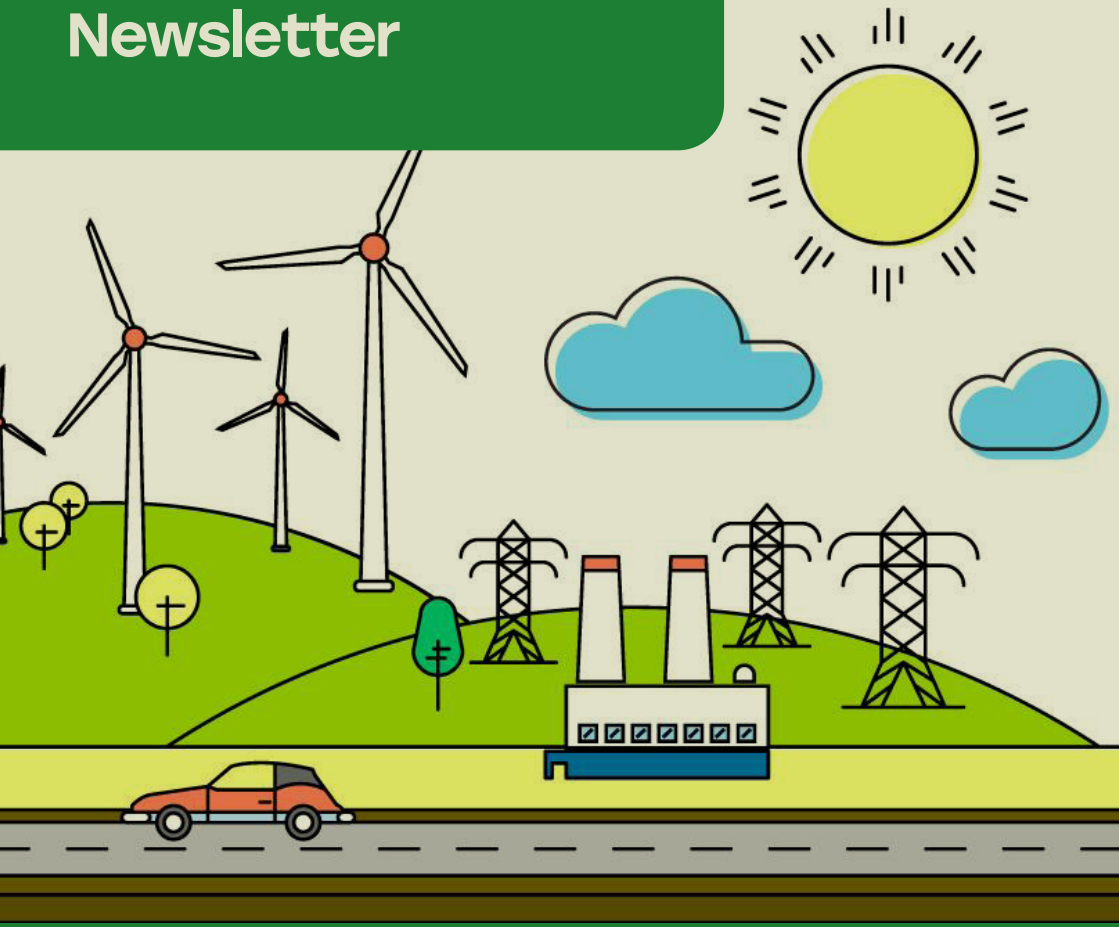
East Lammermuir Energy Projects Partnership Newsletter



Hello and welcome to the very first Energy Projects Partnership newsletter.

As a local resident, you will likely be aware of increasing activity in the area with construction of renewable energy developments and electricity transmission infrastructure.

This newsletter aims to direct you to sources of information and opportunities to have your say, as well as give a brief update on current activity. We hope this will be posted out to you once a year, with digital versions available quarterly. If you'd like to receive a hard copy each time, please contact **beth@elep.scot**

On the next page you'll find information about our partnership working, followed by a useful map of all the constructed, consented and proposed developments. You can explore this interactive map online at **www.eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk** where you'll also find an estimated timetable for the projects.

Next there are updates from the two themed groups which have formed around construction traffic and biodiversity impacts, both are part of the partnership working and community-led.

The rest of the newsletter contains updates on some of the energy developments.

Special thanks to Fred. Olsen Renewables for funding this first edition.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and useful.



Beth Landon
Energy Projects Partnership Manager

An Energy Projects Partnership

A partnership has been formed between the energy developers, transmission owners, East Lammermuir Community Council and East Lothian Council, aiming to work together to minimise disruption to residents and for the area to be left better than it is now. A vision for this is set out in the Local Place Plan, which you can check out here: https://elcc.scot/local-place-plan/

Beth Landon has been brought in as Energy Projects Partnership Manager, in a role hosted by Foundation Scotland, working for a steering group of the partners.

