

Financing Community Renewables

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Critical Issues

Financial risks pre-consent

High capital costs

No tax breaks

Skills & management

Long lead times



Risk money

Entrepreneurs

Public Funds

Community Funds

Developers

Entrepreneurs

Risks not on Community

Rare

Motivation - principle or profit?

E4A example:

Westmill Wind Farm Co-op



Public Funds

Risk not on community

Public policy motivation

Targeted

Reduce commerciality?

E4A example:

HICEC projects (Tiree / Harris / Westray)

Community Funds

Keeps control in community

'Ownership'

Limited availability

Community assets at risk

E4A example:

Findhorn



Developers

Developer takes project risk

Only option in major projects

Not community scale

Relies on developer motivation

- E4A example:

Boyndie Wind Farm Co-op

A way forward

Project screening

Partners

Community or shared ownership

What is needed

Funds to support new sector projects

Flexible approach to innovative structures
and deals

Soft loans to complement bank lending?

Conclusion

Community ownership very low in UK

Financial hurdles

There are solutions