

The Re-Powering of the Cruach Mhor Wind Farm

A joint statement by the ColGlen Community Council, the Colintraive and Glendaruel Development Trust, and the Cruach Mhor Wind Farm Trust

As the chairs of the three organisations recognised by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) as having formal standing in the negotiation and distribution of community benefit from the re-powering of the Cruach Mhor Wind Farm, we affirm our shared commitment to working closely and constructively together in the best interests of the Colintraive and Glendaruel community.

We have agreed to collaborate fully in securing the maximum possible income for the community from the re-powered development. This includes:

- Negotiating community benefit payments, expected to be no less than £5,000 per MW/h,
- Securing the community's free 1% equity share and the opportunity to acquire an additional 4% at cost,
- Exploring further potential equity investment up to the allowable minority shareholding, either through the local community directly or via Cowal Community Energy (CCE), subject to future agreement.

We have also jointly agreed that the Colintraive and Glendaruel Development Trust will represent the community's interests within Cowal Community Energy. However, the final decision on whether to support CCE as the vehicle for any future community shareholding will rest with the community itself, through an open and inclusive consultation.

As this is the first re-powering project being progressed by FLS, we believe it is essential to maintain transparent communication and community engagement throughout. To that end, we have agreed that the chairs of our three organisations will meet with representatives from FLS and Belltown Power to understand the plans and approach of the new developer. Following this meeting, we will consult with the ColGlen community to ensure local voices shape the process as it unfolds in the years ahead.

A key goal for all of us is to secure continuity of community funding and to achieve a substantial increase in annual payments - recognising that the original agreement made over two decades ago no longer meets the needs or expectations of our community.

We are united in our aim to ensure that the repowering of Cruach Mhor delivers long-term and meaningful benefits for all those who live in the ColGlen area.

Sara MacLean
Chair CGDT

Charles Dixon-Spain
Chair CCC

Michael W. Russell
Chair CMWT

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