Unlocking Energy Opportunities on Public Land

CARES Conference 2026: People Make Projects



Unlocking Energy Opportunities on Public Land

Emma Shepherd - Head of Public and Community Energy, Scottish Government

- 10 sites on Forestry and Land Scotland.
- Early notification and a dedicated 12-month window to apply to lease a site before commercial tendering begins.
- Black Law and An Suidhe's 3-month period to note interest is now open and will close in January.

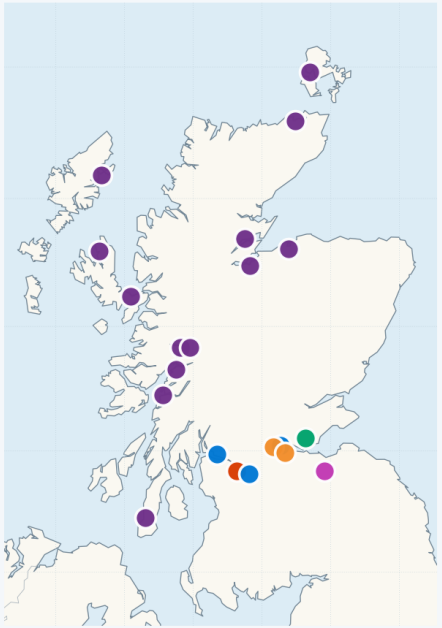


- Growing opportunities for partnership between community energy projects and public bodies.
- 21 opportunities are now available and can now be viewed on the Local Energy Scotland website.
- Further opportunities are expected to be identified, and the website will continue to be updated.
- CARES Public Body Partnership Support – up to £50,000 per project



Public land opportunities across Scotland

21 sites identified for potential community energy development



Opportunities by organisation

HIE	13
Scottish Courts	3
Falkirk Council	2
NHS Fife	1
Disclosure Scotland	1
Midlothian Council	1

Indicative presentation-level locations derived from supplied addresses. Verify coordinates before external publication.

Case study: Edinburgh Solar Community Co-operative

- Solar panels on thirty sites, using the roofs of Edinburgh Council buildings with a total capacity of 2.1MW.
- Electricity is used by the building, with excess sold to the grid.
- Profits are invested in community projects across Edinburgh



COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER SCHEME (CATS) PILOT

Community Access to Wind Repowering: An Suidhe Wind Farm

19 November 2026

Rebecca Carr
Community Asset Transfer Manager

What does Repowering mean?

As a wind farm approaches the end of its lease and operational life, there are typically three broad options available:

1. Decommissioning

- The existing wind farm is removed and the site restored.

2. Lease Extension / Life Extension

- The existing wind farm continues operating beyond its original lease term.

3. Repowering

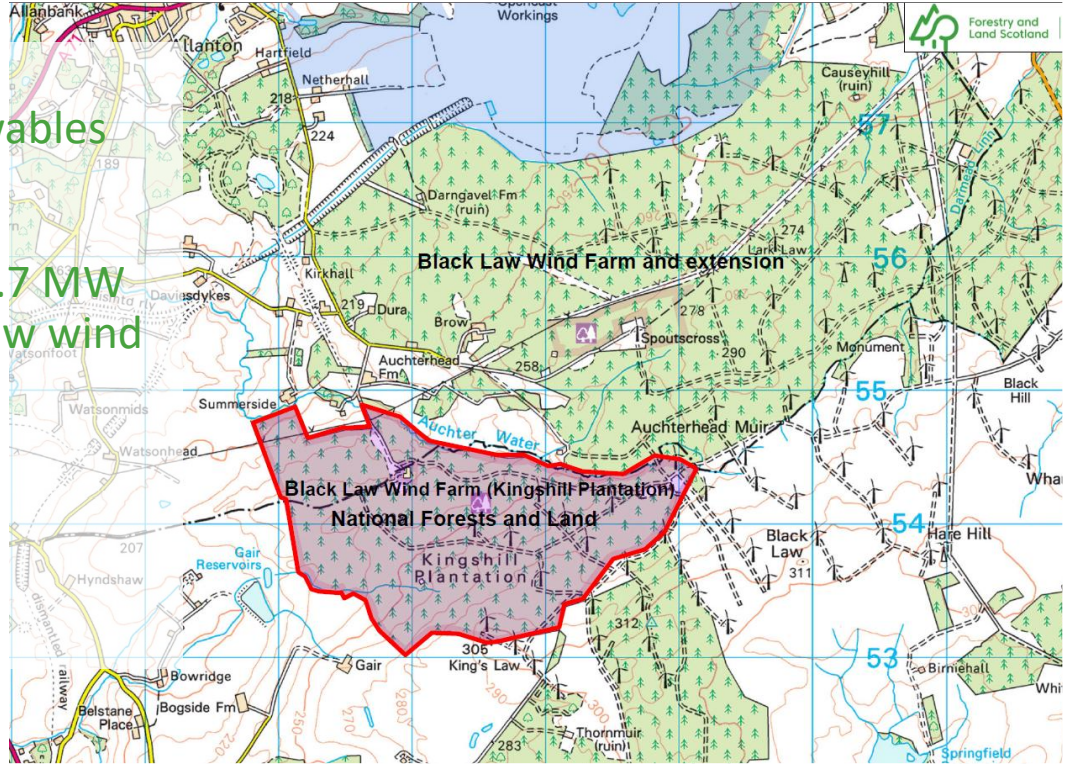
- The existing wind farm is redeveloped using modern turbine technology

