

# NESCAN HUB NEWSLETTER

Updates and events from

North East Scotland's Climate Action Network



**JUNE 2025**





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## **Welcome to our Nescan Hub June 2025 Newsletter.**

We hope you've been enjoying the sunshine between the much-needed rain. The front cover and content page images are from our recent Hub team and Board walk—a peaceful moment at Loch Kinord, with geese making an appearance at Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve. We also loved spending time at the Barn, our Members' Gathering venue. A big thank you to everyone who joined us—it meant a lot to have you there.

We're excited to share updates, upcoming events, and new opportunities for you to get involved.

All links in this newsletter are clickable.



They will be **bold and underlined**

If you have any questions, please email  
**[communications@nescan.org](mailto:communications@nescan.org)**

*Enjoy!*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Improving Biodiversity in the UK**

**Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**9:30 AM - 1 PM**

**Online**

**What hope for ending the UK's status as one of the world's most nature depleted countries?**

This timely symposium will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders engaged in improving biodiversity to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing the UK wildlife, learn about the latest policy developments and practical initiatives aimed at reversing biodiversity loss, and develop strategies to restore habitats and end the UK's status as one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world.

You can find more about the programme, who should attend, and other details **[here](#)**.

Please note that this is a paid event.

**[register your place](#)**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Inverurie West Church Climate Action and Community Garden Group**

**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**7 PM**

**Acorn Centre, West Church Inverurie**

Join for an engaging event on "Gardening for Wildlife," featuring a talk by David Hunter from The Habitat People.

During the event, some native plants will be available for purchase.

Following the talk, enjoy a brief "Walk and Talk" around the town centre, led by Cally Smith from the **Huntly Swift Group**. The walk will depart from the Acorn Centre at 8 PM. Before the activities begin, relax with tea, coffee, and delicious treats at 7:30 PM.

Tickets are priced at £5 and can be purchased at the Acorn Centre or at the door on the evening of the event.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Governance Webinar for New and Emerging Groups**

**Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**1 PM - 3:15 PM**

**Station Hotel, 78 Guild Street, Aberdeen AB11 6GN**

This is an invitation to an Energy Learning Network event for new and emerging community energy groups. The session will explore how to establish a community energy organisation and bring it to life from an idea to something that is formally constituted.

The event will also look at how to create governance models that align with your day to day approach, and strike the balance of maintaining your grass roots voice, while putting you in a position to attract funding and deliver projects.

Speakers include The Centre for Sustainable Energy and Scotland's Point and Sandwick Trust along with other groups that will talk about their learning in establishing themselves.

**[register your place](#)**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Building a people powered movement to change material use for good!**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**1 PM - 5 PM**

**Station Hotel, 78 Guild Street, Aberdeen AB11 6GN**

Join **Friends of the Earth Scotland** for a Resource Justice workshop, lunch provided.

From plastic packaging to fast fashion and mobile phones, people are trapped in a throw away society and Government is failing to hold big business to account, causing harm to people and nature.

Friends of the Earth Scotland is gathering people and communities to discuss how to use our collective power to create real change.

Everyone coming to the workshop should bring an item which tells a story about the throwaway society or resource justice. It could be a product you wish wasn't single use or something you've made yourself.

Reserve your place by emailing **[kpratt@foe.scot](mailto:kpratt@foe.scot)**.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SAVE THESE DATES!

**Small99** brings you their upcoming People Planet Pastry – Sustainability Meetups near you.

Mark these dates on your calendars!

### People Planet Pastry

**Duthie Park Cafe,  
Aberdeen**

**6th Jun**

**10 – 11:30am**

Sustainability Meetup



[register your place](#)

### People Planet Pastry

**Duthie Park Cafe,  
Aberdeen**

**22nd Aug**

**10 – 11:30am**

Sustainability Meetup



[register your place](#)



# UPCOMING EVENTS



People, Planet, Pint by **Small99** is happening on these following dates near you.

Mark them on your calendars!

[register your place](#)



[register your place](#)



[register your place](#)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Scottish Seed Fest**

**15<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**10.30 AM - 4.30 PM**

**Newton Dee Camphill Community**

This day-long event is an opportunity for you to meet with other members of the Scottish Seed Sovereignty Network, find out what they are up to, get involved in existing projects and plan new ones, and build momentum in the network! The Scottish Seed Network welcomes anyone who is saving seeds, already involved in our Seed Sovereignty Programme, or simply interested in getting started.

**[book your tickets](#)**

- **Regional Gathering: Moray, Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire**

**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**11 AM - 4 PM**

**Number 30 (Brander Building), The Square, Huntly, AB54 8BR**

A learning and networking event for **Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS)** members and aspiring members in Moray, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. This aims to provide community organisations with bespoke advice and support to navigate authority specific challenges. You'll have an opportunity to learn about the Huntly Development Trust through a short tour. See more to find about the agenda and what to expect from the event. This event is free to attend.

