UK Energy and Data Centres

What public Facebook campaign groups posted about wind, the grid and data centres on 17 and 18 November 2026

THIS WEEK

Onshore wind
Tormsdale meeting, Pencloe life extension, Viking's figures. p2

Grid and pylons
£2.23bn bottlenecks, Kintore to Tealing, DPEA dates, Norwich to Tilbury. p3

Data centres
A report 'quietly' published, who pays for the grid, Holyrood questions. p4

LEAD STORY

SSE redesigns the consented Achany Extension with 200 m turbines



Turbines at the operating Achany Wind Farm, a photo attached to the post. It does not show the extension site.

A post in Scottish Electricity Generating Stations says SSE Renewables has submitted a Section 36C variation to the Scottish Government for its Achany Extension Wind Farm, about 4.5 km north of Rosehall and 11 km north-west of Lairg in Sutherland.

As the post gives it, the 18-turbine extension was consented by Scottish Ministers in May 2023, but the economic landscape now facing onshore wind means SSE cannot build it in that form. The redesign raises tip height from 149.9 m to 200 m, for more than 80 MW if consented.

The extension sits beside SSE's operating Achany Wind Farm: 19 turbines and 38 MW, commissioned in October 2010. The post says the changes were shown at public events in Rosehall and Lairg in June and August, and that the existing site's community fund gives about £100,000 a year to the Ardgay, Creich and Lairg areas.

Scottish Electricity Generating Stations · 17 Nov 2026

200m
new tip height sought for Achany Extension, per the post

£2.23bn
Scotland's grid bottleneck cost this year, an industry estimate

19 Nov
Tormsdale Wind Farm pre-examination meeting, 11am

35 years
proposed operating life for Pencloe Wind Farm

ONSHORE WIND

A Caithness meeting, a longer life for Pencloe, Shetland's numbers

Tormsdale Wind Farm: pre-examination meeting on 19 November

Scotland Against Spin reminds members that the pre-examination meeting for Tormsdale Wind Farm, south of Halkirk in Caithness, is at 11am on Thursday 19 November. The application is under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (case WIN-270-23), and the post links to the YouTube stream.

Scotland Against Spin · 18 Nov 2026

Pencloe: consultation on a longer life

The same group shares a consultation on extending the operational life of the operating Pencloe Wind Farm from 27 to 35 years. The post gives no other detail.

Scotland Against Spin · 17 Nov 2026

Viking, Shetland: the figures a post puts on it



Sheep among the Viking turbines, a photo attached to the post.

A post in Scottish Electricity Generating Stations sets out figures for Viking Wind Farm, completed in 2024: 103 Vestas turbines, 443 MW and about 1.8 TWh a year, linked to the mainland by the 260 km Shetland HVDC cable. It gives about £1 billion for the whole project and about £580 million of SSE Renewables' spend on the wind farm.

The post quotes a Renewable Energy Foundation estimate that in August 2024, its first full month, Viking earned over £10 million, including £2.5 million in constraint payments, for 52.3 GWh, while more than 60% of potential output was lost to grid limits. It also gives a community fund of about £2.2 million a year. These are the post's and REF's figures, not checked.

Scottish Electricity Generating Stations · 18 Nov 2026

SCHEMES IN THESE POSTS

Scheme	Place	Size	Stage
Achany Extension	Near Lairg, Sutherland	18 turbines; over 80 MW	Consented 2023; S36C variation to 200 m
Tormsdale	South of Halkirk, Caithness	Not given	S36 application; meeting 19 Nov
Pencloe	Not given	Not given	Operating; life 27 to 35 years sought
Viking	Shetland	103 turbines; 443 MW	Operating since 2024

GRID AND PYLONS

Constraint costs, a settled wayleave and hearing dates

Grid bottlenecks in Scotland put at £2.23bn this year



The image of the linked news article, as the post showed it.

Scotland Against Spin shares a Herald report that the cost of dealing with bottlenecks on Scotland's grid could reach £2.23 billion this year, almost nine times the figure of five years ago. The post says the estimate comes from the nuclear industry.

Scotland Against Spin · 17 Nov 2026

Kintore to Tealing line: wayleave hearing called off

Deeside Against Pylons says the hearing set for 17 November on 11 necessary wayleave applications by SSEN to Dunecht Estates, for the Kintore to Tealing overhead line, was cancelled at the last minute. As the post gives it, Dunecht Estates withdrew its opposition after accepting an undisclosed settlement with SSEN.

The group says late settlements are common and that the wayleave questions do not bear on the Section 37 decision for the line itself, which it still opposes.