CATS – Community Access to Wind Repowering: Pilot sites

Wind farm name	Location	Indicative repowering date	Output (MW) on national forests and land	Output (MW) Total wind farm
Black Law	Kingshill Plantation, South Lanarkshire	2032	20.70	187.63
An Suidhe	Eredine Forest, Argyll & Bute	2033	19.30	
Camster	Rowens, Caithness	2035	22.00	50.00
Myres Hill	Whitelee Forest, East Renfrewshire	2036	2.00	
Stroupster	Hill of Stroupster, Caithness	2038	16.10	29.90
Burn of Whilk	Hill of Toftgunn, Caithness	2038	22.50	
Clashindarroch	Clashindarroch Forest, Aberdeenshire	2043	36.90	43
A' Chruach	Kilmichael Forest, Argyll & Bute	2043	42.60	
Beinn An Tuirc 3	East Lussa Forest, Argyll & Bute	2047	50.00	
West Benhar	West Benhar, North Lanarkshire	2048	30.10	
Total		-	262.20	

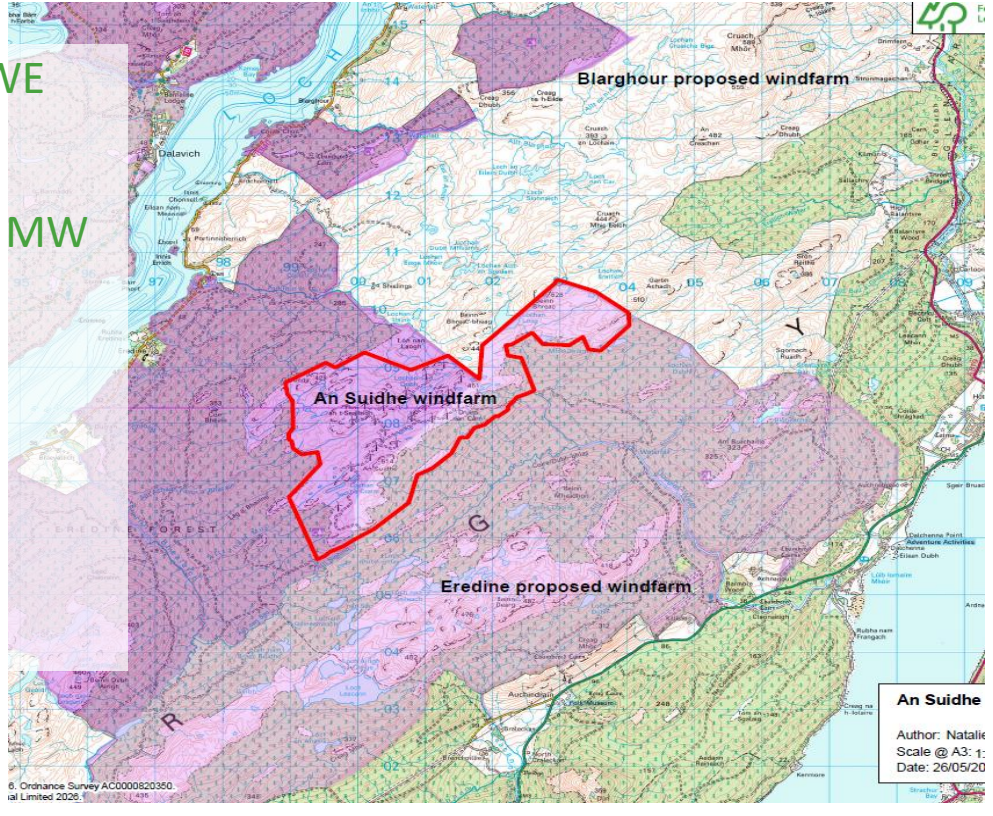
Black Law (Kingshill Plantation) Wind Farm - Overview

