WHAT CAN COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP ACHIEVE?

Community ownership isn't just about who owns a building or a piece of land. It's about making the place you live better.

It's about creating social, economic and environmental benefit. Across Scotland, communities are using ownership to address what they need and create lasting change.

Every project is different, but community ownership gives people the power to shape the future of their community.





ABOUT COMMUNITY LAND SCOTLAND

We are the national representative body for community landowners — a growing movement of people taking control of land, buildings and assets to shape their own futures.

We bring together over 150 member organisations from across Scotland.

Together, we work to ensure community ownership plays a central role in creating a fairer, more sustainable Scotland.

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WHAT CAN COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP ACHIEVE?





COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP GUIDES

KEEPING WEALTH LOCAL

When a community owns land, buildings or businesses, the income they generate can be reinvested back into the community. Rather than profits leaving the area, communities can direct that money towards local priorities.

Some communities use income from renewable energy projects to create community benefit funds that support local groups and services. Others generate income by renting business spaces, event facilities or by providing facilities for visitors . Community ownership also often creates local jobs, helping keep people in the area.

The key point is that the community decides how the income is used.

EMPLOYMENT | RENEWAL ENERGY | TOURISM

HOUSING | LOCAL ENTERPRISE | WOODLANDS

COMMUNITY GROWING | EDUCATION

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Community ownership can make new opportunities possible.

Communities have brought empty buildings back into use, developed tourism activities, created renewable energy projects and built facilities for training and enterprise. Ownership lets communities think long-term. They can work towards ambitious projects that might not be attractive to commercial owners but deliver significant local benefits.

These projects create jobs, volunteering opportunities, training pathways and more ways for people to get involved in community life. This supports people of all ages in the local area. This allows communities to focus on what matters most to them, rather than the priorities of outside organisations or funders.









PROTECTING LOCAL PLACES

Community ownership can help communities protect and improve places that are important to local people. Communities have given new life to historic buildings, protected greenspace, and revived essential services. In some areas, ownership has transformed neglected land and buildings into busy community spaces that are once again at the heart of local life.

Ownership gives communities a stronger voice in decisions about the future of their area. It allows them to take a long-term approach to caring for the places they value.

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP LOOKS DIFFERENT IN EVERY PLACE.

But the main idea is the same: local people shaping the future of their place. With the right support, ownership can turn local ideas into lasting change.

SUPPORTING LOCAL SERVICES

Every community has different needs. Some need affordable housing. Other communities need space for local groups to meet, community hubs, childcare, or community transport. Community ownership provides a way for local people to identity what is missing and build solutions. Because it is local people making the decisions, projects are shaped around local priorities.

INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP?

Find out more about how communities take ownership of land and buildings, access support, and begin their ownership journey.