

# East Lammermuir Community Council survey on a Unified Statement on the impact of renewables on Rural Scotland

## Results

(Survey closed 13 March 2026)

### Background

The “Highland Unified Statement”, calling for a pause on large-scale renewable energy developments, was formally established by a convention of more than 50 Highland community councils on June 14, 2025. You can see it [here](#).

Then a number of Angus and Aberdeenshire community councils met and agreed to develop a North East unified statement by December 2025 reflecting the Highland community councils' approach.

On 17 January 2026, around 40 Community Councils from Scottish Borders, East Lothian, Dumfries & Galloway, and Lanarkshire met in Jedburgh to consider signing up to the Highland Statement.

East Lammermuir Community Council (ELCC) discussed the Statements at its meeting in January and agreed that whilst the general thrust of both statements is acceptable, we wanted to make 5 comments

1. We support the Highland and North East Scotland statements on **giving communities a stronger voice**.
2. The Highland Statement is weak on the urgency of taking climate action, and we should correct that as only one political party representative at the Jedburgh convention said they would be “halting net zero” – we need to counter that suggestion strongly. We suggest an opening sentence This Convention **“Recognises the impact of climate change on our planet and the urgency of acting to address and mitigate that”**
3. We are all justifiably concerned about the spiralling costs of curtailment, where wind farm operators are paid to switch off their turbines. Can we legitimately then seek to halt the upgrading of the national grid, which is specifically designed to stop curtailment by getting electricity from where it is generated to where it will be used? The Highland Statement is arguably out of date as OFGEM manages queue reforms, as described in [this article in The Scotsman](#). We believe a more focussed ask which excludes transmission proposals will be more meaningful, viz. This Convention **“Calls upon the Scottish Government to undertake a Planning Inquiry Commission of all major energy**

**infrastructure developments in the pipeline (to include data centres and major heat-producing industrial processes)”**

4. The Highland Statement is vague on “major developments”. What we see happening now is the start of Data Centre applications, (currently 4 in East Lothian) which if consented will drive demand for more and more electricity. Any Statement we sign needs **to explicitly include applications for Data Centres.**
5. The Highland Statement is about stopping things. With the best will in the world, some of the current proposals in planning are going to get built - whether we like it or not. To date, renewable energy in Scotland has largely been developed by – and owned by – private (and often foreign) interests. We are repeating our mistakes with North Sea oil, which has left little lasting legacy for Scotland. To introduce some balance, we need to press for **stronger effective government action on shared ownership and community ownership.**

On the basis of these points, ELCC suggests a slightly different South of Scotland statement should now be signed, and that is available [here](#).

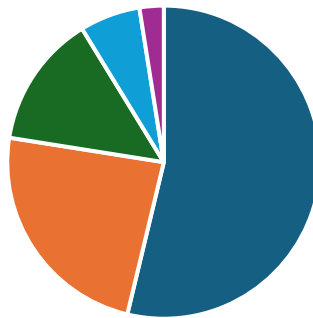
## **Results**

80 valid responses were received (mostly online, hard copies were made available)

### **Q1. What best reflects your view regarding the national shift away from fossil fuels to green energy and the effort to address climate change?**

<b>Answer</b>	<b>%</b>
Strongly support	53.75
Tend to support	23.75
Neither oppose or support	13.75
Tend to oppose	6.25
Strongly oppose	2.5

### Views on shift away from fossil fuels to green energy

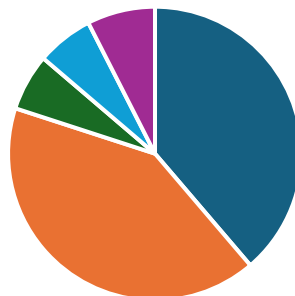


- Strongly support
- Tend to support
- Neither oppose or support
- Tend to oppose
- Strongly oppose

### Q.2 What view best reflects your opinion regarding upgrading the transmission capacity of the national grid?

Answer	%
Strongly support	38.75
Tend to support	41.25
Neither oppose or support	6.25
Tend to oppose	6.25
Strongly oppose	7.5

