UK Energy and Data Centres

What public Facebook campaign groups posted about wind, batteries, the grid and data centres on 18 and 19 November 2026

THIS WEEK

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LEAD STORY

Ministers approve the Carnaig and Hurlie substations, overruling two councils

Posts in five groups report that Scottish Ministers have approved SSEN Transmission's Carnaig 400 kV substation near Loch Buidhe, Bonar Bridge, and its Hurlie substation at Fetteresso Forest, Stonehaven. Wind Energy's Absurd says Highland Council refused Carnaig and Aberdeenshire Council refused Hurlie in January 2026; both went to appeal and were called in by Ministers, who followed their reporters' recommendations to grant, with conditions.

That post reads the decisions closely. It says the significant landscape and visual effects were accepted, as temporary until planting grows at Carnaig and as seen from very few places at Hurlie, and that the loss of peat at Carnaig was accepted as national infrastructure with no other suitable site. Ministers did not support SSEN's claim for costs against Highland Council. They did allow it against Aberdeenshire Council, because the reporter found it had not given enough planning grounds for its refusal. Scotland Against Spin notes that the Hurlie outcome came on the eve of the decision on the onshore works for the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm.

A member of Communities B4 Power Companies posted SSEN's own announcement, which says the substations will ease constraints on the grid and carry more renewable power, and that both were recommended for approval by the councils' planning teams. The member's reaction is angry. Angus Pylon Action Group says it is still waiting for news on Emmock and the overhead line.

Angus Pylon Action Group; Deeside Against Pylons; Communities B4 Power Companies; Wind Energy's Absurd; Scotland Against Spin · 18 – 19 Nov 2026

2
councils overruled on substations: Highland (Carnaig) and Aberdeenshire (Hurlie)

1 GW
Muir Mhòr floating wind farm approved: 67 turbines, 39 miles off Peterhead

£744m
spent last month as Scottish wind farms were paid to turn off, per a shared Daily Mail headline

3 Dec
deadline for objections to the Elgin battery application, per a resident's post

ONSHORE WIND

A Highland committee, Mid Hill and a store for turbine parts

Highland North committee: three wind farms recommended for objection

Communities B4 Power Companies and Wind Energy's Absurd post the agenda for the Highland Council North Planning Applications Committee meeting they call next Wednesday. Four wind farm and battery proposals are listed, and three come with a recommendation to raise or maintain an objection: Glen Ullinish II, for 47 turbines up to 200 m (Muirhall Energy, on Skye according to the second post); Golticlay Extension in Caithness, for six turbines up to 180 m with a battery (RWE); and Coille Linne near Lairg, for up to 15 turbines, six of them up to 230 m, with a battery (Energiekontor).

The fourth item, a Section 42 variation for the Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II redesign (Bluebell Wind Farm Ltd), is recommended for approval. It asks to change the implementation period from three years to five. The first post says it would extend the line of turbines in front of the Fannaichs.

Communities B4 Power Companies; Wind Energy's Absurd · 18 Nov 2026

Mid Hill Wind Farm: a public update on 24 November

Scotland Against Spin shares a notice from the Borthwickwater Landscape Conservation Group for a public update on Tuesday 24 November at Forman Hall, Roberton: doors at 6.30pm, presentation at 7pm. It says Invenergy plans 13 turbines, each 200 m high, in the Borthwickwater and Teviot valleys.

It will cover the objections so far, including from the Ministry of Defence, RSPB Scotland and the council's landscape architect, ahead of the planning committee in February.

Scotland Against Spin · 19 Nov 2026

Skye aerodrome proposed as a store for turbine parts



The BBC link image of the report, as the post showed it: a light aircraft at an airfield.

Scotland Against Spin shares a BBC report that Highland Council proposes to use parts of Broadford Aerodrome, also called Ashaig Airfield, on Skye as two temporary lay-down areas for turbine components until they are needed at wind farms. Councillors will be asked to grant planning consent.

A member of Communities B4 Power Companies shares it and says the council should drop the idea.

Scotland Against Spin; Communities B4 Power Companies · 19 Nov 2026

Clashindarroch and Calderdale

Scotland Against Spin shares a Wildcat Haven article headed 'Clashindarroch update: powerful data causes NatureScot to act'; the post gives no other detail. Worth Valley against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm shares a podcast with a campaigner against Calderdale Wind Farm.

Scotland Against Spin; Worth Valley against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm · 18 – 19 Nov 2026

SCHEMES IN THESE POSTS

Scheme	Place	Size	Stage
Glen Ullinish II	Skye (per one post)	47 turbines, up to 200 m	Committee: object (Muirhall Energy)
Golticlay Extension	Latheron, Caithness	6 turbines, up to 180 m + battery	Committee: object (RWE)
Coille Linne	Near Lairg	Up to 15 turbines, up to 230 m + battery	Committee: object (Energiekontor)
Lochluichart Ext. II	Near Garve	Not given	S42 variation: recommended grant
Mid Hill	Borthwickwater and Teviot valleys	13 turbines, 200 m	Council committee in February

OFFSHORE WIND AND BATTERIES

Muir Mhòr approved, Dogger Bank A delayed, a battery at Elgin

Muir Mhòr floating wind farm approved off Peterhead



The BBC link image of the report, as the post showed it: offshore turbines.

