



Glasgow City Council
City Administration Committee

Item 2

5th September 2024

**Report by Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate,
Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery**

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COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY FRAMEWORK

Purpose of Report:

To present the City Administration Committee with Glasgow City Council's Community Renewable Energy Framework and seek approval of the Framework.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report.
- 2) Note the contents of the Framework.
- 3) Approve Glasgow City Council's Community Renewable Energy Framework.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present committee with Glasgow City Council's Community Renewable Energy Framework (CREF) for approval and outline the next steps to launch the portfolio of sites selected for community renewables in Glasgow.
- 1.2 The Community Renewable Energy Framework (CREF) will aim to promote the generation of electricity from renewable sources by providing a framework by which communities can develop projects on a portfolio of suitable sites for such development. This will help the City to decarbonise energy provision, meet our Net Zero Carbon 2030 target, and support and empower communities to take climate action that they can directly benefit from.
- 1.3 This report provides:
 - An overview of the development of the Framework.
 - A summary of the Framework content.
 - A summary of the steps needed to publicise the sites and scope community interest.
 - Information on the official launch of the sites.
- 1.4 The CREF was presented to the Net Zero & Climate Progress Monitoring Policy Development Committee on 13th August 2024 and was referred to the City Administration Committee for approval.

2 Framework Development

- 2.1 A short-term internal working group was created to aid the development of the Framework. It included officer representation from GCC Sustainability, Legal, Finance, Procurement, Planning and Asset Management teams, and City Property. The working group had two functions:
 - Identify a portfolio of suitable sites.
 - Outline a process for delivery of community owned renewables on council owned vacant and derelict land.
- 2.2 Whilst there are existing community-owned renewable energy projects in the City, the utilisation of public land for community renewables is novel. Prior to the development of this Framework (Appendix 1), there was no formal support to enable communities to lease land for this purpose. The working group scoped suitable GCC owned land, and identified the process needed to enable land to be leased by communities for renewable energy generation.

3 Framework Content

- 3.1 The Framework content was created in consultation with the internal working group and external stakeholders including Local Energy Scotland, Aberdeen

City Council, and [Energy4All](#), due to their respective experience of financing, supporting, and delivering community energy projects in Scotland.

- 3.2 The Framework outlines the support that will be provided by GCC and Local Energy Scotland to community groups to help realise community owned renewable energy projects; introduces the new People Make Glasgow Communities Renewables process to support the land lease application; and details the policy requirements to be met to be eligible to apply, as outlined in the framework.

4 Transfer of Council Land for Community Renewables

- 4.1 Pending approval at the City Administration Committee, the Framework will be taken to the Contracts & Property Committee who will be asked to approve the sites identified for use by the CREF.
- 4.2 Once approved by Contracts and Property Committee, the sites will then be offered to the local communities at the official site and launch in the autumn to scope their interest.
- 4.3 On receiving an expression of interest from a community, the agreement for land lease can be initiated and the lease application will be taken back to the Contracts and Property Committee for approval in principle, if the specified requirements are met.
- 4.4 People Make Glasgow Communities is an existing council mechanism by which local groups and organisations can express an interest in being more involved in the delivery of community services. The addition of a People Make Glasgow Communities Renewable to the programme follows the same principles and process; tailored to support communities with an interest in a community-led renewable energy project.

5 Launch of the CREF Site Portfolio & Opportunity Map

- 5.1 A Community Renewable Energy Opportunity Map (story map) is being developed to identify and give details of the sites available in this first phase. The CREF story map will host the appended framework, information about the aims of the project, planning guidelines, and link to the People Make Glasgow Communities Renewable Programme and associated application documents.
- 5.2 The Framework and opportunity map will be launched at an event in the autumn that will bring together interested parties from the communities, and project stakeholders to discuss the project aims, set out the timescales, and the support available.
- 5.3 An initial on-line information session on the Framework is planned in August to raise awareness of the opportunity coming forward in the Autumn. The Story

map will support further conversations with communities as the process progresses.

5.4 Table 1 below provides an indicative timeline for the next steps for the CREF.

CREF Milestones	Timeline 2024-2025						
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2025
Net Zero Committee and CAC Framework Approval							
Contracts and Property Committee (Stage 1): Sites ring-fenced for use by the CREF							
People Make Glasgow Communities Renewable and story map finalised							
Launch of sites to scope community interest. Initiate support from GCC for transfer of land.							
Contracts and Property Committee (Stage 2): Initiate off market disposal with interested communities							

Table 1 – CREF Milestone Plan

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 Once approved, the CREF will be taken to Contracts and Property Committee to seek approval of the sites identified as suitable for Community Renewable Energy Framework.
- 6.2 Once approved, hold an engagement event for communities in the autumn to launch the sites and framework.

7. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Legal: The report raises no legal issues.

Personnel: The development of the Community Energy Framework is managed within existing resource in the sustainability team with support from wider council through the dedicated working group. The delivery of the framework will require support from the Glasgow Makes Communities Team.

Procurement: The report raises no procurement issues.

Council Strategic Plan: Grand Challenge(s) this report aligns with: Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities; Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow; Enable

staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative, and efficient way for our communities.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

An Equality Impact Screening Assessment of the framework and policy has been undertaken. The proposal supports the Council's equality outcomes by providing a framework to support Community led Renewables Energy and heat generation in SIMD areas with wider benefits to the whole community such as bringing local stakeholders together to help vulnerable people access support and advice, including energy efficiency measures.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

The policy framework has the potential to have an even greater positive impact on vulnerable groups by building capacity and support in SIMD areas to help alleviate Fuel Poverty, Cold Homes and Health Inequalities in Scotland.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

An agreed allocation of any benefits from selling energy from the renewables will be invested back into the local community through a defined community benefits process and/or a community wish list.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

The Community Energy Framework supports Climate Plan Recommendation 59: The Council's business support and planning services are made available to support community investment in renewable energy, including the Glasgow Community Energy Cooperative. And Action 46: To establish a framework for engagement with local energy cooperatives.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

Decarbonisation of energy and testing community embedded pathways to our 2030 Net Zero Target.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target? Yes, this proposal will positively contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts: None

8 Recommendations

8.1 The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report.
- 2) Note the contents of the Framework.
- 3) Approve Glasgow City Council's Community Renewable Energy Framework.