

## Dr Alasdair Allan MSP

Dr Alasdair Allan was appointed as Acting Minister for Climate Action in July 2024. Dr Alasdair Allan MSP grew up in the Scottish Borders and now lives in the Isle of Lewis. He attended Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, gaining a PhD in Scots Language in 1998.

Alasdair was elected MSP for the Western Isles in 2007. He became Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages in 2011 and was then Minister for International Development and Europe from 2016 to 2018. Prior to becoming an MSP, Alasdair was senior media relations officer for the Church of Scotland, and was named Gaelic journalist of the year in 2006. He was the National Secretary of the SNP from 2003 to 2006.

When time allows, he sings with the Back District Gaelic Choir in Lewis, with whom he has competed in the National Mod.



## Michael Shanks MP

Michael Shanks was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero on 9 July 2024. He was elected as the MP for Rutherglen in October 2023.

Michael graduated from the University of Glasgow with a degree in history and politics. He then studied for a PGDE at Glasgow. Michael was a secondary school teacher and previously worked in the third sector on reducing offending. He ran a charity for disabled children for 15 years and is a trustee of 3 other charitable organisations. Michael served as the Shadow Minister of State for Scotland from October 2023 to May 2024.

The minister is responsible for: Great British Energy, Renewables and Biomass, Energy systems, the grid and networks, Energy market reform including Review of Electricity Market Arrangements, North Sea transition and Energy security, resilience and preparedness



## Liam Cantwell, SP Energy Networks

As the Community Energy Engagement Manager at SP Energy Networks, I'm passionate about supporting community energy projects and the inspiring people behind them.

I lead our Community Energy Strategy across central and southern Scotland, ensuring it meets local and regional needs to support community's energy priorities. My role involves engaging with key partners within the sector to integrate their energy priorities into our plans. By collaborating with community energy groups, district network operators (DNOs), government bodies, local authorities, industry groups, and educational institutions, my goal is to foster innovation and support the growth of community energy individuals, projects, and the sector itself.



## Duncan Easter, Findhorn Wind Park

Duncan has managed the community wind turbines at the Findhorn Ecovillage since 2006 and has experience of managing all the site utilities. Once a director of CarPlus (now CoMoUK) and Moray CarShare, Duncan has five push bikes (at the time of writing) and prefers cycling and walking to driving - which he also does.



## Jim Lee, Energy4All

Jim Lee is currently Energy4All's Development Manager in Scotland. He is a director of several community energy co-ops including the Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative, Dundee Renewable Energy Society, five hydro co-ops and three co-ops in the on-shore wind sector. Since 2013, he has been directly involved in twelve community energy share offers raising over £18 million pounds. He has worked with communities all over Scotland helping them source the capital required for renewable energy generation and enjoy the community benefit available from these investments.

Jim has been active in the Co-operative Movement and the third sector for many years. He is Chair of a large community credit union, has worked for Community Links South Lanarkshire establishing food co-ops, and the Scottish Fairtrade Forum where he supported the development of Fairtrade Towns.



## Calum Macdonald, Point and Sandwick Trust

Calum is the development manager for Point and Sandwick Trust. Originally from Garrabost, Isle of Lewis, he was the initiator and developer for the community vision for the Point and Sandwick Trust wind farm and MP for the Western Isles from 1987 to 2005. As an MP, Calum piloted the Crofter Forestry Act through Parliament, supporting community land ownership and the transfer of council housing into community ownership. He is deeply committed to community rights and keen to maximise community benefits from the renewables industry in the Highlands and Islands.

Calum is currently on the Community Energy Scotland Board.



## Neil Mackinnon, Galson Estate Trust (Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn)

Neil joined Galson Estate Trust (Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn) in October 2011 to deliver the final stages of a community owned 2.7 MegaWatt wind park which he has subsequently managed since 2013. He also led on various other renewables initiatives, including wind energy and wave energy, plus negotiations for community benefit from offshore renewables. Currently, he is taking forward the West Coast Community Energy wind farm initiative with two other community landowners. The earlier stage of his career was spent with Highlands and Islands Enterprise as a senior infrastructure manager, involved in a variety of projects, particularly the redevelopment of the Arnish fabrication yard near Stornoway where various renewable energy structures have been manufactured. Neil is a Land Economics graduate, RICS Chartered Surveyor and APM Chartered Project Manager.



# Tom Wills, Bressary Development Ltd

Tom Wills is a Bressay resident supporting Bressay Development Ltd to explore community energy project opportunities.

Tom is also a director of Voar (an energy consultancy), a co-founder of Equitable Energy Research CIC and a non-executive director of SHEAP, Lerwick's district heating scheme. At Voar, Tom's recent work has included co-authoring reports for Scotland's Just Transition Commission and Shetland Islands Council on a fair level of community benefit from energy developments.

Tom holds mechanical and marine engineering degrees from the University of Glasgow and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). Prior to joining Voar, Tom worked for over 15 years in offshore renewable energy, including on projects in South America and South-East Asia.



## Allan Wilson, Radio City Association

Allan lives in Kilbirnie. He was involved in the creation of Radio City Association and currently serves as Secretary.

Allan is a former Trade Union official including as Head of Higher education for UNISON. Allan also served as a member of the Scottish Executive in a range of policy portfolios including as Minister for Tourism, Culture, Sport and Planning, Minister for Environment and Rural Development and as Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning.

Since leaving the Scottish Parliament, Allan has been involved in a number of successful projects in a variety of sectors including social enterprise and economic regeneration, renewable energy, education, transport, environment, construction and planning, the food and drink sector as well as the hospitality and hotel sector and sport and leisure industry.

Allan is also the Chairperson of The Big Cran Company CIC, owners of one of Scotland's most iconic landmarks the Finnieston Crane in Glasgow which Big Cran CIC aim to regenerate.



## Scott Wilson, Radio City Association

Scott is from Kilbirnie. Scott holds a degree in Business and Economics and has a variety of experience with economic development and regeneration projects across Scotland.

Scott has led in development of Radio City Association's Electric Valley strategy involving the creation of Radio City Association's renewable energy projects.

Scott's experience includes business and economic planning with public and private institutions as well as experience in the energy industry.

