

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland briefing for Scottish Government Debate: Scotland's Energy Opportunity 10 September 2026

It's time to make it Scotland's energy.

Scotland has abundant resources for renewable energy, and is world-leading in offshore wind. But if it's Scotland's Energy, ordinary people in Scotland need to feel more benefit from it. It's time to redouble Scotland's focus on scaling up renewables and establishing supply chains in Scotland. The last thing we need is for investment and effort to be diverted into new oil and gas, when those industries are in decline and those fuels only accelerate the climate crisis.

We are urging the Scottish Government to:

- Use its forthcoming Energy Strategy to **re-establish its former position against new oil and gas extraction**, including the new Rosebank and Jackdaw fields.
- Take a **public stake in future offshore wind projects and key manufacturers** for the industry, to generate public revenue and help establish supply chains and good green jobs in Scotland.
- Use the promised **ScotWind Wealth Fund to seed-fund community-owned energy projects**, alongside investment for future generations.
- Give serious consideration to options for revenue raising and reallocation of spending, to **fund policies and programmes that lower bills, reduce demand for oil and gas, and support the switch to clean electricity** in our homes and daily transport – helping ordinary people to benefit from the transition.
- Bring in a **moratorium on data centres** of 50MW and above.

Scotland must take a stand against new oil and gas

This summer has shown the devastating impacts of climate change across the UK. Wildfires. Drought. Crop failure. Extreme heat. Climate change is already damaging people's homes, farmers' fields and transport infrastructure. Tragically, it is also killing people, with 2,700 excess deaths from extreme heat in England and Wales in May and June alone, thousands of lives lost in Nepal from flooding caused by melting glaciers, and [over 10,000 lives lost in Europe](#) from heatwaves, wildfires and infrastructure failures.

Against this backdrop, extracting new fossil fuels would be **staggeringly harmful and irresponsible**. The Scottish Government and Parliament should stand up for the interests of ordinary people in Scotland and across our shared world, and oppose new oil and gas in the North Sea, including the Rosebank and Jackdaw fields.

New oil and gas will not solve any problems:

- New oil and gas would not lower **energy bills**, as the price is set on the international market. The [leader of the Conservative Party has admitted this](#), and it was [confirmed by the Head of the International Energy Agency](#). New oil and gas would extend our exposure to volatile fossil fuel markets. UK energy bills have [increased to levels 79% higher than in 2021](#), due to a succession of fossil fuel price shocks driven by conflict. This contrasts with Spain, where domestic electricity has fallen to [25p/kWh](#) (vs 30p/kWh in the UK) [due to reduced reliance on fossil fuels](#).
- New oil and gas would do very little to **improve energy security**. The Jackdaw gas field would only provide up to 2% of the gas we use, on average over its lifetime. The vast majority of any new oil from Rosebank would be exported.
- New oil and gas would not decrease **climate emissions**, it would add to them. The industry's argument that domestic oil and gas is 'cleaner' only matters if that oil and gas *replaces* the oil and gas we need to import. But the [boss of British Gas-owner Centrica has argued that](#) Jackdaw would *increase supply* of gas. What matters most is not where and how oil and gas is extracted, it's the total quantity that is extracted and burned, and new fields will add to global supplies.
- New oil and gas would not future-proof **employment** in the energy sector. Jackdaw would only [create 27 FTE jobs](#) and operate for 9–12 years, and Rosebank for 25 years, while the renewables sector will need workers far into the future. [Robert Gordon University research](#) shows that reductions in the oil and gas workforce can be matched by increased employment in other energy sectors, but this will require substantial investment in renewables and supply chains – which is being diverted due to ongoing consideration of new oil and gas licences.

The only durable, sustainable solution to these three problems is to end new oil and gas extraction, reduce our dependence on existing oil and gas through a fair, fast, funded transition, and ramp up clean, home-grown renewable energy, as the UK and Scottish Governments are already doing. This will create jobs that will last far into the future, and not wreck our climate in the process.

Scaling up Scotland's renewables, supply chains and community energy

As partners in the [Our Power campaign](#), we are calling on the Scottish Government to support jobs and more retention of wealth in Scotland by:

- Taking a public stake in future offshore wind projects to generate public revenue
- Taking a public stake in key manufacturers for the industry, to help establish supply chains and good green jobs in Scotland, and use its powers to guarantee good pay and union rights. The Scottish Government [commitment of £500m over five years](#) is a good start, but [it is just 11–20% of what's needed](#) to realise the full 25,000 jobs promised by ScotWind developers in Supply Chain Development Statements.

It is very welcome that Scottish Government has committed to establish a Wealth Fund using the ScotWind windfall as seed-funding. While some of this must be invested to grow the fund and support future generations, a portion of the fund should be distributed to **community-owned energy projects**, community-led heat networks and other community wealth building projects. The Scottish Community Coalition on Energy have [outlined how this wealth fund could work](#).

When communities own their own wind, solar, hydro, or heating projects, they reinvest all of the revenue locally. Many community energy companies [fund projects that tackle fuel poverty, create jobs in remote and rural areas, and build community wealth](#). But **more support is needed to expand community energy across the country**. The Scottish Government's pilot to give community energy projects priority access to Forestry and Land Scotland land must be expanded to all public land. Community energy companies also need more support for repowering wind turbines that are approaching end of life, and a smoothed route for selling community-owned energy to local authorities and other public bodies.

The Scottish Government should explore the numerous options¹ for revenue raising and spending reallocation to **free up public funds to invest in offshore wind, supply chains and community energy**. One option would be to stop subsidising research and development of costly and unproven CCUS, to which [Scottish Government has committed £80m](#), and require the multinational energy companies who would benefit from CCUS (if it eventually works at scale) to cover this cost themselves.

Finally, if it's really Scotland's energy, we shouldn't accept large quantities of it being diverted to **hyperscale data centres** when we need renewable energy to heat our homes, charge our EVs and power our public transport, and decarbonise industry. The hyperscale data centre proposals that are already in the planning system or in pre-application consultation [would require more electricity than Scotland's total peak winter demand](#). And the number of applications [could triple](#) under projections from the National Energy System Operator (NESO). Until Scottish Government assess the cumulative national impacts on the grid and decarbonisation, and require Environmental Impact Assessments as standard, [we need a moratorium on data centres requiring 50MW of energy or more](#).

[Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#) is a coalition of over 70 civil society organisations working to secure fast, fair and funded policies to tackle climate change and its impacts.

¹ Including those advocated by [Future Economy Scotland](#) (see 'Funding the Transition' section) and Tax Justice Scotland (see '[Raising more revenue to invest in climate action](#)').