- Owned/operated by ScottishPower Renewables
- 8 Turbines
- Installed capacity: 20.7 MW (11% of total Black Law wind farm)
- 2004: Construction commenced
- 2006: Windfarm commissioned
- 2032: Lease expires

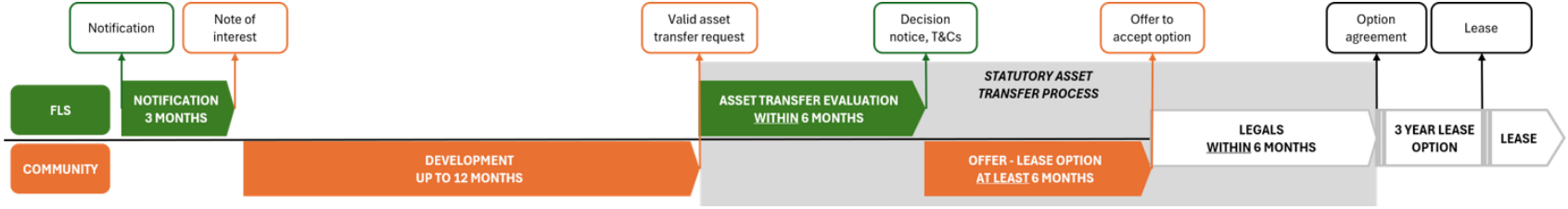


An Suidhe Wind Farm - Overview

- Owned/operated by RWE
- 23 Turbines
- Installed capacity: 19.3 MW
- 2008: Construction commenced
- 2010: Windfarm commissioned
- 2033: Lease expires



CATS – COMMUNITY ACCESS TO WIND REPOWERING PILOT



Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: community transfer bodies' guidance
[Asset transfer - Community empowerment - gov.scot]

NEXT STEPS

Stages	Dates
FLS issues notification with deadline for notes of interest from community bodies.	30 September 2026
Community transfer bodies notes interest in making an asset transfer request	15 January 2027
FLS confirms note of interest from community transfer body and deadline for submission of an asset transfer request.	22 January 2027
Asset transfer request deadline	22 January 2028
Decision notice (within 6 months)	by 21 July 2028
Community transfer body must submit an offer (deadline must be at least 6 months)	by 22 January 2029
Expected Option Signing Date (Backstop date no longer than 6 months)	by 22 July 2029

Community access to wind farm repowering

Community Wind Farm Repowering Access - Climate Action | Forestry and Land Scotland

- Asset Transfer Request Guidance DRAFT - Option to Lease
- Asset Transfer Request Form: Guidance DRAFT

- Black Law (Kingshill Plantation): CATS Repowering Note of Interest Form
- An Suidhe: CATS Repowering Note of Interest Form