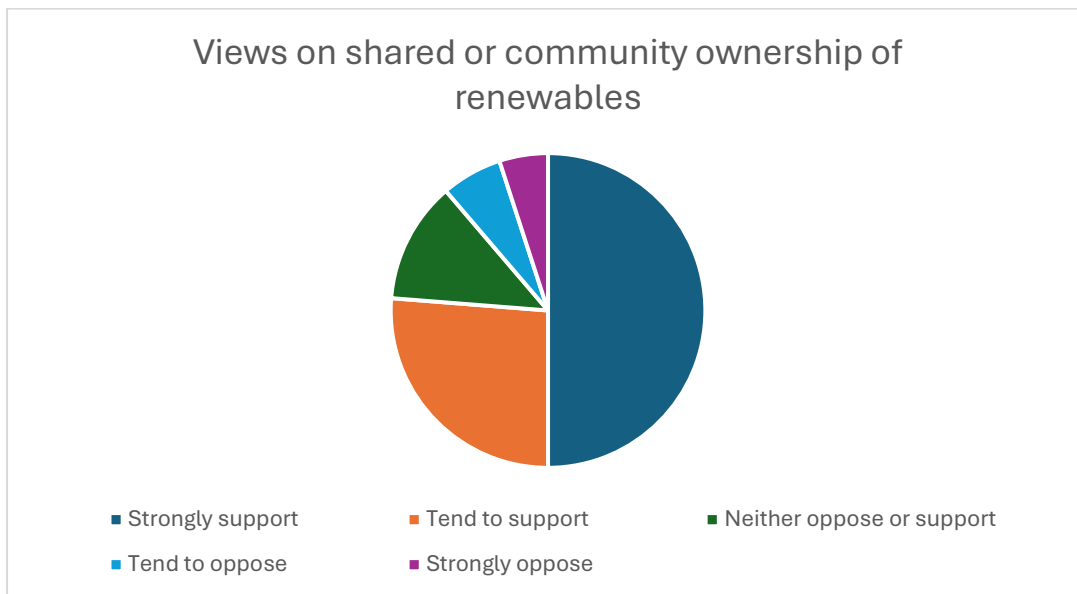
### Views on upgrading transmission capacity of national grid



- Strongly support
- Tend to support
- Neither oppose or support
- Tend to oppose
- Strongly oppose

**Q.3 What view best reflects your opinion regarding shared or community ownership of renewables?**

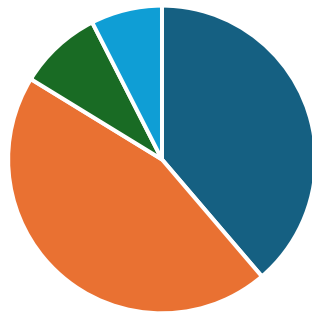
Answer	%
Strongly support	50
Tend to support	26.25
Neither oppose or support	12.5
Tend to oppose	6.25
Strongly oppose	5



**Q.4 Should East Lammermuir Community Council sign the Highland Statement?**

Answer	%
Yes	38.75
No	45
I have no Opinion	8.75
I need more information	7.5

Should East Lammermuir Community Council sign the Highland Statement?

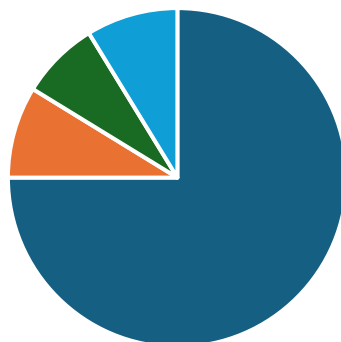


■ Yes ■ No ■ I have no Opinion ■ I need more information

**Q.5 Should East Lammermuir Community Council sign the South of Scotland Statement?**

Answer	%
Yes	75
No	8.75
I have no Opinion	7.5
I need more information	8.75

Should East Lammermuir Community Council sign the South of Scotland Statement?



■ Yes ■ No ■ I have no Opinion ■ I need more information

## **Insights**

- 27 people voted to sign both statements
- 29 people voted to sign the South of Scotland Statement instead of the Highlands Statement
- 5 people thought we should not sign either statement
- 2 people thought we should sign the Highlands Statement instead of the South of Scotland statement

## **Key messages from the comments:**

- A simple form doesn't give sufficient scope for community views to be expressed
- There is strong support for more joined-up planning and a stronger voice for rural communities in the process

**Thank you for taking part in this survey.** The free text box for comments was very well used, and it is clear that lots of local residents want to tell the community council more about their views on these issues.

We will use the feedback to devise hustings questions for all candidates standing in the forthcoming Scottish Parliamentary elections.

East Lammermuir Community Council are actively seeking ways to provide more space for local dialogue on these issues - watch this space!