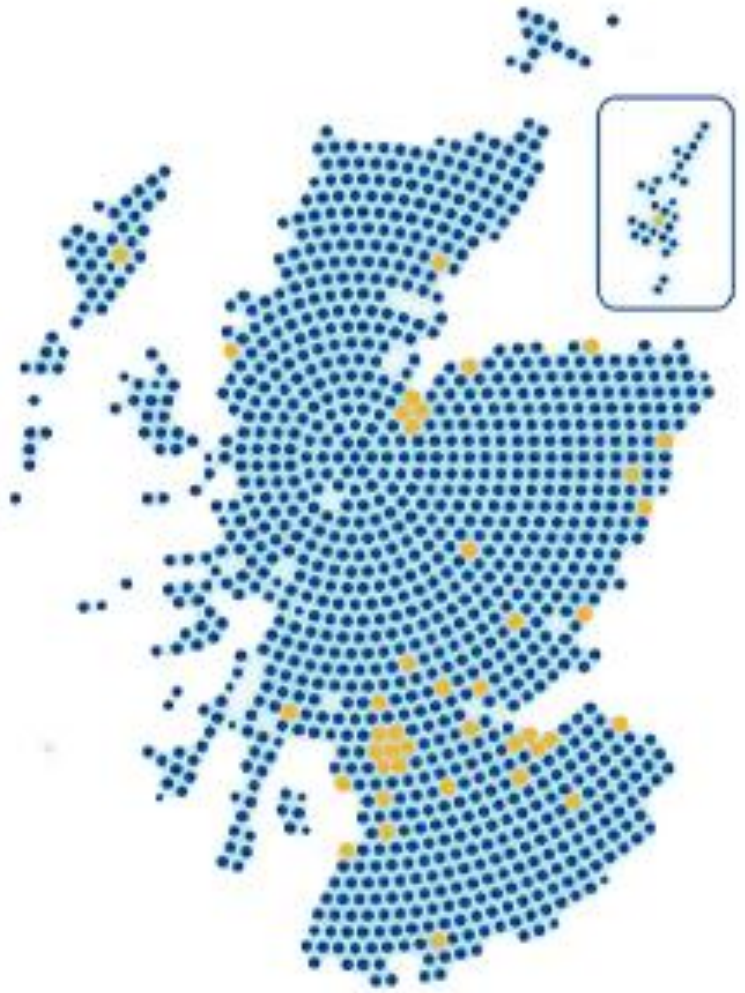
Solar PV Project

CARES Community Energy Generation Growth Fund (2025/26)

Partnership between Eco-Congregation Scotland and CrossReach



WHO ARE THE PARTNERS

Eco-Congregation Scotland is a Scottish ecumenical environmental charity that supports churches in caring for creation through worship, practical action, and advocacy. Founded in 2001 it has over 600 registered churches.

LEAD – MARY SWEETLAND, CHARITY TRUSTEE

CROSSREACH provides social care services and specialist resources to further the caring work of the Church of Scotland to people in challenging circumstance. They provide services for those in need from 67 locations across Scotland

LEAD – JAMES ANTHONY, NET ZERO MANAGER

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LET'S DO NET ZERO

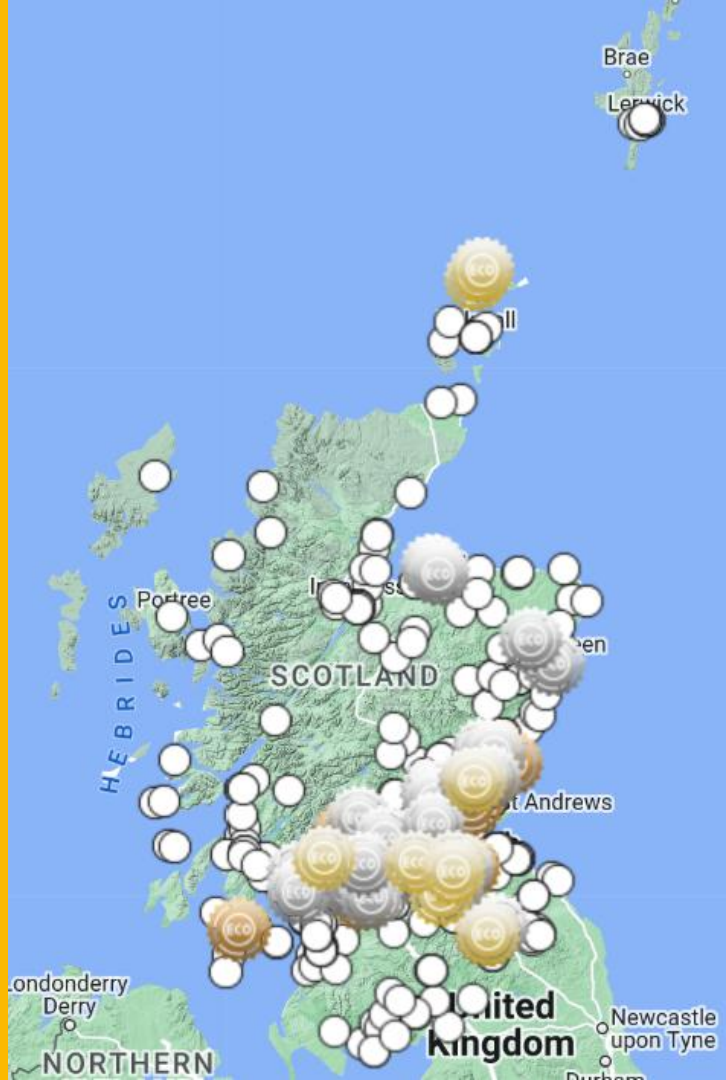
an **independent** environmental charity working throughout **Scotland** for 25 years