CARES conference
Community Renewable Energy Framework

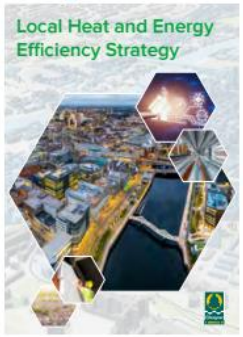
Charlotte Wallace

Sustainability Group Manager

Glasgow CITY COUNCIL


DRAWING OUT THE BENEFITS FOR CITIZENS
GLASGOW can become the CITY OF OUR TIME on the ISSUE of our TIME
WE NEED NO REMINDER... THE IMPACT of CLIMATE CHANGE IS MATERIALISING
THERE is an URGENT NEED TO REPAIR the PLANET... AN EMERGENCY THAT IS NOT RHETORIC
DESIGNING & IMAGINING THE FUTURE
ENTERING THE DECADE of DELIVERY
AGAINST A GLOBAL BACKDROP
PACE SCALE FAIRNESS
DEMOGRAPHICS & MIGRATION
TECHNOLOGY & AI
towards A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE for GLASGOW & our citizens
A JUST TRANSITION
ADDRESSING INEQUALITY & ENSURING INCLUSIVITY
FROM THE PROBLEM TO SOLUTION
FROM TALK TO ACTION
cities leading the way
CLIMATE CHANGE & DECARBONISATION
EQUITY
TAKING A LONG TERM APPROACH
DRIVEN BY AMBITION
ACCESSIBLE to PEOPLE on a LOW INCOME
GLASGOW METRO
BRIDGING THE 40 YR GAP
MORE CHANGE - A MODAL SHIFT
THROUGH SHARED WILL & PARTNERSHIP
ENABLING A SUSTAINABLE LEGACY FROM COP 26
INTERNATIONAL PROFILE
INVESTMENT
TOURISM
SAFE & SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE
getting ready to welcome the world
COP 26
A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT FOR GLASGOW & CLIMATE CHANGE
AMBITION
SUSTAINABLE GLASGOW IN PARTNERSHIP
PEOPLE
COMMUNITY
ALL SECTORS ACADEMIA
BEGINNING WITH THE POSSIBLE
FACING & WORKING THROUGH TENSIONS
INNOVATION
PREPARING FOR A CLIMATE CHANGED FUTURE
PREPARING FOR TRANSITION
2030
TARGET
TAKING THIS CONVERSATION TO COMMUNITIES TO PEOPLE
TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRAL
REMAINDERS
POLICY INVESTMENT INFRASTRUCTURE ALIGNMENT
EXCEEDING 30% REDUCTION TARGET
WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF SUSTAINABLE GLASGOW?
BUILDING THE SENSE of URGENCY
CLIMATE EMERGENCY
working with & to address the challenges
INFRASTRUCTURE
economic social environmental
GREEN & INCLUSIVE GROWTH
INCLUSIVE ECONOMY & ENVIRON
welcome to
SUSTAINABLE GLASGOW
SUMMIT
25 FEB 2020
PREPARING for COP 26
the biggest event ever hosted in Scotland
FORMING the FUNDAMENTAL BASIS for CHANGE
building the collective will, courage & ACTION
THIS BEGINS WITH US!







2019

Glasgow declares a Climate and Ecological Emergency

2021

Glasgow's Climate Plan

Host of COP26

Children and Young People's Climate Charter

2022

Glasgow's Climate Adaptation Plan

Glasgow's Active Travel Strategy

2023

Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)

The Thriving Glasgow City Portrait

2024

Model for Climate Investment with £4.2m budget approved

The Glasgow Transport Strategy

Forestry and Woodland Strategy

The Council's Carbon Management Plan 3

Just Transition Implementation Plan

Net Zero Routemap

2025

Glasgow awarded EU Net Zero Mission City status

Glasgow Joint top in Scotland Council Climate Action Score Cards (CCAS)

Circular Economy Routemap updated

2030





Glasgow’s Climate Plan

At its heart, this plan retains Glasgow’s commitment to become a net-zero carbon city by 2030 and to make our city more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

We can’t address our challenges or meet our climate goals alone—we need our businesses, institutions, and citizens to all continue to contribute to delivering a happier, healthier, and equitable city.



