Highland Social Value Charter | Cairt Luach Sòisealta na Gàidhealtachd

# Community Support Officers – Renewables Engagement

## What We Will Do

We are here to support communities in engaging with renewable energy developments. Specifically, we will:

- Provide **impartial advice, support, and guidance** to community groups to help engage with their communities (whether geographic or a community of interest) on renewable energy developments in their area.
- **Encourage participation and dialogue** among community stakeholders around renewable energy developments, helping build capacity and knowledge.
- **Signpost community groups** to relevant organisations and experts involved in renewable energy development.
- **Facilitate constructive dialogue** between communities and developers.
- **Encourage and empower communities** to negotiate their own community benefit packages to deliver community aspirations.
- Promote **peer-to-peer support**, sharing case studies and best practices.
- **Prioritise support** for communities in areas of inequality and those with limited resources.
- Work with communities to **maximise community benefit opportunities** by signposting to support for the development of community projects, shared investment initiatives, and resilience activities linked to the Social Value Charter and wider Highland strategies.
- Align our work with **established best practices** such as the National Standards for Community Engagement and the Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments.
- Keep communities **informed about developments** in renewable energy.

## What We Won't Do

To maintain transparency and impartiality, here's what we won't do:

- **Respond to planning applications** on behalf of communities.
- **Influence community decisions**—we remain impartial at all times.
- **Negotiate community benefit packages** on behalf of communities.
- **Handle enquiries unrelated to renewable energy**—but we will signpost you to the appropriate Council service.

Highland Community Planning Partnership | The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd | Highland Social Value Charter

Contact us at cwb@highland.gov.uk