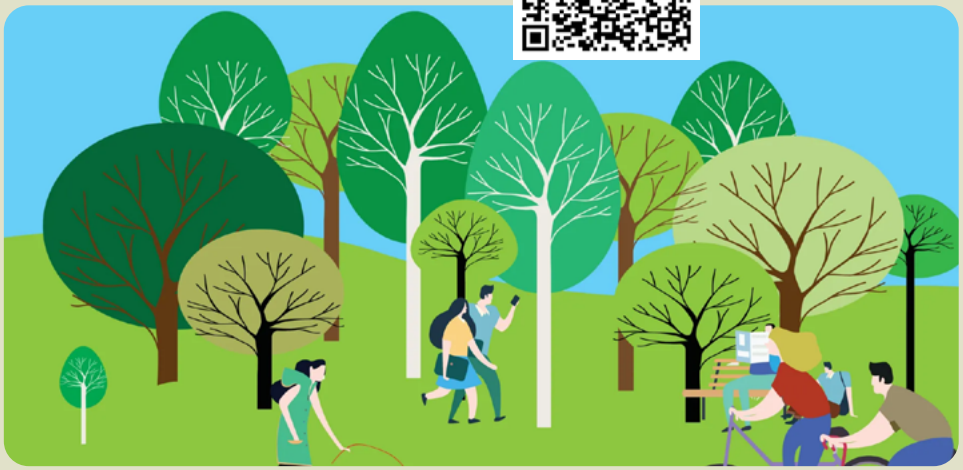
East Lothian Council endorses the work of the partnership in bringing together the voices of the community alongside the energy developers. The Council's role in the partnership is to assist in the coordination of the delivery of energy projects to minimise impacts where possible and maximise potential benefits.

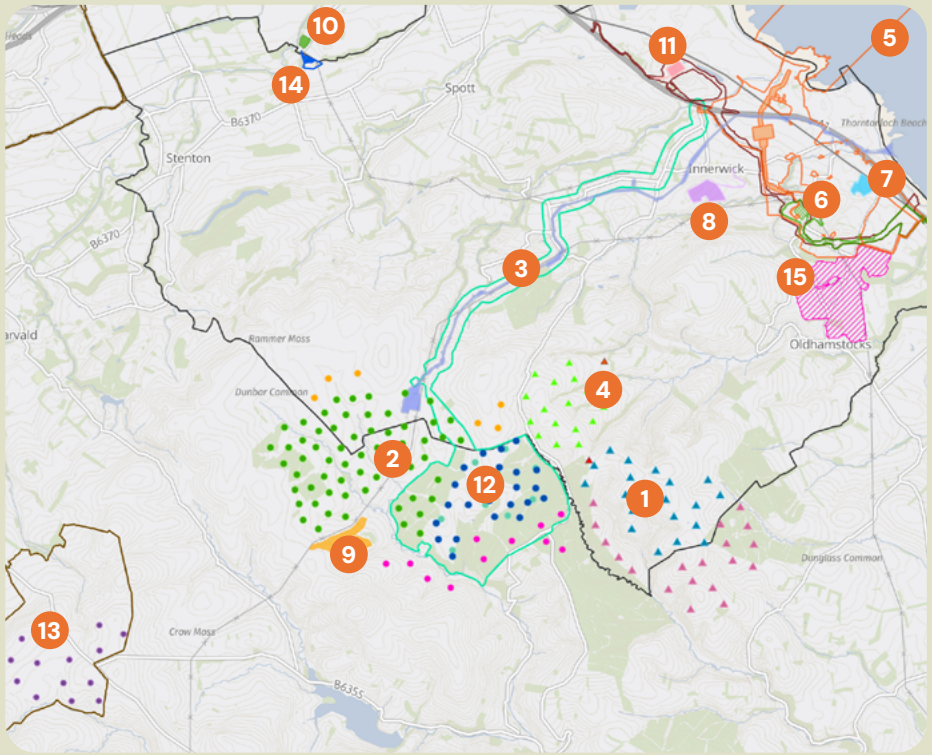
East Lammermuir Community Council's purpose is to ascertain, co-ordinate and express the views of the community which it represents and to take such actions in the interests of that community as appear to be expedient and practicable.

As such the Community Council continues to respond to individual planning applications as they arise.