Refocus on what matters most to the people of Glasgow

- We know that climate action isn't always the priority for everyone
- We heard that clearly from our engagement work – 11% of consultation responses
- But climate action can help with many of the things which <u>are</u> the priority
- We have reframed our plan to start with 'wider benefits'



Wider Benefits



A world class city with a thriving and inclusive economy where everyone can flourish and benefit from the city's success.

Energy

The greatest share of emissions in Glasgow city comes from the energy we use.

Actions include both efforts to reduce the energy consumption in Glasgow City Council buildings as part of the whole organisation's carbon footprint, and also at a city-wide scale focusing on increasing the rollout of renewable energy solutions, including supporting our communities and businesses through the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership



Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

Glasgow's Community Renewable Energy Framework



What is the CREF?

In 2024 we asked people what were some of the barriers in an urban setting to delivery of community renewable energy. We heard that:

- finding suitable land, securing finance, connection constraints and navigating the multiple processes and systems were difficult

The Community Renewable Energy Framework supports the development of community renewable energy projects by providing a framework for communities to follow as they move through from initial proposals to delivery.

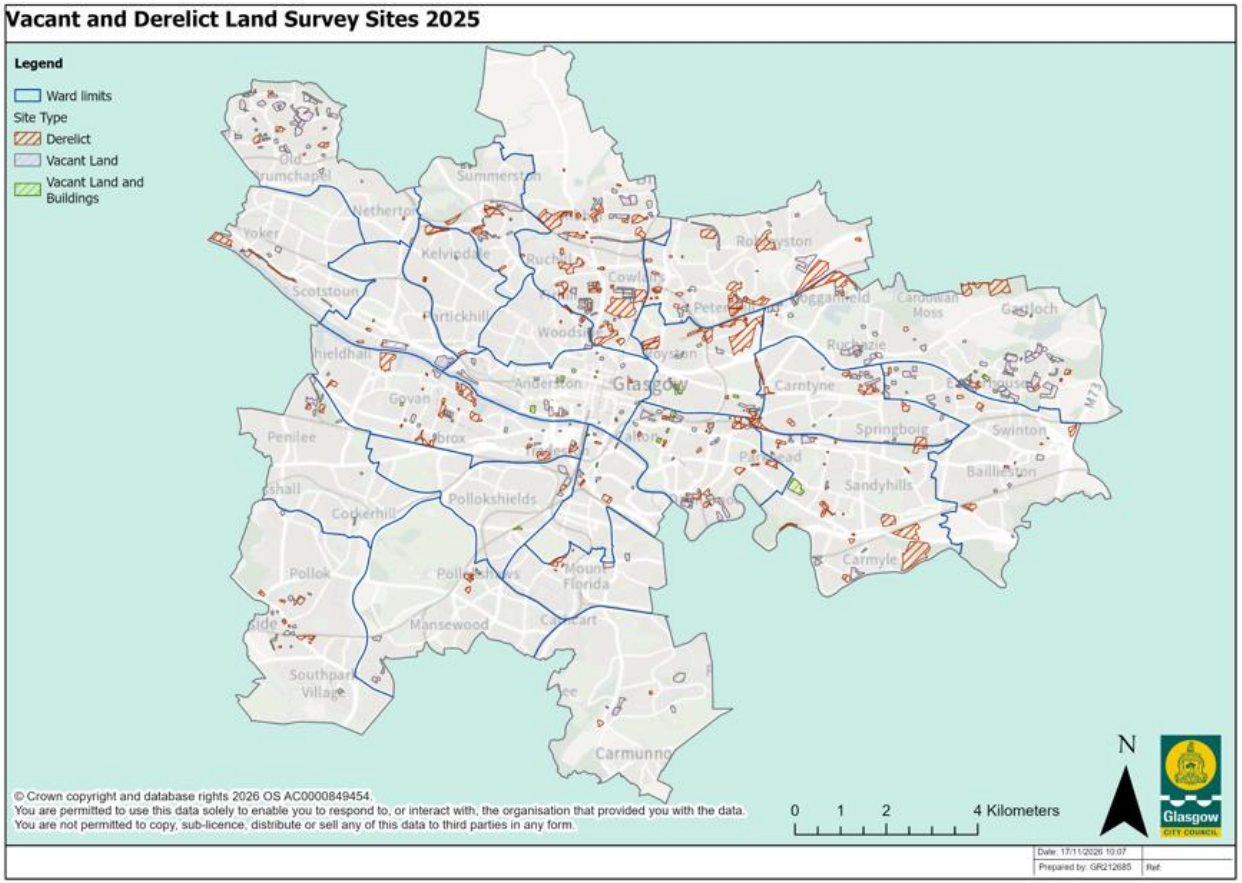
Glasgow City Council has a role to facilitate and support communities in this area

