



**Friends of
the Earth
Scotland**

Good Practice Principles for Shared Ownership of Onshore Renewable Energy Developments Consultation Response

8th June 2015

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3. Permissions (Appendix 1)

4. Response

We welcome the Scottish Government's action on encouraging shared ownership for onshore renewables. We would like to see farmers, estates and commercial developers partner with communities and share the benefits of local resources. We believe that just because someone owns a piece of land that does not mean they own the wind that blows over it.¹ In other words renewable resources belong to everyone.

We would like to see a minimum percentage included in the principles, along the lines of the Danish model, where communities have to be offered a minimum stake of 20% in onshore developments. At the moment the stakes communities in Scotland are offered in shared ownership models are usually far below this.

Furthermore it is important to distinguish between different levels of shared ownership (revenue share, joint venture and split ownership) and ensure that both communities and developers are aware of the benefits and challenges associated with each model. In the near future we want communities to be able to sell the electricity their share generates locally and the type of shared ownership model employed can enable or hinder this. It is important that communities know if they are potentially locking themselves into a long-term contract that could prevent supplying electricity locally.

Financing support offered by the Scottish Government is important to help communities transition to low carbon energy systems. As new possibilities for shared ownership projects become available LEIF will undoubtedly be vital in giving communities time to organise and build capacity before buying into new developments. However we also want to see a clear recognition that there are alternatives to debt financing such as raising funds from the community through share offers. For large parts of Europe, this is the most common form of financing community energy, share offers have a good track record in Scotland/UK and communities and developers need to be aware of all the options available to them.

¹ EU REScoop (2013) Promoting citizen participation in RE projects through legal frameworks: REScoop 20-20-20 what answer(s) from the renewable energy sources cooperatives? Seminar report. [online] Available from: <http://rescoop.eu/sites/default/files/eu_level_seminar_part_i_deliverable_7.5.pdf> [Accessed 8 June 2015].

Appendix 1

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group/Organisation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please tick as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<p>(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?</p> <p>Please tick as appropriate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>(c) The name and address of your organisation will be made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).</p> <p>Are you content for your response to be made available?</p> <p>Please tick as appropriate</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis</p> <p>Please tick ONE of the following boxes</p> <p>Yes, make my response, name and address all available <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>or</p> <p>Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>or</p> <p>Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?</p> <p>Please tick as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	

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