



Sròndaire

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CARES



Community Shared Ownership – 13 years on...

CARES Conference

University of Strathclyde
Technology & Innovation Centre

10th December 2025

Steve Macken
Lomond Energy

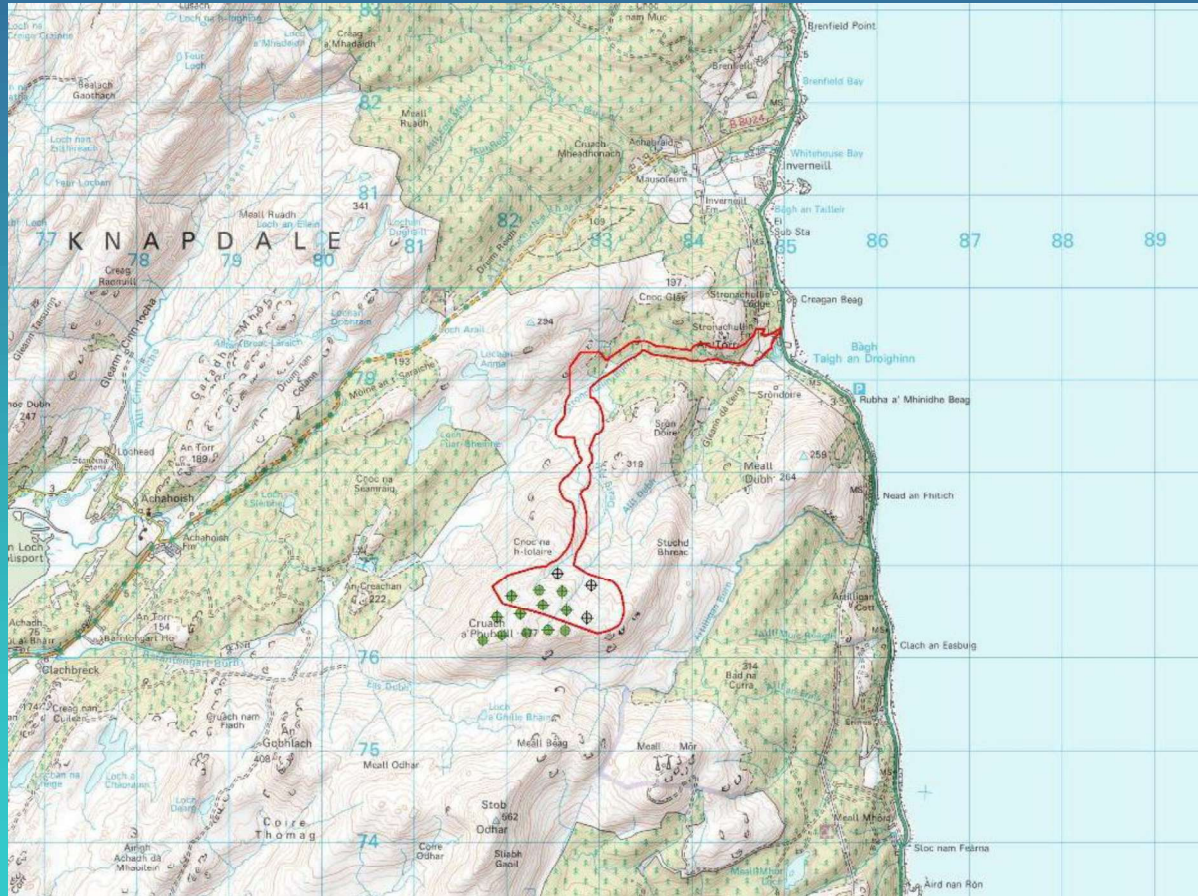


Background

- Established 2003 to focus on wind farm development
- Specialises in small-medium scale projects, also supports large scale onshore wind development
- Local, independent, family owned
- Strong community co-development philosophy



Allt Dearg & Sròndoire Community Wind Farms



Allt Dearg

- Commissioned December 2012
- Landowner-developed by Ormsary & Stronachullin estates, with support from Lomond Energy
- Ardrishaig Community Trust is 1/12th partner
- 10.2MW (12 x Vestas V52-850kW), 77m to blade tip height
- Average production 42GWh/yr (47% capacity factor – highest in mainland Britain)



Sròn doire

- Commissioned October 2015 (adjacent to Allt Dearg)
- Landowners (developers) are principal shareholders
- 1/6th 'community owned' by Tarbert & Skipness Community and Tighnabruaich District Development Trusts
- 6MW (3 x Vestas V80-2MW), 120m to blade tip height
- High productivity of 44% cf



Benefits...so far

Project	Fund	Annual (2025)	Total to date
Allt Dearg	Ardrishaig Community Trust	£197,513	£2,518,390
	Allt Dearg Educational Trust	£45,175	£491,925
Sròn doire	Tarbert & Skipness / Tighnabruaich	£43,020	£763,777
	Allt Dearg Educational Trust	£25,410	£209,224

Lessons learnt

- Define local initiatives to be funded, ie. Local Place Plan/Community Action Plan
- Early engagement
- Keep things as local as possible
- Community shares can't be 'forced' onto communities
- Community benefit is immaterial in planning policy terms



Future?

- Smaller scale projects still feasible for community self-development (eg. single wind turbines, sub-1MW PV)
- Larger scale community-led projects realistically out of reach; shared-ownership is best option
- Project-to-consumer power contracts offer a new opportunity to provide direct benefits (eg. Energy Local)



Questions?

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