led by **volunteers**

supporting churches of **all denominations**

626 eco-congregations
249 Awards
Net Zero commitments

a Scotland that "**cares** and **acts** for **God's creation**"







we support and encourage churches

Spiritual

Help the whole congregation to link their faith and environmental concerns

Practical

Take practical action in individual lives, the church and/or church grounds

Global

Positive impact on and/or working with environmental justice concerns





Eco Congregation Scotland & CrossReach Partnership

2024/25 - £36,395 Grant for Development Phase works at 6 CrossReach properties

Covered feasibility, planning, grid connection and building warrant applications

2025/26 - £235,678 capital Grant in 25/26 to install 215kWp of Solar PV on these 6 community buildings – 80% contribution

2025/26 - £113,750 Development grant for 476kWp of Solar PV Projects, on 15 community buildings across Scotland, from feasibility to investment ready.

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Eco Congregation Scotland & CrossReach Partnership

PROFESSIONAL TEAM FOR PROJECT

- Richard Witney, On-Site Generation – Project Manager
- Ramsay & Chalmers Ltd – Structural Engineers
- The Future Group (Highland) – Structural Engineers
- Mackie Ramsay Taylor – Architects
- Gensource Ltd – Installers

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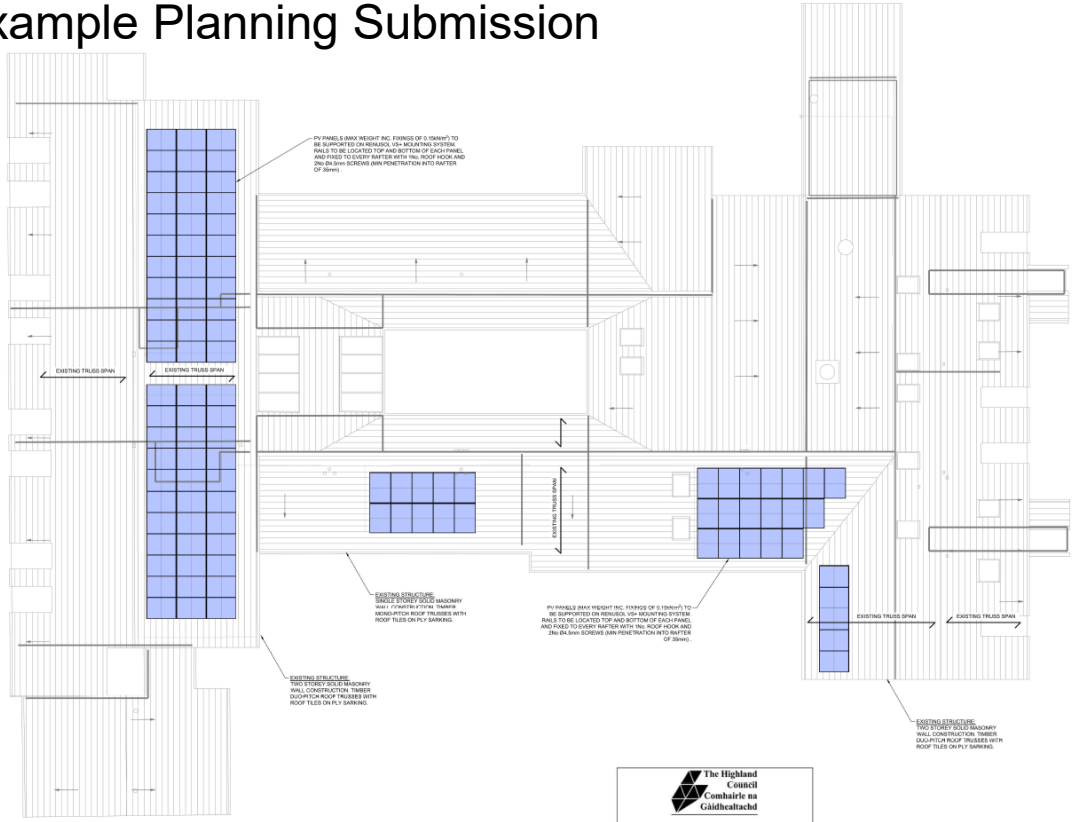
Example Planning Submission



SOLAR PANEL LAYOUT ON ROOF PLAN

1:100

NOTE

DRAWING IS BASED ON MRT'S INFORMATION ISSUED TO RAMSAY & CHALMERS ON 18.03.2025.