But projects need to be led and designed by the communities themselves to ensure they are addressing needs from a local community perspective.

Focus of the CREF – Vacant and Derelict Land

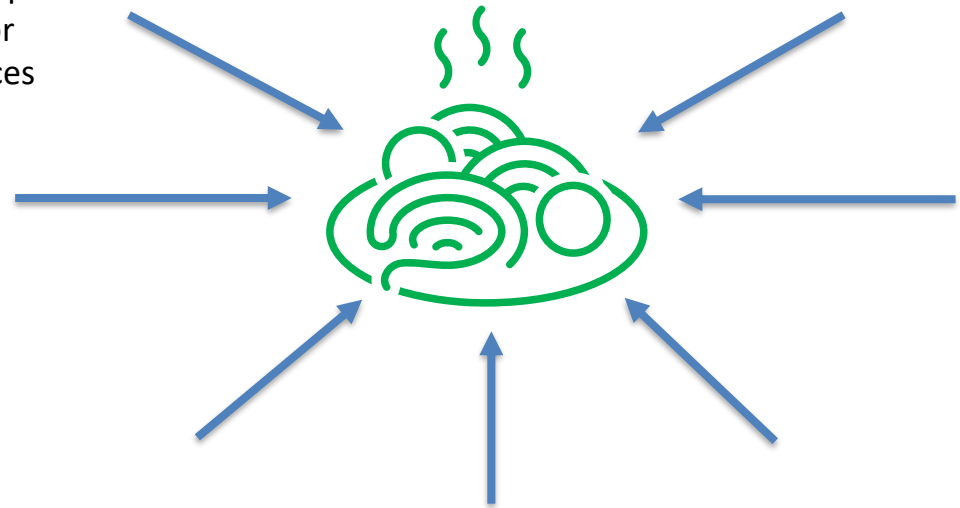
- 781 hectares of vacant and derelict land spread across **574 sites (2024 data)**
- About **53% of Glasgow's population** lives within 500 meters of a derelict site, the highest proportion among major Scottish cities.
- The Glasgow Centre for Population Health links adverse physical environments and local dereliction to lower life expectancy and wellbeing challenges
- **Multiple wider benefits of projects on VDL**
- **Operates alongside a significant programme of PV Solar and other renewable energy projects on GCC assets across the city.**

