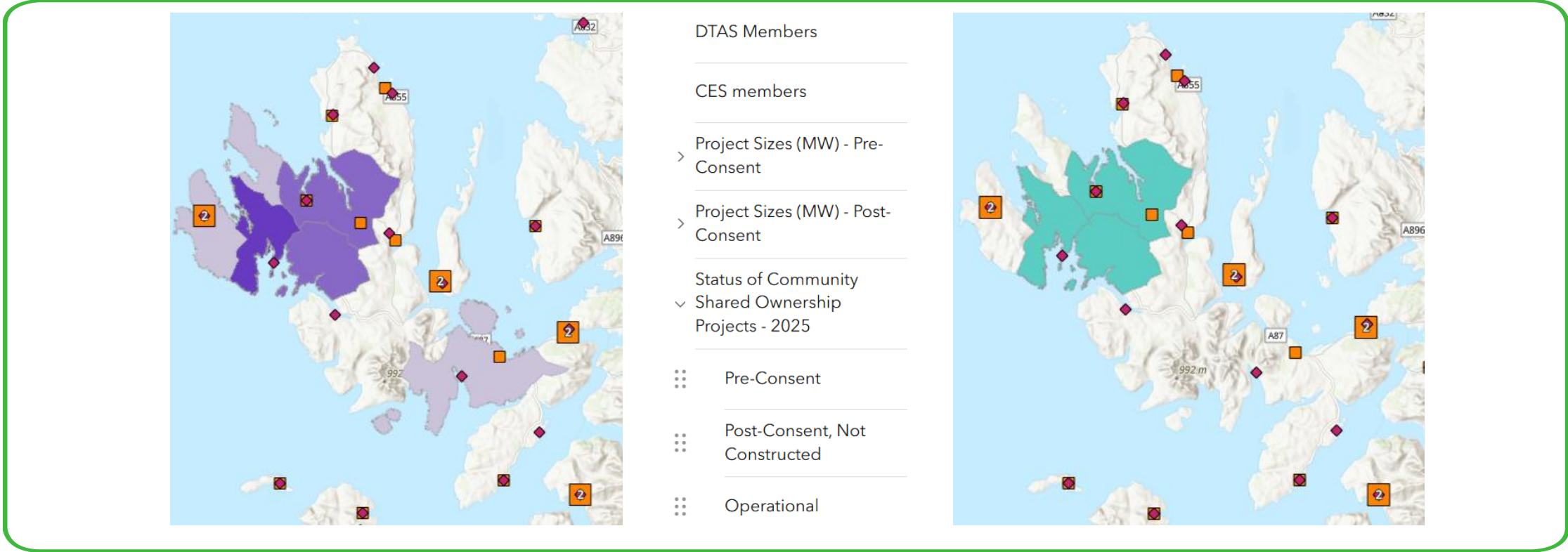
Introduction



- Opportunities
- Key good practice principles
- Process
- Challenges



Distribution of opportunities pre and post consent



CSO opportunities (wind farms)

- ❖ Pre consent = up to c.51MW CSO
- **Glen Ullinish 2 – 310MW = 31MW CSO (10%) + £7k/ MW/ annum CBF**
- **20% for Skye/ Raasay wide strategic fund + CSO?**
- Gleann Eoghainn – 20MW = c.2MW CSO (%?)
- Ben Aketil Repowering & Extension – 59MW = c.3MW CSO (%?)
- Balmeanach – 45MW = 2.25MW CSO (5%)
- Breakish – 132MW = 13.2MW CSO (10%)
- ❖ Post consent = up to 2MW CSO
- **Ben Sca & Extension – 41MW = 2MW CSO (5%)**
- ❖ Operational = c.1MW CSO (Ben Aketil)

Key Good Practice Principles

The scale of the project might also determine whether to widen out to a larger geographic area or, where the shared ownership package is limited in size, it would be good practice to give priority to the local community first.

It is important for all sides to be aware that a shared ownership opportunity is not a proxy for community participation in the decision-making process. Communities have the right to object to a development on basis of land use but still participate in discussions about commercial arrangements to be pursued if planning permission is granted.

Dealing with challenges



- 2022 – 2025 - Protracted negotiations between the developer and local communities, but 20% strategic CBF + CSO? eventually agreed (widening).
- Aug 2023 - Local Energy Scotland presented (2) to Skye Wind group (objection).
- Jan 2024 - Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Local Energy Scotland delivered an initial awareness raising event (objection and benefit) (impartiality).
- Dec 2024 – CARES grant awarded to North Highlands & Islands Climate Hub CIC to procure initial legal advice (capacity).
- Dec 2024 – Legal advice provided (structuring).
- May - Nov 2025 – 9CC and Shetland CBF webinar, follow up, etc.
- 2026 – Climate Hub? CARES Launchpad?

Contact Us



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About GDT



GDT is a two tier SCIO. Area of operation is 10 community council areas in the Glenkens. 3 operational windfarms – 17 in development

GDT is a fund distribution body which exists to **resource, enable and stimulate community development** in the Glenkens and surrounding communities

GDT's aim is to ensure that any resource coming into the area is **maximised for the long-term benefit** of the local communities, through good stewardship and positive partnership working.



Community Engagement

- What was GDT engaging about?
- What went well (and what didn't)
- Tools used
- Learning

National Standards for Community Engagement

www.scdc.org.uk



Planning (Purpose)

GDT had a clear purpose to their engagement

- But... think carefully how this is framed
- Early engagement asked the question ‘how can incoming money be split across communities?’ - this caused tension and division.
Moving the question on to ‘what difference do you want any money to make?’ brought people together
- Governance responsibilities – in whose interests?



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Methods

GDT used different tools at different times

Started with traditional open meetings

Followed by all household survey

Brought in external facilitators who did analysis, ran open engagement sessions and targeted focus groups with underrepresented community voices

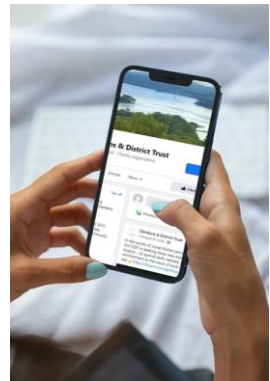
Now using other tools



Methods

Things to think about based on GDT's experience:

- Is your group resourced sufficiently to deal with the answers to the questions you are asking?
- Is yours the right group to be doing this work?
- Can you keep people up to date, even if things aren't going to plan?



Communication – what worked for GDT

- Open, transparent – and regular
- Doesn't have to be expensive
- GDT used what was already built into their governance
- Range of tools – don't mistake broadcasting for communicating



Impact of Engagement

- Community can see positive outcomes
- Strong organisation with good relationships and trust
- Accountability has been important
- Not one and done – you have to keep going!



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More Information

www.glenkenstrust.org.uk

Facebook @glenkenstrust



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.

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