DRAWING MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL PROJECT NOTES & PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS. AS WELL AS ALL ARCHITECTS AND SERVICES ENGINEERS INFORMATION.

FIRE PROTECTION

PLASTERBOARD AND INTUMESCENT PAINT TYPICALLY SPECIFIED AS FIRE PROTECTION FOR STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS. REFER TO ARCHITECT FOR CONFIRMATION OF FIRE PROTECTION DETAILS.



ARIEL VIEW OF ROOF



INTERNAL VIEW SHOWING ROOF TRUSSES

GENERAL NOTES:-

THE CONTRACTOR MUST CONSULT THE CIVIL/STRUCTURAL DESIGN ENGINEER IMMEDIATELY IF:
1) GROUND CONDITIONS VARY ON SITE.
2) EXISTING BUILDINGS LIMITS ON SITE.
3) DIMENSIONS OR LEVELS SHOWN ARE CHANGED BY ANYONE ON SITE.
4) CONNECTS OR INSTALLS CONNECTS EXISTING STRUCTURE AND TO BE SUBJECT TO CONSTRUCTION LOADING OR AFFECTED BY TEMPORARY WORKS.

DO NOT SCALE - IF IN DOUBT, ASK.

LARGE SCALE DETAILS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER SMALL SCALE DETAILS.

ALL MATERIALS ARE TO BE USED STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTIONS.

THE INFORMATION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL EXISTS INVOLVED IN SUMMER BY MODIFICATIONS REQUESTED AND APPROVED, TO SUIT HIS PREFERRED WORK METHOD.

ALL NECESSARY METHOD STATEMENTS MUST BE PROVIDED PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF ASSOCIATED SITE OPERATIONS.

THIS DRAWING SHOULD ONLY BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES WHEN THE ISSUE STATUS IS "FOR CONSTRUCTION".

ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETERS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

ALL LEVELS ARE IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

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Rev.	By	Appr.	Description	Date
A	DMO	GTS	INITIAL ISSUE FOR BUILDING WARRANT APPROVAL	10.03.25

Project

ECO-CONGREGATION SCOTLAND & CROSSREACH PV INSTALLATION - CAMERON HOUSE, INVERNESS

Drawing Title

PV GENERAL ARRANGEMENT

Architect

MRT

Drawing ID

XXX-RAC-ZZ-XX-DR-S-0311-A

Job No.	Scale	Issue Status
C8355	1:100 - A1	FOR BUILDING WARRANT APPROVAL

Ramsay&Chalmers

Consulting Structural & Civil Engineers

Chalton Mews Offices, 16 Chalton Place, Aberdeen, AB10 6RD
01224 560700
www.ramsaychalmers.co.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

The Highland Council Building Standards Service

Idox Annotate
Building Warrant reference 25/00461/NDOM5
APPROVED 04.04.2025

Alasdair Murray
Building Standards Manager

SER
Structural Engineers Registration Ltd

Certificate Number	430196
Approved Certifier Name	E F Scott
Registration Number	SERI-D-01170
Approved Body Number	SERI-DB-0248

Example Installed Panels on …..



Lessons Learned - FUNDING THE 20% GAP in CAPITAL

- CrossReach make a prepayment for electricity upon completion of the Development Works, this provides the 20% match funding required for Implementation Phase.
- Pre-payment of £68,197.40 then 5 years at £14,000 per annum (paid monthly) assuming 6 sites only.
- Price electricity set at 20% saving on CrossReach contract prices at each site – varies from 14p to 21p. Immediate benefit to each site
- New income stream for Eco-Congregation Scotland of £15,000+ per annum

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Lessons Learned - Insurance

- Very few insurers will provide cover for panels owned by one organisation on another's building. We have cover with Naturesave, but minimum policy is £2,880, which has to come off revenue stream, so a high hidden cost.

- Building owner's insurance will require fire risk assessment before powering up system. Our installations all meet RC62 for Commercial Buildings, but can cause delays as panels/invertor need linked to internal fire systems.

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Lessons Learned - CARES

- Development funding works well for feasibility to investment ready.
- Tight timescales for applications, and end March deadlines for spend.
- Monitor reporting can be tiresome for volunteers – software issues
- CARES Staff are helpful and supportive!

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