



**Glasgow City Council**

**Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring  
City Policy Committee**

**Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of George  
Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration  
& Sustainability**

**Contact: Gavin Slater**

**Ext: 78347**

**Item 2**

**23rd September 2025**

**UPDATE ON GLASGOW'S COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY  
FRAMEWORK**

**Purpose of Report:**

To provide Committee with an update on the launch of Glasgow's Community Renewable Energy Framework and next steps.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report;
- 2) Note the next steps for the Community Renewable Energy Framework.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Glasgow's [Community Renewable Energy Framework](#) (CREF) outlines the Council's package of support for local groups to develop community-led renewable energy projects.
- 1.2 In [September 2024](#), the City Administration Committee approved Glasgow's Community Renewable Energy Framework.
- 1.3 In [November 2024](#), the Contracts and Property Committee authorised the Council to negotiate off-market leases for the 4 sites identified as suitable for the Community Renewable Energy Framework.
- 1.4 The development of the CREF constituted a substantial amount of work, including:
  - Adapting the existing [People Make Glasgow Communities](#) (PMGC) programme to incorporate renewable energy requirements;
  - Securing agreement on offering concessionary leases for approved sites;
  - Developing lease terms;
  - Collaborating with Local Energy Scotland (LES) to align with the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Schemes (CARES);
  - Creating planning guidance;
  - Establishing a dedicated working group for governance.
- 1.5 Led by NRS Sustainability, the CREF is a collaborative project operating across a range of GCC teams, including input from finance, legal, property, procurement and PMGC. The [dedicated CREF website](#) provides information on the 4 stage process and all details of how to access support and materials to guide communities through the process.
- 1.6 A progress update on the CREF was brought to Committee in [March 2025](#). This paper provides an update to the March paper, covering specifically:
  - The launch event – including pre- and post-event communications and engagement
  - Next steps for the CREF, including consideration for Phase 2.

## **2. CREF Launch, wider communication and engagement events**

- 2.1 The CREF was launched at Civic House on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2025. The main purpose for the event was to raise the profile of the project with local communities and organisations who are interested in renewable energy development in their local areas. The window for pre-applications was also launched at this event. The Council is now accepting pre-application submissions, with a deadline of 29<sup>th</sup> of August.

2.2 A package of communications and engagement supported the CREF launch to raise awareness of the initiative alongside ensuring attendance of the event from a range of stakeholders and citizens.

2.3 The following communications preceded the launch event:

- Social media: Posts were uploaded to Facebook, X, and LinkedIn.
- Newsletters: Internal communications were circulated via the NRS Loop newsletter.
- Targeted engagement: key stakeholders were approached on an individual basis.
- Localised posters and information was shared through existing community based organisations.

2.4 Engagement with communities is integral to the success of the CREF. To support this, the following communications activities followed on from the launch event:

- Social media: Posts were uploaded to Facebook, X, and LinkedIn.
- Newsletters: Internal communications were circulated via the NRS Loop and Staff Corporate newsletters.
- Press and media articles were shared and STV and BBC Radio Scotland covered the story with both including an interview with an officer within NRS Sustainability.

2.5 The following engagement activities were also run following the launch event, to ensure ongoing support for interested communities:

- An Online Information Session on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, aimed at anyone who was not able to attend the in-person launch event.
- Two in-person drop-in information sessions were held close to the identified CREF sites to discuss the pre-application stage and gauge interest from any local groups. These sessions were attended by a range of stakeholders including local residents, community groups, and community energy groups.
- Attendance and presentation at a Glasgow Community Energy event held in Easterhouse to discuss community energy in Easterhouse and the CREF specifically. At this event there was attendance of an MSP (the Minister for Public Finances) alongside GCC Councillors, social housing representatives and local residents.

2.6 The range of engagement events and communication activities were designed to test out what forms of engagement would be more successful in each community setting, and also to learn how best we share information on technical projects such as the development of renewable energy. The launch event itself had attendance from the following organisations and groups, amounting to 18 individuals excluding GCC officers:

- The BBC
- University of Strathclyde

- Community Energy Scotland
- Glasgow Community Energy
- Crossroads Youth and Community Association
- South Seeds
- University of Glasgow
- Verture
- Local Energy Scotland
- Glasgow City Council (Councillors)

- 2.7 The online information sessions were well attended by over 20 individuals and groups and provided them with an opportunity to hear more detail about the CREF and gave a chance to ask questions of the officers in an informal setting. These sessions provided the first primary opportunity to build and develop relationships with the key interested groups in proximity to the CREF sites.
- 2.8 The response to the in person drop-in sessions was mixed, ranging from key partners only in Easterhouse, to a collaboration of interested community organisations in Milton. However, providing this time and space for interested groups to come and speak with us has led to the development of pre-application submissions.

### **3. Phase 2 development**

- 3.1 Phase 2 of the CREF will be developed within 2026, as it is important that it takes learning from this initial pilot phase of the CREF. This development will include a review of the process followed for site selection ([details can be found in this report to Committee](#)) and could also include, though not limited to:
- Identification of additional sites.
  - Exploration of how sites could be proposed to the CREF team by community groups or residents.
  - Feedback on process and supporting materials
  - Community access to technical support
- 3.2 The £1M capital budget allocated to the CREF will be used to support identification and release of new sites during the development of phase 2.

### **4. Next Steps**

- 4.1 The pre-application submission deadline is the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2025. Between this point and the 15<sup>th</sup> October (dependent on volume of submissions), Glasgow City Council will assess and score pre-applications, notifying successful applicants by the end of October 2025.
- 4.2 Soon after this, the application stage will then open with an anticipated closing date in late Spring 2026. Following a successful application, applicants will then begin the implementation of their renewable energy projects.

- 4.3 Whilst supporting applicants throughout the initial phase of application submission and delivery, GCC will also be reviewing the existing processes to develop an understanding of potential for a Phase 2 of the CREF.
- 4.4 Ongoing support, direct to interested communities will continue to be provided by the CREF working group. The working group will also sign post to relevant technical support and funding opportunities for communities as their projects develop.

## 5. Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

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

*Legal:* This report raises no legal issues.

*Personnel:* The development of the CREF is managed within existing resource in the Sustainability Team with support from the wider Council through the dedicated working group.

*Procurement:* This report raises no procurement issues.

**Council Strategic Plan:** Grand Challenges 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 renewable 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* The policy framework has the potential to have an even greater positive impact on vulnerable

<i>impacts as a result of this report?</i>	groups by building capacity and support in SIMD areas to help alleviate fuel poverty, cold homes and health inequalities in Scotland.
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<i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.</i>	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.
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**Climate Impacts:**

<i>Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:</i>	The CREF 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.
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<i>What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?</i>	Decarbonisation of energy and testing community embedded pathways to our 2030 net zero target.
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<i>Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?</i>	Yes, this proposal will positively contribute to Glasgow's net zero target.
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**Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N	No
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If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

**6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to:
- 1) Note the contents of this report;
  - 2) Note the next steps for the Community Renewable Energy Framework.