Scotland Against Spin shares a BBC report that the Scottish Government has approved a 67-turbine floating offshore wind farm about 39 miles (63 km) from Peterhead in Aberdeenshire. The developer, Fred Olsen Seawind, says the 1 GW Muir Mhòr project could generate enough electricity a year for more than a million homes.

Scotland Against Spin · 19 Nov 2026

Dogger Bank A: faulty turbines slow construction

Scotland Against Spin shares a Telegraph report that faulty turbines are causing months of delay at the Dogger Bank A wind farm off England's north-east coast. The post says SSE said the equipment problems were slowing construction, and that SSE repeated it is no longer on track for its 2030 goal of generating 50 terawatt hours of green electricity a year.

Environmentalists Against Wind Turbines posts a Yahoo item headed 'GE Vernova wind turbine faults at Dogger Bank', dated 18 November, and quotes a line about a GE Vernova Haliade-X blade failure at the Vineyard Wind 1 project in Massachusetts in July 2024.

Scotland Against Spin; Environmentalists Against Wind Turbines · 18 – 19 Nov 2026

Offshore wind: ocean effects, and a Highland factory

Scotland Against Spin shares a 'Sealetter' that asks how large offshore wind farms can change ocean dynamics and what that means for the marine environment, noting that tens of thousands of turbines are planned for the North Sea alone. Communities B4 Power Companies shares a National report on plans for a major offshore wind manufacturing facility in the Highlands, with the comment 'How many more offshore wind turbines do they want?'

Scotland Against Spin; Communities B4 Power Companies · 18 – 19 Nov 2026

National Wealth Fund to back two Matrix battery projects

Scotland Against Spin shares a reNEWS report that the National Wealth Fund will back a pair of Matrix Renewables battery energy storage projects in Eccles and Kilmarnock, Scotland. The post gives no figures.

Scotland Against Spin · 19 Nov 2026

Elgin: a 30 MW battery and a possible 132 kV substation

A resident's post in Communities B4 Power Companies sets out two proposals at the edge of Elgin. The first is a 30 MW battery energy storage system, which the post says was passed in 2023 and now has a Section 42 application (Moray Council reference 26/01356/APP) to extend the permission from three to five years and change other conditions, including a drainage plan that it says sends drainage to the Sey Burn. The burn feeds Loch Spynie, a protected wetland about a mile away. The post says objections must reach Moray Council by 3 December 2026.

The second is a new 132 kV substation for Elgin. The post says SSEN's consultation sites D and J lie within 100 m of houses, that sites D, J and K are fields with corn buntings and skylarks, and that no site or planning application has been announced. These are the resident's views and reading of the documents.

Communities B4 Power Companies · 18 Nov 2026

GRID AND PYLONS

Questions on Kintore to Tealing, hearing dates and a £744m bill

Kintore to Tealing: questions about the existing line

Communities B4 Power Companies posts a question about the proposed 400 kV Kintore to Tealing overhead line. The post says SSEN insists new pylons are needed because technical reasons prevent upgrading its existing 275 kV line, and that SSEN did not explain those reasons at the public inquiry. It asks whether the existing route also earns money through NEOS Networks, and notes that Companies House shows NEOS changed its head-office address in July 2026. It is a question, not a finding.

Deeside Against Pylons posts that it sees another 'subliminal' suggestion that the line, which it calls TKUP, is not required.

Communities B4 Power Companies; Deeside Against Pylons · 19 Nov 2026

Spittal to Beauly: agenda for the 2 December hearing

Communities B4 Power Companies links the DPEA agenda for the Spittal to Beauly overhead line session at Strathpeffer on 2 December, which gives timings and the list of speakers.

Communities B4 Power Companies · 19 Nov 2026

£744m to switch off wind farms in a month

Scotland Against Spin shares a Daily Mail report headed '£744m bill to switch off wind farms in great green energy farce'. The post says a record three-quarters of a billion pounds was spent keeping Britain's lights on last month as Scottish wind farms were paid to turn off.

Scotland Against Spin · 19 Nov 2026

Bills, solar and community energy

Members of Communities B4 Power Companies share a BBC live page headed 'Energy bills forecast to rise £443 a year', arguing that bills are rising by nearly double the £300 saving promised and that grid upgrades are not yet in the figures, and a BBC article on Pakistan's solar growth, asking whether people should install their own panels with back-up generators.

Our Power asks members to email the Public Finance minister for better access to CARES funds for community energy projects, quotes an article that the Highlands produce 27% of Scotland's renewable energy while one in three households are in fuel poverty, and calls for more public and community-owned renewables.