"We are delighted to be part of the Energy Projects Partnership where we seek to make sure the combined efforts of all the work leave East Lammermuir a better place" *Chris Bruce ELCC Chair.*

If you'd like to find out more, you can sign up for our email bulletins by scanning the QR code or **contact beth@elep.scot**





CONTRUCTED

1. Aikengall wind farms
2. Crystal Rig wind farms (P.6)
3. NnG Offshore Wind Farm cable route

CONSENTED

4. Aikengall BESS
5. Berwick Bank Wind Farm onshore works (P.9)
6. Branxton Substation (P.7)
7. Branxton BESS
8. Brax BESS
9. Crystal Rig IV and Solar (P.6)
10. Dunbar BESS
11. Eastern Green Link 1 onshore works (P.8)

PLANNING

12. Crystal Rig I repower (P.6)
13. Newlands Hill Wind Energy Hub
14. Pitcox BESS
15. Springfield Solar

Explore the map online here:

Community Traffic and Travel Forum

We are a group of local residents who have scrutinised energy development proposals, identified problem areas and made suggestions to mitigate disruption to residents.

Around two years ago there was a realisation that there were many proposals affecting the East Lammermuir area and there was a need for better co-ordination between them particularly regarding the cumulative effects of the construction traffic. The "Traffic Group", as we were called, took part in several meetings in 2023, before construction began, which resulted in Transport Scotland, BEAR and ELC becoming increasingly engaged with the Developers and ELCC. This has ultimately become formalised as the Energy Projects Partnership with a Manager to co-ordinate between parties.

The group has organised what have become known as "Lorries in our Lanes" (LIOL) public meetings, where a developer can explain their proposals and the residents can ask questions and give their views.

Crystal Rig IV was the first project to start work on site and Fred. Olsen Renewables have implemented a number of policies and actions which stemmed from these meetings, on speed limits, vehicle trackers, speed cameras, reporting of incidents, weekly advance notice of traffic movements. Lessons are being learned for other energy developments' construction. Sign up to receive Energy Projects email updates and for details of the next LIOL meeting via the Community Council website: **www.elcc.scot/energy-developments/** or scan the QR code:

Hopefully the rush of new planning applications has abated and we are now into more of a monitoring situation during the construction phases. We are always looking for new members, if you'd like to join us please contact **beth@elep.scot**

Gearing up for nature

JASON ORMISTON, CHAIR, EAST LAMMERMUIR BIODIVERSITY COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

Around 18 months ago some asked, **"what if we could work with energy companies to make East Lammermuir a better place for people living here?"** A tall order with everything going on.

Our Local Place Plan sets out what we want, including to **"enhance and protect ecology and geology"**. One of the actions of the Plan is to establish the East Lammermuir Biodiversity Community Liaison Group (BCLG).

The BCLG is up and running and in the past year it has advised SSE, Scottish Power, Fred. Olsen Renewables and East Lothian Council. We have also backed Sustaining Dunbar as it secured funding towards nature recovery work on the Braidwood and Dry burns.

And, we have joined the East Lothian Biodiversity Collective helping us plug into county activity. Community members have brought commitment and expertise, and the small group has had a big impact. The openness of developers and the Council to this advice has been a key ingredient.

It would be fantastic to get more active community members on to the group. Get in touch if you are interested via **beth@elep.scot**

What's next? We would like to increase commercial membership of the group and play a key role advising on the nature-related parts of their development. Also, if we could help to get practical work going in the area, we would start to see some results we can all enjoy.



What's Happening at Crystal Rig?

CRYSTAL RIG IV – CONSTRUCTION MILESTONE REACHED

Work is progressing well at Crystal Rig IV, the newest phase of the wind farm. Although turbine component delivery is ongoing the site traffic volumes should start to decrease over the next few months as we enter the final phase of the wind farm construction. Fred. Olsen Renewables is committed to keeping the community informed—text alerts and weekly bulletins are available to help residents stay updated and plan around deliveries.

> **"We're working hard to minimise disruption and keep everyone in the loop,"** *Emily Galloway Senior project Manager Fred. Olsen Renewables*

CRYSTAL RIG SOLAR – NOW OFFICIALLY APPROVED

In August, the Scottish Government granted consent for the Crystal Rig Solar extension—Fred. Olsen Renewables' first solar project in the UK. This exciting development will see 50,000 solar panels and a battery storage system installed within the existing wind farm site. It's expected to generate enough clean electricity to power up to 21,000 homes.

CRYSTAL RIG I – REPOWERING PROPOSAL

The original Crystal Rig I turbines have been generating clean energy for over two decades.

Now, plans are underway to repower the site with fewer but taller and more efficient turbines—up to 250 metres in height. Public exhibitions have already taken place in Innerwick and Longformacus, and there will be further opportunities for residents to comment as the planning process continues.

A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO EAST LAMMERMUIR

Fred. Olsen Renewables has been part of the East Lammermuir community for over 20 years. From the very first turbines at Crystal Rig to today's solar and repower projects, this area has always been a vital part of our journey. We're proud to continue investing here—not just in clean energy, but in local partnerships, community benefit funding, and open dialogue with residents.