**[book your tickets](#)**

# OPPORTUNITIES



- **Board Member (Treasurer)**



We are seeking a Treasurer to join our Board. If you have a background in finance, accounting, or budgeting and are eager to use your skills to create a significant impact, this is an excellent opportunity for you. Find more information and details on how to apply on our website.

**[apply here](http://www.nescan.org/job-opportunities)**

# OPPORTUNITIES



- **Press and Communications Lead**

## Job opportunity: Press and Communications Lead



**Stop Climate Chaos Scotland** is seeking an experienced Press and Communications Lead to play a key role in ensuring that the coalition, its members and partners are as coordinated and effective as possible in promoting ambitious climate policy in the media and shaping political and public narratives ahead of the Holyrood elections in 2026. Get to now more about the role and job description by clicking the link.

[apply here](#)





# FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

- **Community Energy Generation Growth Fund opens**

The Community Energy Generation Growth Fund supports local communities to install wind turbines and solar panels or develop other types of renewable energy generation, such as hydro, to meet local needs.

Successful applicants will also be able to earn money from their projects by, for example, allowing them to sell excess energy generated.

If anyone is interested, they can contact [info@nescan.org](mailto:info@nescan.org) for some support setting up a group.

**[find out more](#)**

- **Our Eastern Green Link 2 Peterhead Local Fund**

The Large Grant Fund, offering up to £10,000, along with the unspecified and Micro Fund, will open for expressions of interest starting Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Interested applicants must submit their completed forms via the website by 12 PM (midday) on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

**[find out more](#)**

*Disclosure: NESCAN Hub board is aware that multiple community groups are in dispute with the government and developers in relation to large infrastructure projects. We share funding opportunities without endorsing the funding organisations' activities and/or projects*



# FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

- **Energy Saving Grant in Aberdeen for SMEs, sole traders and third sector orgs**

*Do you fancy a non-repayable grant of up to £10,000 to cut your business energy costs?*

The Aberdeen Energy Efficiency Programme is now open for applications. If you're an SME, sole trader, or third-sector organisation in the Aberdeen City Council area, you could receive up to 50% of the cost of energy-saving upgrades – from solar panels and insulation to LED lighting and low-carbon heating systems.

This grant offers up to £10,000 that must be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. The deadline for application is 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 – or before if funds are fully allocated.

Now's the time to invest in lower bills, greater sustainability, and long-term resilience.

**[find out more and apply](#)**

For any questions, contact, [energypilot@scarf.org.uk](mailto:energypilot@scarf.org.uk).

This grant is delivered by **Aberdeen City Council – City Development & Regeneration** in partnership with **Scarf**, and funded by the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**.



# FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

- **Cashback for Communities**

A new phase of funding has been announced for the Scottish Government's **CashBack for Communities** programme. The fund will strengthen communities across Scotland by supporting young people at risk of involvement in antisocial behaviour, offending or reoffending.

Registration is now open for online sessions with detailed guidance on the application process.

Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 6 PM – 7 PM: **Register now**

Funding will open to applications from Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> June and will provide up to £26 million from April 2026 to end of March 2029.

Detailed guidance on the application process will be available on the **Cashback for Communities website**.

Know more about the criteria, what the fund offers, key dates and registration information **here**.

Find out more about current **CashBack for Communities activity in Aberdeenshire**.

**find out more**



# FUNDING & CONSULTATIONS

- **More Funding Opportunities Coming Soon.....**

This year's funding rounds for the SEED Fund, LEAF, and JTPB Fund are launching soon. Whether you're developing a new idea, or scaling an existing project, these funding opportunities are designed to help you take the next big step. Each fund offers tailored support from NESCAN Hub, and respective partners at different stages.

Full details, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, will be announced shortly. Be sure to stay tuned and keep an eye on this space, our official website, and social media channels so you don't miss the opportunity to get involved. Stay tuned , and we look forward to sharing them with you.



- **Report: A Just Transition for Aberdeen and the North East**

This **report** explores a core issue in Scotland's shift to a low-carbon economy: the future of offshore energy and how to manage the inevitable end of North Sea oil and gas.

Equally important are the issues of regional planning and community participation, which are central to this transition. A just transition needs coordinated, long-term action to grow new industries and diversify the economy sustaining jobs and supporting workers, communities, and businesses through major regional change.

The Commission's work is informed by independent research from Dr. Daria Shapovalova and the **Just Transition Lab at the University of Aberdeen**. While this research helped shape our understanding, it does not represent the Commission's consensus view.

We hope this report supports policymakers, communities, and all stakeholders in shaping a fair transition.

