

November 2025

Community Land Scotland*

Manifesto for People, Place and Power

Background

The 2026 Scottish Parliamentary election comes at a crucial moment. Scotland is facing multiple and overlapping crises: housing shortages and depopulation, climate breakdown, biodiversity loss, a cost-of-living emergency, deepening inequality and rising political disillusionment increasingly threaten the fabric of our society. Doing more of the same will not deliver change at the speed or scale that we need.

This election is a chance to take bold steps to address these issues. The best answers and solutions often come from the communities themselves. With revitalised democracy rooted in communities, people can have real ownership of land and resources. They can build affordable homes, generate clean energy, restore nature and support thriving local economies.

Strengthening community ownership and control is not just a fair approach; it is the key to putting Scotland's future in the hands of its people and ensuring a more equitable and sustainable future.

To read our manifesto in full, visit:

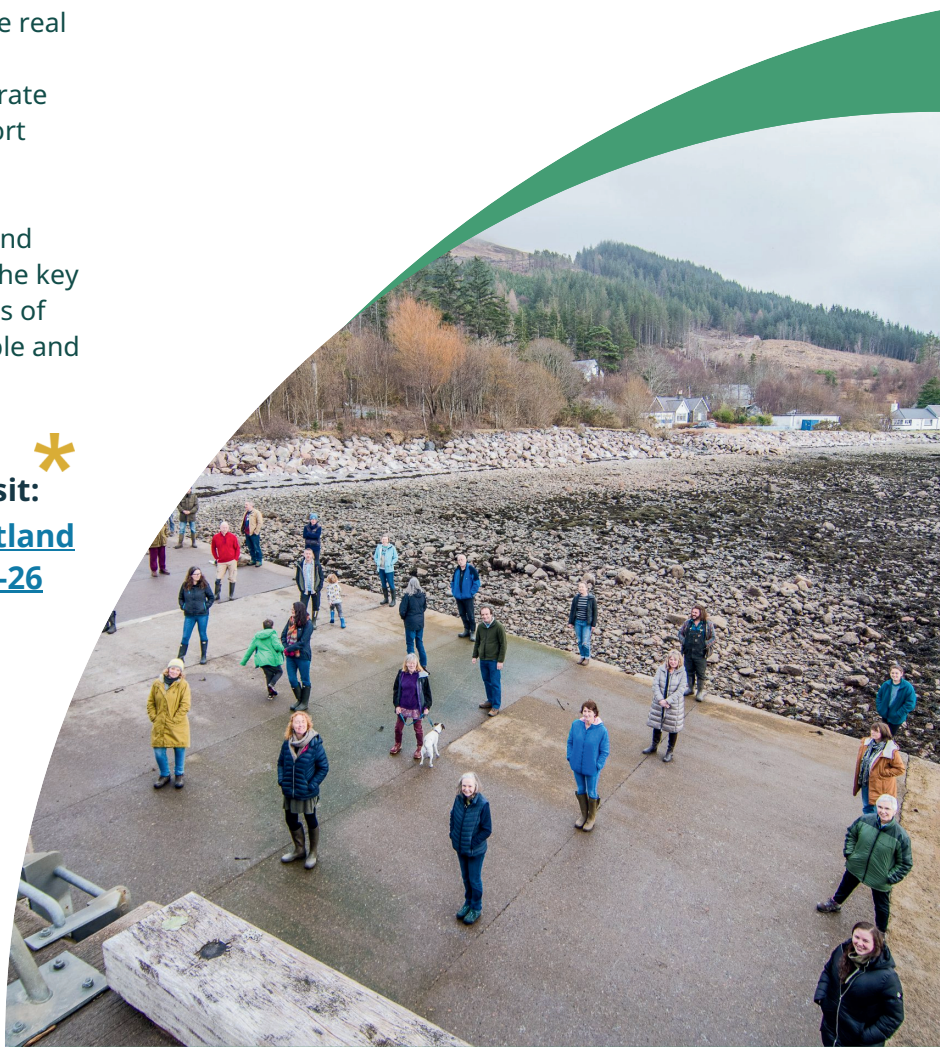
<http://www.communitylandscotland.org.uk/resources/manifesto-25-26>

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About Community Land Scotland

Community Land Scotland (CLS) is the leading national voice advocating for land reform and community ownership and empowerment in Scotland. With over 140 member organisations from major crofting estates in the Western Isles to inner-city community hubs, Community Land Scotland represents the breadth of the community land movement.

Community Land Scotland's vision is for the community ownership of land, buildings and other property assets to be a key driver of sustainable economic and social development across the whole of Scotland.



Policy Priorities

- 1 A national target for community ownership**
Commit to 10% of Scotland being in community ownership by the end of the next Parliament. Deliver this through a clear plan to expand community landownership and reduce the concentration of private landownership — including a new Land Reform Bill introducing a meaningful Public Interest Test on all large-scale ownership and fair taxation to deliver land reform outcomes.
- 2 Modernised Community Right to Buy legislation**
Refresh the Community Right to Buy legislation to reflect today's ambitious community landscape and changing land market, implementing the recommendations of the 2025/26 review.
- 3 A Scottish Community Wealth Fund**
Establish a national fund, seeded by new benefit payments from renewables, storage, and transmission developments, to ensure all of Scotland's communities share in the renewable energy revolution.
- 4 A stronger Scottish Land Fund**
Strengthen the Scottish Land Fund with a £25 million commitment by the end of Parliament, including a ringfenced allocation for land acquisition — maintaining the focus on diversifying ownership and realising its transformational potential.
- 5 A national Community Led Housing Fund**
Reconfigure the Rural & Islands Housing Funds into a national Community-Led Housing (CLH) Fund with a budget of £55 million to be spent by the end of this next Parliament. A ring-fenced amount should be reserved for fragile, rural and island communities. Eligibility for the new CLH Fund should mirror the criteria already in use for the Scottish Land Fund, widening access to affordable housing delivery to all communities.¹

1. This proposal was developed by South of Scotland Community Housing.

As part of the Scottish Community Coalition on Energy we have also published policy priorities that would maximise the positive impacts of the renewables revolution for Scotland's communities.

To read the recommendations, visit:
www.communityenergy.scot/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/SCCE-policy-priorities.pdf

Community Land Scotland additionally welcomes and supports the work of Future Economy Scotland, South of Scotland Community Housing, Development Trusts Association Scotland, Forest Policy Group and the REVIVE coalition.

Community Land Scotland | ***
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