WHAT IS COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP?

Community ownership is when local people come together to own land, buildings and other assets for the benefit of their community.

Across Scotland, communities own a wide range of local resources, from village halls and community hubs to woodlands, renewable energy projects, and entire islands or estates. While every community is different, the goal is the same: **creating long-term benefits and a brighter future for local people**.



WHY COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP MATTERS

OWNERSHIP BRINGS CONTROL.

When communities own land and buildings, they are better able to influence the future of their area. Instead of relying on decisions being made by distant organisations or absentee landowners, local people can identify priorities and take action themselves.

Communities across Scotland have chosen ownership as a way of meeting local challenges, including population decline, housing shortages and limited economic opportunities. Ownership allows communities to think beyond short-term projects and take a long-term view of the future.

Community ownership is not the end goal. It is a tool.

Communities can use it to make their area stronger and more sustainable. It gives local people the opportunity to shape their own future and invest in what matters most to them.



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.

* FEARANN COIMHEARSNACHD NA H-ALBA | COMMUNITY LAND SCOTLAND *

www.communitylandscotland.org.uk
info@communityland.scot
The Pearce Institute, 840-860 Govan Road
Glasgow, G51 3UU



Community Land Scotland is a registered Scottish Charity SC041864 and a Company Limited by Guarantee No. SC385572

* FEARANN COIMHEARSNACHD NA H-ALBA | COMMUNITY LAND SCOTLAND *





WHAT IS COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP?





COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP GUIDES

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP IN PRACTICE

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP IS BUILT ON LOCAL DEMOCRACY - IT PUTS DECISIONS IN THE HANDS OF LOCAL PEOPLE.

Community-owned organisations are run for the benefit of the community rather than for private profit. People in the community help decide how things are run. Local people can become members, elect trustees and play a role in making decisions.

OPENNESS
ACCOUNTABILITY
PARTICIPATION

Communities are encouraged to involve local people early and often.

This means local people have a say in developing ideas and making decisions about the future of the land and buildings they own.

Any income generated from community ownership is reinvested into local projects, services and future opportunities. This helps make sure that ownership can deliver long-term benefits for the people who live in an area.



COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP IN SCOTLAND

Community ownership can be found in communities of all sizes in Scotland. Some communities own a single building, while others own entire estates, managing large areas of land.

Although these projects vary in size and purpose, they all share a common belief: Local people know best about what is needed in their area.

WHAT CAN COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP ACHIEVE?

Every community project is different, but many share similar ambitions and goals.

- **Creating** jobs
- **Supporting** local businesses
- **Developing** affordable housing
- **Improving** local services
- **Restoring** historic buildings
- **Generating** renewable energy
- **Protecting** woodlands and greenspace
- **Revitalising** community spaces

Ownership can help communities generate income. It can support local organisations and create new opportunities for local people. For some communities, the priority is creating jobs and supporting local businesses. For others, it is about improving local services.

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP IS FLEXIBLE.

It allows communities to decide for themselves what is important. They can choose what success looks like and how to use the resources they own.

INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP?

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