

CARES Conference 2025

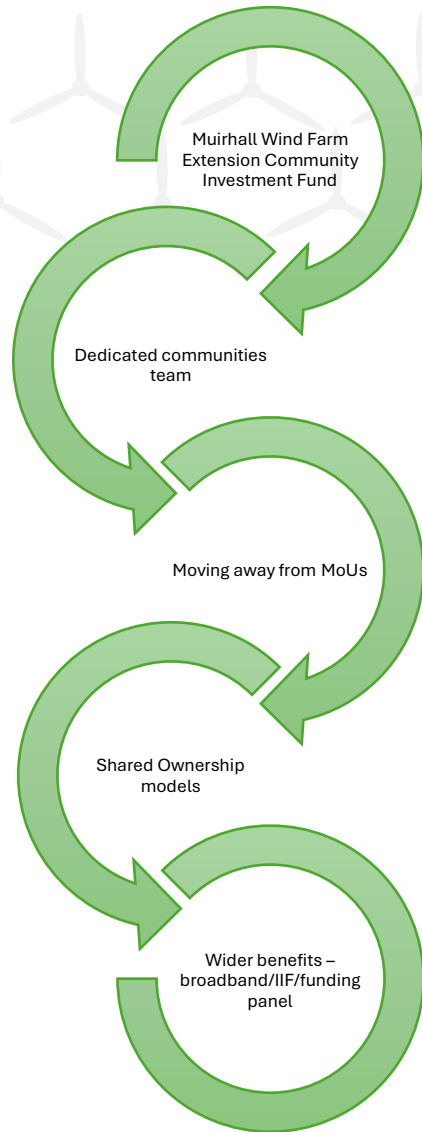
Scaling up community energy



**Lesley McNeil – Head of External
and Corporate Affairs**



OUR JOURNEY



CROSSDYKES WIND FARM

A People-First Approach to Development



High speed broadband
Commitment to local businesses



Community Shared Ownership



Initial Investment Fund =
£110,000
Community Investment Fund =
£7,000 per MW



GREENGAIRS EAST WIND FARM

Challenges

Community Capacity
Divisions
Community Control

Solutions



**Foundation
Scotland**



IN PLANNING



CHALLENGES

- Fund shared between 12 community councils
- Earned skepticism
- Poor engagement from some communities (capacity?)
- Reluctance to openly support agreements

POSITIVE STEPS

- Establishment of local office in Hawick
- Open dialogue with stakeholders
- Over £124,000 in ad-hoc sponsorships
- Engaging Foundation Scotland as an intermediary



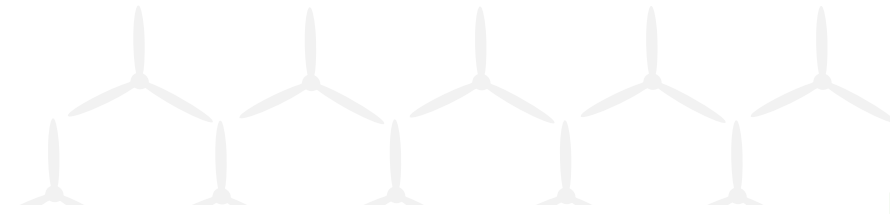
CHALLENGES

- Host vs Neighbouring Communities
- Community Benefit vs Wider Benefit
- Protracted discussions frustrating to the community

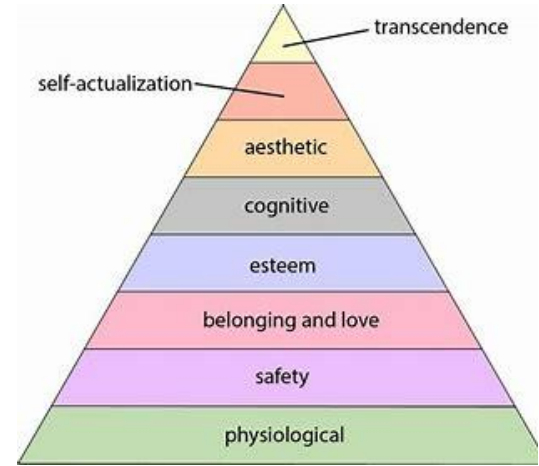
POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

- Frequent team presence on the Island
- Open discussions with community groups
- Over £144,000 in ad-hoc sponsorships

WHATS NEXT?



National Performance Framework



Mazlow's Hierarchy of Needs