

Island support directory

This is an overview of organisations that can support your island community.

To suggest adding an organisation, please get in touch with Anne: anne@pas.org.uk

Rural

Scottish Rural and Islands Parliament



Brings together people who live and work in rural and island Scotland. Strengthens connections between communities, organisations and decision-makers. It takes place every two years with the next one in 2027.

Visit the website: <https://srip.scot>

Scottish Rural Network



Encourages rural development by building the capacity and capabilities of rural and island communities.

Visit the website: ruralnetwork.scot

Islands

The Cross Party Group on Islands

Covers a range of topics that impact islands. Become a member for free by signing up via the link.

Sign up: <https://docs.google.com/forms>

Scottish Islands Federation



Federation of grassroots island organisations that strengthens the voice of Scotland's island communities.

It shares knowledge, fosters collaboration, influences policy and champions sustainable, resilient communities by working together to explore solutions to shared challenges.

Visit the website: scottish-islands-federation.co.uk

Ferries Community Board

Promotes community views on ferry services across Scotland, seeking to improve communications, transparency and reliability.

Visit the website: facebook.com/ferriescommunityboard

Land ownership

Scottish Land Commission



Supports responsible land ownership, use and management through practical guidance, advice and good practice.

Visit the website: landcommission.gov.scot

Community Land Scotland



Supports communities who own or aspire to own land and buildings.

Visit the website: communitylandscotland.org.uk

Planning

Planning Aid Scotland



Supports you to understand the planning system, take part in local decision-making, and shape the future of your area. Offers **free advice** and a **range of guides** on the planning system.

Planning Aid Scotland deliver the Island Communities Place Programme.

Visit the website: pas.org.uk

Planning Democracy



Campaigns to strengthen the voice and influence of the public in the planning and development of Scotland's land.

Visit the website: planningdemocracy.org.uk

Action to Protect Rural Scotland



Campaigns to protect Scotland's countryside. The APRS website has guidance on planning issues, particularly related to green belts and data centres, as well as webinar recordings.

Visit the website: aprs.scot



Visit the Island Communities Place Programme's webpage: pas.org.uk/island-communities



The Island Communities Place Programme is funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by Planning Aid Scotland as part of the National Islands Plan

Verture

Supports communities to become climate resilient and helps them move towards a fairer more climate-ready future.

Verture also provides adaptation resources for Scottish coastal communities.

Visit the website:
verture.org.uk and
coastalcommunitiesadapt.scot

verture

Zero Waste Scotland

Encourages and supports citizens and community organisations to reduce waste. Offers tools and guidance promoting a circular economy.

Visit the website:
zerowaste.scotland.org.uk



Climate Hubs Scotland

Local support, training and funding to help people embed climate friendly practices.

Visit the website:
climatehubs.scot



Circular Communities Scotland

Supports sharing and repairing projects all over the country, helping local communities reduce consumption by offering sustainable and affordable alternatives to buying new.

Visit the website:
circularcommunities.scot



Energy & climate

Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland

Provides free legal advice and representation in environmental matters.

Visit the website:
ercs.scot



Island Community Action Network (ICAN)

Facilitates peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing on decarbonisation and climate action between community organisations across Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides, as part of the Islands Centre for Net Zero (ICNZ).

Visit the website:
icnz.org/what-we-offer/islands-community-action-network-ican



Community Energy Scotland

Supports community project development, and builds knowledge and capacity to create more democratic, sustainable and low carbon solutions.



Visit the website:
communityenergy.scot

Scottish Community Development Centre

Provides information, practical tools, training and consultancy on community engagement, capacity building, community health, community led planning and budgeting, community led action research and co-production.

Visit the website:
scdc.org.uk



Scottish Rural Action

Amplifies the diverse voices of rural and island communities and delivers the Scottish Rural and Islands Parliament.

Visit the website:
scottishruralaction.sra.scot



Communities Housing Trust

Facilitates communities to deliver community-led affordable housing and accompanying amenities. Supports the repopulation of remote and rural areas.

Visit the website:
chtrust.co.uk



Development Trusts Association Scotland

Supports and represents existing and aspiring development trusts. DTAS also offer community ownership, alternative finance and fundraising support.

Visit the website:
dtascot.org.uk



Third Sector Interface

Promotes the voice of the third sector. Raises the profile of volunteering. Supports charities, development trusts and community organisations.

Visit the website:
tsi.scot



Other third sector

LGBT Adult Groups

This is a list of adult groups accessible on Facebook: **Hebridean Pride**, **Shetland Pride**, **Highland Pride**, **Bute LGBTQ+**, **Queer Orcades (Orkney)**.



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Highlands and Islands Enterprise



Supports communities, businesses and investors with expert advice, investment, property and practical support to develop projects, improve productivity, drive innovation, and realise ambitions that benefit the region.

Visit the website:
hie.co.uk

Co-operate Scotland

Co-operate
Scotland

Brings together experienced business advisers with strong island connections who can offer support in developing co-operative solutions that meet your needs.

Visit the website:
co-operate.scot

Local
economy

Children &
young people

Young Islanders Network



Member network of young islanders aged 5-25 and island stakeholders. Gets the voices of young islanders heard in Government and with local decision makers through youth work opportunities.

Visit the website:
yin.scot

Scottish Community Tourism



Helps build community skills, connections and confidence to manage and deliver community-led tourism.

Visit the website:
scoto.co.uk

Change Mental Health



Provides early intervention mental health education to young people and the adults in their lives, providing them with skills and knowledge to support their resilience.

Visit the website:
changemh.org

Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society



Offers specialist advice on farmer co-ops and food industry collaboration.

Visit the website:
saos.coop

Public bodies
& data

Our Place



An online platform with extensive resources and tools on how you can develop your place. It also hosts all the information on the Place Standard Tool.

Visit the website:
ourplace.scot

Play Scotland



Promotes children and young people's right to play and engagement with children to improve play.

Visit the website:
playscotland.org

Scottish Government

A wide range of [planning advice notes](#) on different topics. SpatialData.gov.scot has extensive geo-spatial information.

Improvement Service

Provides resources through their Planning and Place-Based Approaches service. They also have a [Spatial Hub](#) with extensive geo-spatial information.



Visit the website:
data.spatialhub.scot

A Place in Childhood



Helps you to involve young people in your projects and create better places.

Visit the website:
aplaceinchildhood.org

Local Government

Search online for your Council's name + "planning department". If you do need additional support to get in touch with your local department, we may be able to help you. Email anne@pas.org.uk.

Outer Hebrides Heritage Services / Comann Dualchas Innse Gall



Supports Outer Hebrides community heritage organisations to be more resilient through advice, grants and collaboration.

Visit the website:
outerhebridesheritage.org.uk

LGBT Youth Scotland



LGBT Youth Scotland offers a regular online group for Young People aged 16-25 in remote, rural and island communities. There is also a list of LGBTQ+ organisations for adults and young people on their website.

Visit the website:
[lgbtyouth.org.uk/
community_groups/
outlanders](http://lgbtyouth.org.uk/community_groups/outlanders)



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Place Programme's webpage:
pas.org.uk/island-communities



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