



PUBLICLY OWNED ENERGY



CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT

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INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDE

Local authorities should be playing a leading role in Scotland's energy transition. Publicly owned energy can build decent work locally, save money for residents, and cut carbon emissions.

Yet in recent years, we've seen our energy sold off to multinational companies. Publicly owned companies from Sweden, Denmark, and France own huge amounts of the UK's power.

We need to build public control at a local and national level. You can lead the charge in your area to push your council to lead the charge.



This toolkit contains information about public ownership and steps to take to build a campaign in your area.

Get together with people in your workplace, community, and your local union branch to demand more public power for your community.

MODEL MOTION FOR YOUR COUNCIL

Council notes the Public Power League Table published by the Scottish Trades Union Congress which show the amount of power owned locally by each local authority.

Council recognises the vital role of publicly owned energy in delivering a Just Transition, with the potential to reduce energy bills, build good jobs and local supply chains, and meet climate targets.

Council supports calls made by the Scottish Trades Union Congress for additional funding to be made available to local authorities and the establishment of a central hub for sharing best practice and resources for building more locally owned energy, including projects owned by the local authority.

Council agrees to review the existing scale of council owned energy projects and to investigate potential sites and available sources of funding for new energy projects to be taken forward by the council, including onshore wind, solar farms, and retrofitting council homes and buildings.

KNOW THE FACTS

Energy Savings Trust have shown that 44% of “community and locally owned” energy in Scotland is held by farms and estate owners. Compared to just 16% held by local authorities.

All local authorities can consider solar PV and battery storage for council homes and buildings. Wind and biofuels are more accessible in rural areas but should be explored across Scotland.

66% of people in the UK believe energy should be in public ownership, but our energy system is privatised at every stage: generation, transmission, distribution and supply.

Research shows that prices are 20-30% lower in systems with public ownership

Research by Aquatera has shown community owned wind farms have provided on average 34 times more benefit payments to local people than privately owned wind farms.

In Germany, public sector suppliers of energy are more trusted, and two-thirds of all electricity is bought from municipally owned energy companies.

50% of the UK's offshore wind is owned by publicly owned companies from other countries. Only 0.07% (a single demonstrator turbine) is publicly owned by the UK.

The UK's offshore wind pipeline is 8 times the scale of operational sites. Energy System Catapult has modelled a further doubling in capacity to 150GW as realistic.

WHAT HAS PUBLIC POWER ACHIEVED ELSEWHERE?

- Able to insulate the public from volatile energy prices by controlling prices and keeping bills down
- Reinvest profits into communities or return them to the public
- Make long term commitments, growing domestic manufacturing, local supply chains and economies
- Long term commitment to creating and maintaining quality jobs, collective bargaining
- Planning for and investing into the climate transition
- Public bodies able to deliver both an industrial strategy and new energy infrastructure at pace
- Able to export goods, skills and intellectual property

STARTING A CAMPAIGN IN YOUR AREA

You can use this toolkit to reach out and speak with your councillors and other local politicians. Collective efforts are more likely to lead to big wins for you and your community.

A first step for building a campaign on public power could be to speak with others in your workplace, in your union branch and in your local trades council to find people who want to get involved.

Share your ideas about how to run your campaign and get in touch with the STUC if you want support along the way.

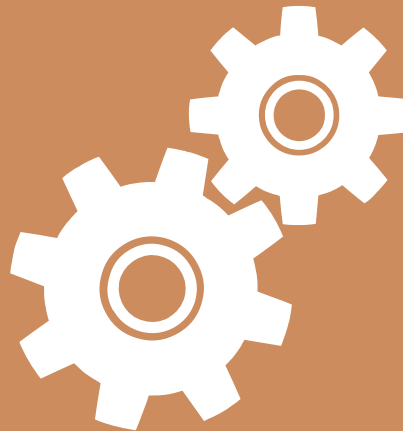
People across Scotland are demanding more public ownership of energy from their councils and government. By building a campaign, you will be joining this growing movement of people.

BUILDING SUPPORT



Map your local area

Find allies in your community including in local institutions like churches, community groups and trade union branches



Get Organised

Create a whatsapp group or facebook page to explain your campaign, share updates and bring people together



Get your message out

Write a leaflet about your campaign, contact local councillors and community figures, and send press releases to local journalists

BUILDING PUBLIC POWER ACROSS THE UK

Councils have had their budgets and capacity slashed through years of austerity and centralisation. The Scottish and UK Government should look to build public power themselves while providing more support for local authorities to do the same.

The UK Government's plans for GB Energy are a positive step towards greater public control of our energy. GB Energy can compete with the publicly owned companies of our European neighbours with the right scale of investment.

The UK Government has also committed £600m for local authorities to develop public power. This is an opportunity for councils to access much needed funding and be part of a nation-wide push towards public ownership.



Public power can generate revenue for councils while creating new jobs and community wealth. Our governments can help make this possible through dedicated funding streams, building economies of scale, and capacity-sharing.

The Scottish Government should create a fund for local authority energy projects and build the Energy Development Agency into a hub for local authorities to learn best practice, share capacity and open funding paths.

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