

CLEAN HIGHLAND

**We're generating
the energy.**

**How do we retain
the wealth in
our communities?**

A Regional Model for Net Zero Energy Investment and Innovation

Neil Osborne / The Highland Council

Highland's energy opportunity

Energy region. Local needs.

Remote communities

A dispersed public estate

Fuel poverty and fuel costs

Network constraints

Hydro Ness: local power for Inverness Leisure



Hydro Ness, Inverness

The proposed regional model

Communities

Local priorities
and participation

Investment

Capital and
delivery partners



Public assets

Buildings and
energy demand

Infrastructure

Networks and
enabling investment

Blending investment

Regional EV concession • four councils

£300m

estimated contract value over 20 years

£7m+

public funding
committed

£4.9m

private investment
per year

£30m

additional private
investment identified

Regional scale brings public support and private investment together.

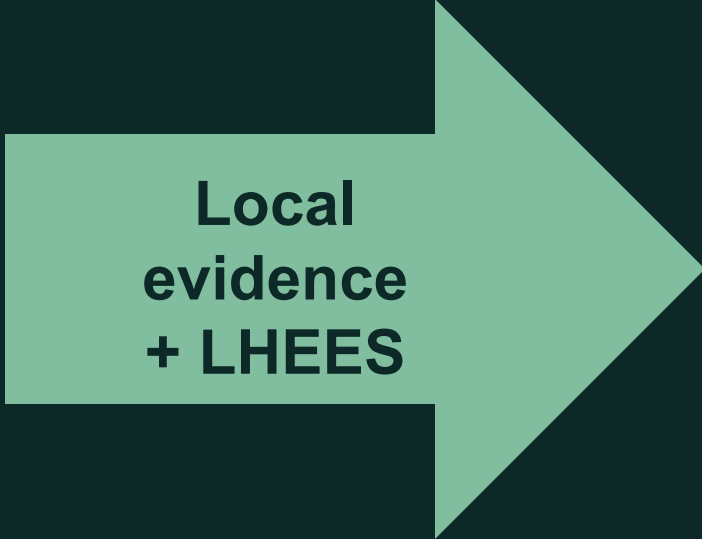
Selecting the right projects

Homes

Public estate

Industry

Transport



Local
evidence
+ LHEES

**Prioritised
project
pipeline**

Selection test: local need, demand and deliverability

The developing portfolio

Innovation: linking generation, storage and local demand

Solar + storage

Longman, Tain and Torvean

Hydrogen

Longman and potential specialist uses

Heat networks

Shared infrastructure in Inverness

Efficiency

The public estate and homes

Warmer homes

Since April 2023 • programme figures reported October 2026



Caol: 79 homes • 30 Council / 49 private. Wider programme totals below.

£28.5m

external funding secured

1,400+

households supported

Regional EV charging



570

new points planned
across the partnership by 2028

4 councils

20 years

concession term

Highland

Aberdeen City

Aberdeenshire

Moray

What communities should gain

Affordable energy

Efficiency and suitable heat

Local work and skills

Supplier and training commitments

Influence and income

Participation and ownership options

Reliable services

Infrastructure and maintenance



Youth Parliament climate discussion
Photo: The Highland Council

The Highland Social Value Charter

Nine commitments to turn renewables investment into lasting local value

Retain value locally

- 01** Community benefit funds
- 02** A strategic Highland fund
- 05** Shared ownership

Invest in place

- 03** Legacy housing
- 04** Highland Investment Plan
- 07** Community Project Bank

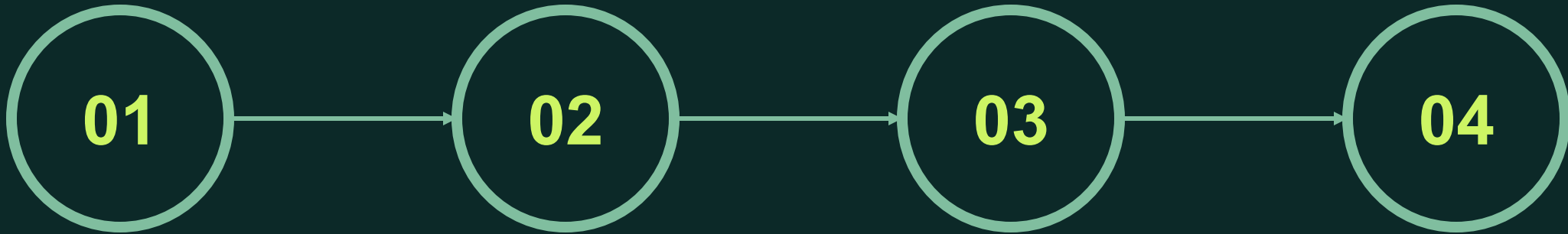
Enable delivery

- 06** Skills and training
- 08** Grid and energy planning
- 09** Socio-economic prosperity

Local community benefit + a wider Highland legacy

Charter commitments are separate from planning decisions.

Testing investment readiness



Priority

Demand and
local outcomes

Feasibility

Land, consent
and networks

Investment case

Costs, revenues
and downside tests

Delivery

Agreements
and performance

Decision gates: proceed, revise or pause

Evidence and accountability

Reported solar results • 2024/25

1.29m+ kWh

electricity generated

£400k+

estimated cost savings

Who benefits	Proposed measures across the asset's life
Households	Energy costs, comfort and access to support
Council	Verified savings and whole-life asset costs
Local economy	Local spend, employment and skills
Communities	Influence, income and service resilience
Climate	Energy demand and carbon against a baseline

Baseline + named owner + annual review • proposed common reporting

A proposed 90-day mobilisation



Inverness Castle illuminated at night

Image: Inverness Castle marketing / published by Given

Proposed lead: Place leadership, coordinated by CCET

Indicative sequence after an agreed mandate

Mandate: agree sponsor + remit

Days 1–30: map place priorities

Days 31–60: shortlist + appraise

Days 61–90: costed programme

Lasting local value

Investment shaped by local need
Projects with a credible route to delivery
Benefits retained in our communities

What would this look like in your region?

Evidence and delivery status

Solar • delivered generation in 2024/25

1.29m+ kWh; £400k+ estimated savings • CCC/15/25, 21 May 2025

Retrofit • programme figures reported October 2026

£28.5m / 1,400+ households since April 2023 • regional impact paper, 6 October 2026

Caol • completed works reported November 2025

79 homes; over 40% of Council works externally funded • CCC/27/25

EV • published contract value / current programme update

£4.9m annual + £30m identified private investment • £300m estimated 20-year contract value

Social Value Charter • established framework

Published nine-point Charter • local and strategic benefits • separate from planning

Wider regional programme and project-specific ownership remain subject to appraisal.