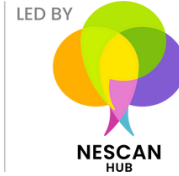
**[read full report here](#)**

You can also explore the insights shared by Nicola, Project Manager for the Just Transition Communities Project, on LinkedIn.

**[read here](#)**



Just Transition  
Communities  
Project



- **Community Renewables in the North East of Scotland: Looking Back, Moving Forward**

27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

11:30 PM - 3 PM

University of Aberdeen

[register here](#)

The poster features a green header with logos for AUCEL (Aberdeen University Centre for Energy Law), the Just Transition Communities Project, NESCAN HUB, and the University of Aberdeen. The main title is in large white letters on a dark green background. Below the title, the date and time are listed, followed by a 'REGISTER' button with a green arrow pointing to a QR code. The text describes the event as a dynamic discussion on scaling community energy in the North East, highlighting the potential of community-led renewable energy to tackle fuel poverty and build local wealth. It also mentions recent funding announcements from the Scottish Government and Great British Energy. The bottom of the poster features an illustration of a person in a hard hat and safety vest standing next to solar panels, with wind turbines and a sun in the background.

**AUCEL**  
ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR ENERGY LAW

Just Transition  
Communities  
Project

LED BY  
NESCAN  
HUB

1495  
UNIVERSITY OF  
ABERDEEN

## COMMUNITY RENEWABLES IN THE NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND: LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

27 JUNE 2025, 11:30 -15:00, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

REGISTER →

**Join us for a dynamic discussion on scaling community energy in the North East**

Community-led renewable energy can tackle fuel poverty, build local wealth, and empower communities. With recent funding announcements from the Scottish Government and Great British Energy, this event explores how to turn policy momentum into action.

With the help of key organisations and communities already engaged in renewable energy production, we will examine regional successes, urban challenges, and practical pathways to grow community energy.

# UPDATES FROM THE HUB



## ● THE 'ECOCIDE (PREVENTION) SCOTLAND BILL

NESCAN Hub has signed up for the Ecocide Bill that **MSP Monica Lennon** is trying to get support for.

### **Proposed Ecocide (Prevention) (Scotland) Bill**

They want to implement Ecocide as part of the existing environmental regulatory framework. They want to consider "ecocide" a crime. This would make ecocide the fifth international crime against peace alongside the crimes of genocide, aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Some other countries already have Ecocide laws in force, including Belgium, Mexico, the Netherlands, Italy, France, Armenia, Ukraine, Spain, Georgia and Brazil.

The aim of this bill is to establish stronger penalties for industries and corporations to prosecute them and deter these from causing long-term environmental damage (currently, the profits are way higher than the penalties, so these corporations don't care about the environmental damage).

The proposed Bill would seek to impose the following sanctions:

- Minimum 10 years to maximum 20 years imprisonment
- Financial sanctions worth up to 10% of worldwide turnover for companies over three years.

**[find out more](#)**

# UPDATES FROM THE HUB



- **NESCAN MEMBERS' GATHERING & AGM 2025**

A huge thank you to everyone who made our NESCAN Members' Gathering and AGM such a fantastic success! We were lucky to have a beautiful sunny day, perfect for connecting, sharing ideas, and simply enjoying each other's company.

Our brilliant speakers, George from **Udny Climate Action**, Abbie from **North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership - NESBiP**, and Jeff from **Deeside CAN** shared their knowledge and inspired us all.

We're also happy to share that we had a successful quorate AGM. Thank you to all our members for showing up and showing your support.

We're so grateful to everyone who took the time to do a mini interview with us. Your voices and opinions truly matter, and we really appreciate your enthusiasm. Big cheers to **YAHYA's Hub** and **Go Deep Scotland** for offering a taster session of Go Deep. It was a great experience for everyone who joined in.

A special thank you to **The Barn** for hosting us and providing such a lovely venue. It really set the tone for a warm and inspiring day. Thanks again for being part of such a memorable day!