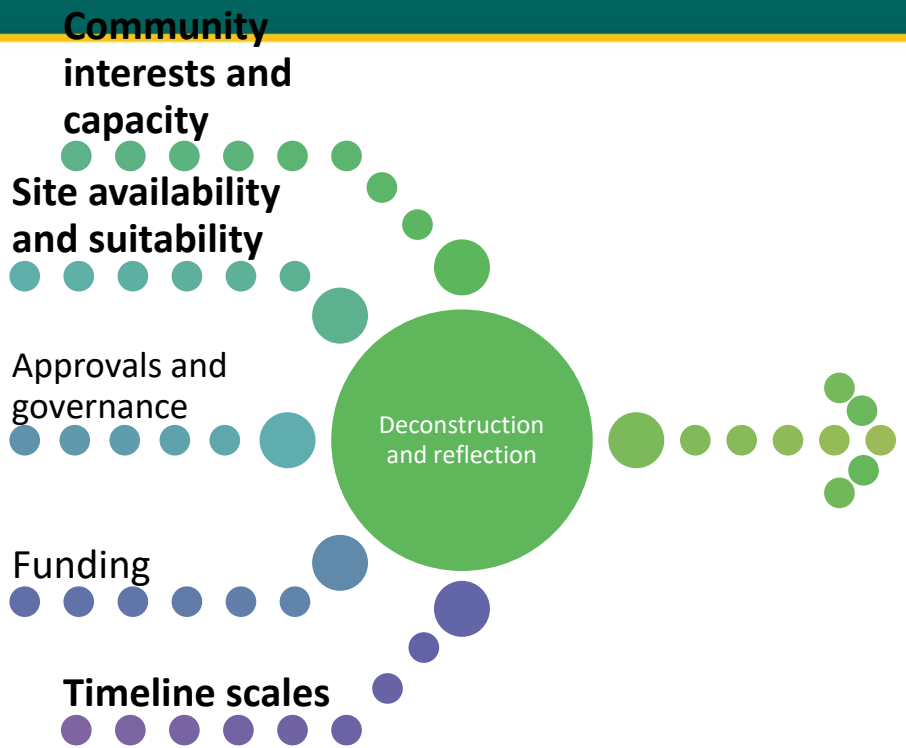



Vacant and Derelict Land Survey Sites 2025
Legend
Ward limits
Site Type
Derelict
Vacant Land
Vacant Land and Buildings
Glasgow
Govan
Pollokshields
Mansewood
Carmunnock
Sandyhills
Springboig
Swinton
Carntyne
Penilee
Pollok
Cockerhill
Scotstoun
Yoker
Kelvindale
Summerston
Old Drumchapel
Netherton
Cowlairs
Woodside
Anderston
Partickhill
Shieldhall
Penilee
Mount Florida
Carmyle
Baillieston
Easterhouse
Garrowhill
Carntyne
Ruchazie
Carntyne
Carmyle
Sandyhills
Springboig
Swinton

Community Renewable Energy Framework

Started as the development of a process-based framework to increase community led renewable energy





Reimagined CREF

- Shared narrative on the benefits for communities – not just about renewable energy
- Start with mapping the community demand and interest
- Provide targeted support learning and upskilling
- Dual process of site identification – communities and GCC
- Complex and non-linear journey – needs ongoing support

Key messages for our communities



Opportunity

Community-owned renewable energy could generate income for other local priorities.

Support

No prior experience is required, and support will be available throughout the process.

Wider Benefits

Localised energy increases energy/ cost security, able to power homes and reduce health impacts

Play your Part

The CREF is not just about benefit in the present, it’s about the foundations for a sustainable future.

Next Steps

Ensuring that the journey and resources are clear and mapped out

CREF Phase 2

Launch of CREF Phase 2 in early 2027:

- Starting with demand mapping and community capacity support
- Building networks and direct support / resources / funding

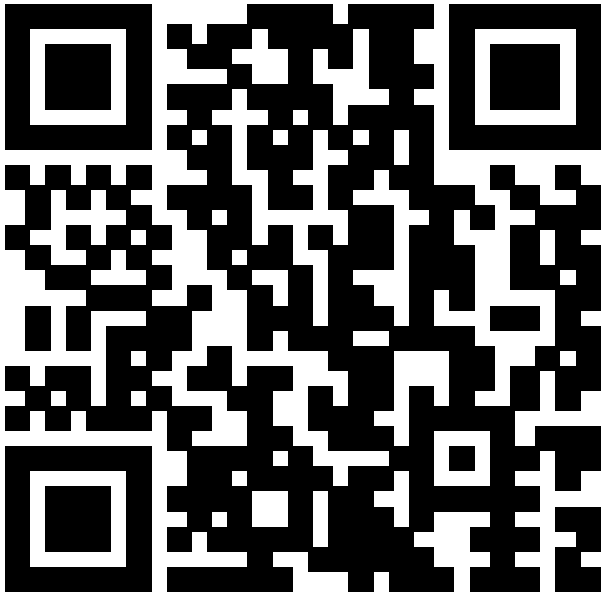
Want to know more? Email us at:

Sustainability@glasgow.gov.uk



Find out more

Sustainability webpage



Unlocking Energy Opportunities on Public Land

CARES Conference 2026: People Make Projects

Chris Morris, Local Energy Scotland



CARES supported projects on public land & buildings

Morven Community Development Company

- Barr river 1.6MW hydro scheme, Lochaber
- Supported by CARES through development from c.2013
- Commissioned July 2021







