

Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Community Assets Team

Supporting communities to acquire and
manage sustainable assets

What is Community Land Ownership?

- **Community has control** over land & land assets
 - woodlands
 - buildings & development land
 - water resources
 - minerals and sporting rights
- Land managed for **community benefit**
(employment, infrastructure, housing, tourism, amenity, social development, etc)
- The **key principles** are:
 - Open membership
 - Community support, benefit & control
 - Non-profit distributing



Some statistics

- Communities in Scotland own more land than the total owned by the National Trust for Scotland, John Muir Trust, and the RSPB
- More than 420,000 acres (169,967ha) is in community ownership
- In the Outer Hebrides, over 50% total land is in community ownership and more than 1/3 inhabitants live on community owned land



Scottish Land Fund

Ionmhas Fearainn Na H-Alba



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

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Background

- Funding from Scottish Government
- Delivered by HIE in partnership with BIG Fund
- £9m over 4 years
- First round (to 2006) very successful



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Aim of the new Scottish Land Fund

Supporting **rural communities** to become more resilient and sustainable through the **ownership and management** of land and land assets

Types of project supported

- Acquisition of **land** or **land assets** which can contribute to the overall sustainability of a community or enable retention/provision of key local services
- **Resources associated with the land**
 - mineral or riparian rights
 - buildings
 - standing timber
 - energy opportunities

Project ideas

- Land for affordable housing
- Land for amenity space
- Land for renewables projects
- Strategic assets – shops, fuel stations, hotels/ pubs: subject to no displacement
- Tourism and heritage development

Outcomes

Increased and Sustainable

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental

Development

Other outcomes

- Rural communities more empowered
- Greater capacity to control own development
- Increased opportunities to participate in community led development
- Increased opportunities to participate in volunteering
- Projects deliver community led essential local services
- Projects allow communities to generate sustainable income
- Rural communities become more resilient

Typical features of a resilient community

- Wider range of employment opportunities
- Reduced reliance on fossil fuels
- Stronger social networks
- Better access to local housing
- Greater diversity in use of land
- More local food
- Better links with other communities
- More confidence that the community will survive

Capital funding

- Between £10,000 - £750,000
- SLF can fund up to 95% of the cost, including legal and other professional fees
- Single stage application process
- Capable of quick response if properties on open market

Revenue funding

- Up to £50,000 available over 2 years
- To fund:

Planning and feasibility costs

Detailed engineering costs

Short term revenue costs

Project Officer/ Development worker

Community events and engagement

Who can apply?

Organisation criteria:

Community led/controlled

Social purpose

Open membership

Non-profit distributing

Application process

1. Phone or email BIG
2. Eligible projects referred to HIE
3. Project/application development
4. Complete & submit application
5. Assessment
6. Application awarded or rejected
7. Final deadline for submissions – Nov 2015

Other HIE support

- Pre acquisition:
- Post acquisition

HIE support – pre acquisition

- Community Assets Team can support groups with Feasibility Studies, professional and technical fees, valuations and project development
- Aim – to develop robust sustainable and fundable projects that meet displacement and State Aid requirements

HIE support – post acquisition

- Available to groups with plans for growth
- Account management of social enterprises and communities

Getting started

SCOTTISH LAND FUND

Read the guidance on the BIG website:

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/scottishlandfund>

Call on **0300 123 7110** for initial advice and a referral

HIE

Contact the Community Assets Team – **01546 605419**

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