# UPDATES FROM THE HUB



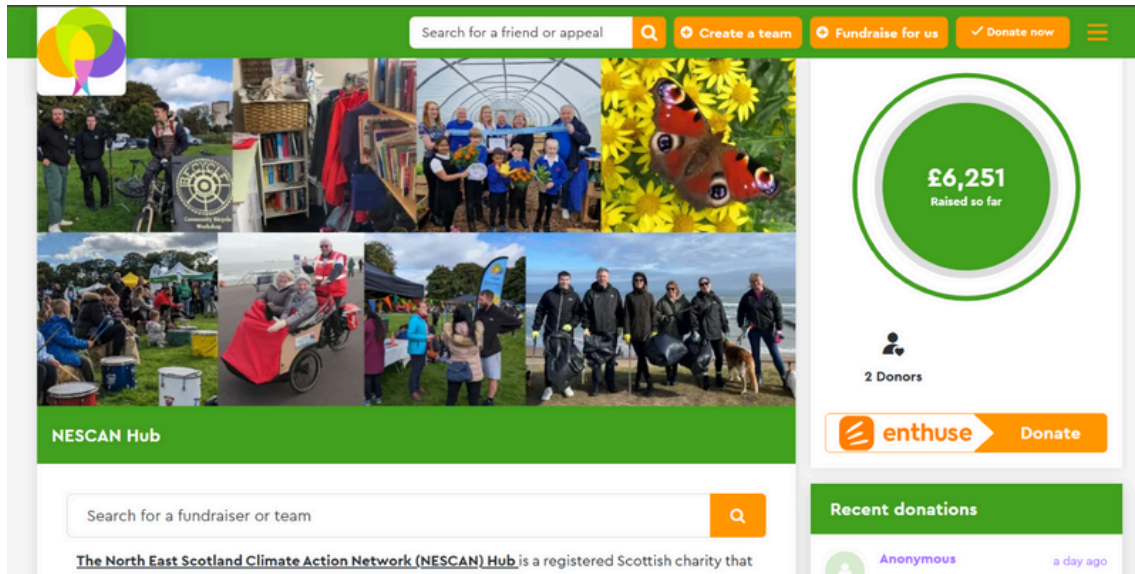
- **NESCAN MEMBERS' GATHERING & AGM 2025**



# UPDATES FROM THE HUB



- **Support NESCAN and Make a Difference!**



We are very grateful for the donations received to date! You can now support community-led climate action in a simple and impactful way. With our new donation feature, you can directly contribute to meaningful projects, events, resources and learnings that drive real change. Every donation, big or small, helps fund initiatives focused on sustainability, education, climate justice, and more.

**Donate Now**

Join us in building a greener, fairer future—one donation at a time.  
***Donate now and be a part of the change!***

**[donate here](#)**

To learn more about the role our members play and how their support can assist charities and the NESCAN Hub in addressing climate change and uplifting communities, read our blog **[here](#)**.



# UPDATES FROM THE HUB



## ● Be Inspired, Stay Informed – Explore the Latest Blogs from Nescan Hub

Did you know that our resources are packed with valuable information? From a wide range of community and climate related themes to spark your interest to in-depth discussions, we've got something for everyone. From buildings and energy to food, climate justice, education, and more. Whether you're looking for expert guidance, seeking funding opportunities, or simply in need of a fresh perspective, you'll find plenty to explore. Happy reading!

[read our latest blogs](#)

### Benefitting Communities – Can new renewable energy projects help communities?

Nescan Hub #news, #Buildings & Energy Publish Date: January 2025 Last Updated: February 2025

The Scottish Government is currently reviewing its "Good Practice Principles" for new renewable energy projects. But what exactly does "Community



### Nescan Goes Back to Uni!

Nescan Hub #Activism & Justice Publish Date: March 2025 Last Updated: March 2025

#### Talking Community Just Transitions with Edinburgh University Students

When I received an invitation from the course lecturer of the postgraduate course Public Participation in Policy to be a guest lecturer for a session, I saw it as a fantastic opportunity to share insights about our work. However, I must admit, the guest lecturer title felt a little daunting – definitely outside my comfort zone!



### A Weekend of Action and Learning in Inverness

Nescan Hub #news, #Education & Awareness Publish Date: March 2025 Last Updated: March 2025

At the beginning of March, Scottish Rural Action ran its first residential for young adults, which brought together about 60 young people aged 16-30 in Inverness for a weekend of discussions, workshops, and learning. Nescan Hub's Community Development Officer, Vicky, attended with a young person from Aberdeenshire who sits on her local community council.



### A Personal Reflection on 'Purpose'

Nescan Hub #news, #Activism & Justice Publish Date: March 2025 Last Updated: March 2025

Here at Nescan Hub, we enjoy hearing from our members, partners, and colleagues. We often share our findings, resources, and insights from the many conversations we have but don't often capture the effect these interactions have on each of us from a personal point of view. A few days ago, I was lucky to be on a panel at the Fittle Community Hall with Lukas Burns (from We'll Scotland) at the showing of Purpose – as part of The Scottish Purpose tour with the director of Purpose Martin Gelling. The film definitely met the aim to 'enable conversations that otherwise wouldn't happen.' However, it was when I reflected on the film





Are you looking for:

- help with your community climate action group or project?
- help with funding?
- information about how to take action on climate change?
- inspiration about the range of ways that you can help your community incorporate positive steps for the climate into their everyday activities.

NESCAN Hub is here to help.

**Become a member** or get in touch: [info@nescan.org](mailto:info@nescan.org)

Keep up to date and follow us @[NESCANhub](https://www.instagram.com/NESCANhub)

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