Wallacetown Community Energy Project

- Roof mounted solar PV on 3 local schools
- Expected to generate £1 million towards local priorities over 25 years

Support for Communities Interested in Energy Opportunities on Public Land

Funding

Community:

- Feasibility, Development and construction grants and loans

Public body:

- Covering eligible costs associated with engaging with communities on CARES supported energy projects

FLS Repowering Opportunities

- Feasibility reports for Blacklaw & An Suidhe sites
- Procurement support
- Funding support to explore the opportunity through Resilience Fund

Online Resources

- Case studies
- Projects index / map
- Shared ownership info
- Community benefits register & toolkit
- Templates
- Funding guidance

Community ownership does not mean doing everything alone

Large scale projects often require a team

- Technical specialists
- Project managers
- Environmental specialists e.g., ecologists and peatland advisers
- Planning advisers
- Legal advisers
- Financial advisers
- Development partners
- External funders

Community involvement could include

- Direct ownership
- Joint ventures
- Partnerships

Available support includes

- Local Energy Scotland / CARES
- Community Ownership Support (COSS) - DTAS
- CES support



Community opportunities beyond ownership

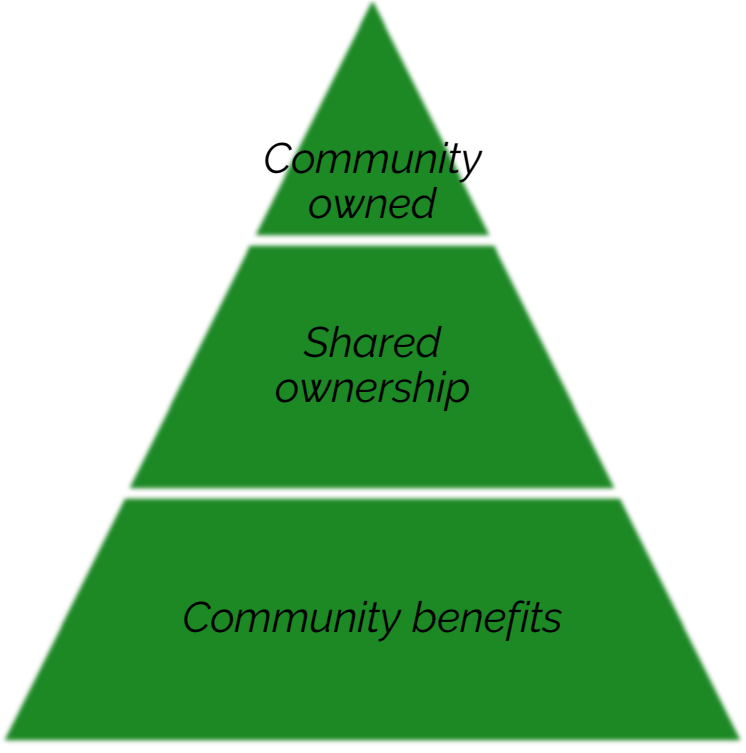
If full ownership is not the right choice for the community, there may still be opportunities to benefit through:

Community benefit funding

and

Shared ownership opportunities -

- Communities investing in part of a project
- Ownership of a share rather than the whole development
- Combining community and commercial expertise



Interested in exploring an opportunity?

LOCAL ENERGY SCOTLAND

Get in touch:

0808 808 2288

info@localenergy.scot

localenergy.scot

@localenergysco

localenergyscotland

local-energy-scotland



Break/close

- Grab a cuppa and make your way to the auditorium for our film showing.
- Thank you for coming if you are leaving us here.
- We'll share notes and slides on our website.
- We hope you've enjoyed your day.
- Please take a moment to fill out our feedback survey.

Up next:
16:20 – 18:00

National Emergency Briefing film (optional)

An opportunity to watch and reflect on the National Emergency Briefing.
Hosted by Professor Stuart Galloway, University of Strathclyde

LOCAL ENERGY SCOTLAND

Net Zero Scotland
Scottish Government

LET'S DO NET ZERO