> **"East Lammermuir isn't just where we work—it's a community we're proud to be part of."** *Euan Hutchison, Director of Development, Fred. Olsen Renewables*

We're also pleased to introduce Cris Thacker, our new Communications Manager—and a local resident. Cris brings a deep understanding of the area and is passionate about strengthening the connection between our projects and the people who live here.

Contact: **communities@fredolsen.com**

Branxton Substation (SPEN)

SP Energy Networks

As the electricity transmission operator for central and southern Scotland, we are preparing to start work on the new 400 kilovolt (kV) Branxton substation in East Lothian.

The new substation near Innerwick, is a key part of our plans to strengthen the electricity grid in the east of Scotland - including to support the Eastern Green Link 1 (EGL1) project.

Our project team is currently working with East Lothian Council to discharge planning conditions ahead of construction work getting underway on the new Branxton Substation.

Initial works will begin at the new A1 slip road and Bilsdean junction and will also include installation of cabins and welfare facilities and construction of a haul road which will facilitate the works at the substation site.

While final dates are still being confirmed, we will ensure the local community is notified ahead of any work starting, including any impact on the local road network required to make changes at Bilsdean and where the haul road crosses the local road network.

Our project team is committed to minimising disruption throughout the project and we are grateful to the local community for your continued patience and support.

If you have any questions regarding the Branxton Substation construction, please contact us at **majorprojects@spenergynetworks.com**



Eastern Green Link 1 (SPEN)

EGL1 is a two-gigawatt high-voltage direct current (HVDC) electrical connection being built between Torness in East Lothian, Scotland, and Hawthorn Pit in County Durham. The multi-billion-pound project is being developed through a joint venture between SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Transmission.

Designed to unlock Scotland's renewable energy potential, EGL1 will significantly increase the UK's capacity to transport clean energy from where it is generated to where it is needed. Its multi-directional design will also enhance the resilience and stability of the UK's transmission networks.

Construction is progressing on the EGL1 converter station, which has been designed and supplied by principal contractor Metlen Energy & Metals, in partnership with GE Vernova's Grid Solutions. The converter station will be located between the Dunbar Energy Recovery Facility and Dunbar Landfill. At a meeting of East Lothian Council's planning committee on 19 August, reserved matters planning consent was granted, subject to conditions relating to the station's final position and appearance.

On-site preparations are well underway. Temporary welfare facilities, offices, and a car park have been established, and topsoil has been stripped from several areas. Earthworks are in progress to level the ground ahead of installing permanent welfare buildings.

To ensure safety and minimise disruption, all construction vehicles accessing the A1 must follow a strict left-turn-only policy, avoiding any crossing of the carriageway.

Additionally, a planning application has been submitted for a park and ride facility to support site workers. If approved, it will be located on vacant development land within Dunbar Business Park—south of Spott Road Industrial Estate and east of Dunbar Garden Centre.

Metlen Energy & Metals and GE Vernova, together with Prysmian—EGL1's cable contractor— are also actively contributing to the local community. Most recently, team members volunteered for a beach litter pick in North Berwick, supporting the Scottish Seabird Centre's conservation efforts. This initiative reflects EGL1's broader commitment to creating long-term positive impacts for communities across East Lothian

Contact: **contact@easterngreenlink1.co.uk**

Berwick Bank Wind Farm (SSE Renewables)

Berwick Bank Wind Farm is one of the largest proposed offshore wind farms in the world, capable of producing over 4GWs of renewable energy, equivalent to powering over 6 million homes. The project is proposed to connect at two locations, Branxton in East Lothian and Blyth in Northumberland.

PROJECT UPDATES

Berwick Bank Wind Farm recently reached a major milestone by achieving a positive consent determination from the Scottish Government in July 2025. This allows us to continue developing the project with a view to entering construction in mid 2026.

Berwick Bank Wind Farm will be submitting final detailed planning applications for our onshore works in East Lothian to East Lothian Council towards the end of 2025.

Berwick Bank Wind Farm recently held an in-person information event at Innerwick in August 2025. You can view the materials presented at this event at **www.berwickbank.com/library-downloads**

Contact: **Gary.Donlin@sse.com**

KEY FACTS

- 4.1 GW offshore development in the Outer Firth of Forth with up to 307 turbines
- 38km off the East Lothian coast
- Two grid connection locations – Branxton in East Lothian & Blyth in Northumberland
- Planning Permission in Principle for onshore transmission works granted by East Lothian Council in Dec 2023
- Section 36 Consent granted by the Scottish Government in July 2025.
- Onshore construction (cable route and substation) scheduled to commence from Spring 2026
- Approx 40-month onshore construction programme (to be confirmed)

Newsletter funded by:

Fred. Olsen Renewables



East Lothian Council

EAST LAMMERMUIR
COMMUNITY COUNCIL