Deeside Against Pylons · 17 Nov 2026

New DPEA hearing times in Halkirk, Tain and Strathpeffer

Communities B4 Power Companies posts updated DPEA times for community hearing sessions: Scotscalder Hall, Halkirk, on 30 November; the Duthac Centre, Tain, on 1 December (afternoon and evening); and Strathpeffer Pavilion on 2 December (afternoon and evening). The public may attend, and sessions may be webcast on the DPEA YouTube channel. The post does not name the case.

Communities B4 Power Companies · 17 Nov 2026

Norwich to Tilbury: a survey for landowners

Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons asks farmers and landowners on the Norwich to Tilbury route to answer its survey on how National Grid and its land agent have behaved, for example coming onto land without permission. The group says the answers could support a legal challenge; a second post links a general survey on energy projects.

Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons · 17 Nov 2026

Bills, GB Energy and community energy

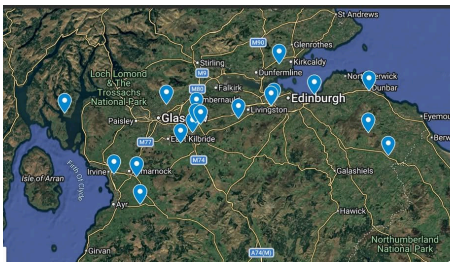
Scotland Against Spin shares a Scotsman reader's letter criticising Great British Energy's £14.1 million loss and its chief executive's pay package of about £390,000, and the cost of offshore wind and the grid. Communities B4 Power Companies attacks the industry's 'Moving the Grid Forward' advertising. Our Power argues for more community-owned energy to rebuild high streets.

Scotland Against Spin; Communities B4 Power Companies; Our Power · 18 Nov 2026

DATA CENTRES

A report, a cost question and calls on Holyrood

A hyperscale data-centre report 'quietly' published



The APRS data-centre map, the link image of the West Calder post.

Say No To Cato Data Centre shares an Action to Protect Rural Scotland article headed 'Damning report on hyperscale data centres quietly published amid public outcry over frenzied rollout'. Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre shares APRS's data-centre map of Scotland.

Say No To Cato Data Centre; Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre · 18 Nov 2026

Who pays for the grid behind data centres?

A long post in Communities B4 Power Companies asks who carries the cost if data centres are guaranteed power that the grid cannot supply without extra cost: new grid infrastructure, imports at higher prices and payments to wind farms to switch off. It asks whether firms are protected by contracts while households face higher bills, and wants that settled before schemes are approved.

Communities B4 Power Companies · 17 Nov 2026

Questions for Holyrood, an EIA webinar and a podcast

Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre says the First Minister again gave no confirmation that the public will have a say on data-centre guidance, and praises Plaid Cymru for asking developers questions. Say No To Cato Data Centre recommends a webinar on data centres and environmental impact assessments, including experience of the Larbert EIA, and shares a BBC Scotcast episode on the data-centre backlash.

The West Calder group also asks members to back the Artificial Intelligence (Consent and Misuse) Bill, a private member's bill due its second reading on 27 November.

Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre; Say No To Cato Data Centre · 17 Nov 2026

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

How this newsletter was made

A two-day issue. Posts dated 17 and 18 November 2026: 20 posts from 8 groups were used, out of 31 Facebook posts added to slava.it.com for those days.

Selection. Included: UK wind, grid and data-centre proposals, consents, hearings and campaigns. Left out: overseas posts (a Western Australian coal plant, France's EPR2 programme), industrial history, a long video discussion, digital-ID and staffing posts with no project, and a photo-only post. No solar, battery or offshore project was in these two days' posts.

Balance. The posting groups are campaign groups, so the posts lean one way. Officials are named only by role; no private individuals are named.

Reliability. Campaigners' views, not checked; figures as the posts give them. Four photos come from the posts; two are news-site link images: check rights before publishing. Not advice.

Posts used (public group posts; the address opens the post)

Date	Group	Post
17 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1144009208028860
17 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1144260738003707
17 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1144647821298332
17 Nov	Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1172121725154645
17 Nov	Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1172562698443881
17 Nov	Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1172839538416197
17 Nov	Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1172971781736306
17 Nov	Our Power	slava.it.com/?sel=122139898167244466
17 Nov	Scottish Electricity Generating Stations	slava.it.com/?sel=1436018472023727
17 Nov	Say No To Cato Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1610140697060539
17 Nov	Say No To Cato Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1610575323683743
17 Nov	Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons	slava.it.com/?sel=1860450548328525
17 Nov	Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons	slava.it.com/?sel=1860762488297331
17 Nov	Deeside Against Pylons	slava.it.com/?sel=2444970799642232
17 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30195588743376800
17 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30198282519774089
18 Nov	Scottish Electricity Generating Stations	slava.it.com/?sel=1436945955264312
18 Nov	Say No To Cato Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1611298350278107
18 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30210849935184014
18 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30211558578446483

The project map, all posts and search

slava.energy