Communities B4 Power Companies; Our Power · 18 – 19 Nov 2026

DATA CENTRES

A moratorium reply, a blocked motion and a petition

A reply on West Calder: moratorium, EIAs and a 'pause'

Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre shares a reply from the office of a Scottish Green MSP. It says the party is not against data centres in general but that the scale of current proposals is beyond what communities can accept, and that it wants a moratorium on hyperscale data centres until planning guidance exists and impact assessments are mandatory.

The reply lists what it says the campaign has secured: Scottish Government interventions requiring assessments for live applications at Auchtertool and in Edinburgh; a direction that councils notify the Government of hyperscale applications over 50 MW; an assessment for all new and live applications over 50 MW; and verbal commitments to publish national planning guidance by the end of the year and to make no decisions until it is done. It adds that the pause is 'far from watertight' and that the guidance's status is unclear.

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

SNP leadership keeps a data-centre motion off its agenda

Say No To Cato Data Centre shares a National report that a motion calling for 'sensible regulation of AI hyperscale data centres' was not approved for debate at the SNP national council on 5 December. The article quotes the national secretary of the SNP Trade Union Group saying the party risks being out of touch, and an unnamed insider criticising the technology minister's response to the Edinburgh march.

The motion's seven requirements include zero-carbon self-sufficiency or equal new non-nuclear generation, waste heat into a heat network, residential water needs first, circular-economy principles, compensation for externalities and no freeport waivers. The SNP was approached for comment.

Say No To Cato Data Centre · 18 Nov 2026

West Calder: 'how Apatura treats locals' and a list of claims

Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre posts an image under the line 'this is how Apatura, the company putting forward planning for Freeport/West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre, treats locals'. A second post lists what it says elected officials did this year: signed NDAs with data-centre developers, met AI lobbyists 103 times (63% of those meetings to push for more centres, 9% on the risks, with no community groups invited), refused to meet community groups eight times, and buried a report that found local economic benefit 'limited'. These are the post's claims, not checked.

Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre · 18 – 19 Nov 2026

A UK-wide consultation on AI data centres: a petition

The same group asks members to sign a UK Parliament petition for a UK-wide public consultation before further expansion of AI data centres. The post says the Government met 137 businesses and no environmental or campaign groups to shape its policy, citing a 'Zoned Out' report by Spotlight on Corruption published on 27 October 2026.

Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre · 19 Nov 2026

Larbert, Hurlford, an STV report and a placard exhibition



The STV News link image of the report, as the post showed it: a data hall.

Say No To Cato Data Centre shares a Scotsman piece headed 'Fate of controversial Falkirk data centre set to be decided by Scottish Government' about the proposed data centre at Larbert, marks nearly a year since campaigners in Hurlford began opposing a 540 MW hyperscale data centre, and shares an STV report headed 'Rapid expansion of data centres could stress electricity system'.

Rural Scotland (APRS) plans an exhibition of placards from the 14 November march against hyperscale data centres in Edinburgh and asks for signs to be dropped off.

Say No To Cato Data Centre; Rural Scotland (APRS) · 18 – 19 Nov 2026

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

How this newsletter was made

A two-day issue. Posts dated 18 and 19 November 2026: 38 posts from 11 groups were used, out of 62 added to slava.it.com for those days (four of the 18 November posts ran in the previous issue).

Selection. Included: UK wind, battery, grid and data-centre proposals, consents, hearings and campaigns. Left out: industrial history, overseas posts, memes, videos, politics posts with no project, and posts with no text. No solar or hydro project was in these posts.

Balance and reliability. The groups are campaign groups, so the posts lean one way; their claims are not checked and figures are as the posts give them. Officials appear by role only and no private individuals are named. Three photos are news-site link images from the posts: check rights before publishing. Not advice.

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

Date	Group	Post
18 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1145116511251463
18 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1145168121246302
18 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1145168417912939
18 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1145429784553469
18 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1145456261217488
18 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1145504521212662
18 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1145509521212162
18 Nov	Angus Pylon Action Group	slava.it.com/?sel=1162558810042799
18 Nov	Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1173500458350105
18 Nov	Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1173718738328277
18 Nov	Our Power	slava.it.com/?sel=122140000509244466
18 Nov	Our Power	slava.it.com/?sel=122140035051244466
18 Nov	Wind Energy's Absurd	slava.it.com/?sel=1578577934299501
18 Nov	Rural Scotland (APRS)	slava.it.com/?sel=1598994478939927
18 Nov	Say No To Cato Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1611332226941386
18 Nov	Say No To Cato Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1611482160259726
18 Nov	Say No To Cato Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1611770116897597
18 Nov	Say No To Cato Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1611892653552010
18 Nov	Deeside Against Pylons	slava.it.com/?sel=2445836259555686
18 Nov	Deeside Against Pylons	slava.it.com/?sel=2446037256202253
18 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30214084398193901
18 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30219929034276104
19 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1145622654534182
19 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1146041131159001
19 Nov	Communities B4 Power Companies	slava.it.com/?sel=1146097354486712
19 Nov	Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1174622124904605
19 Nov	Say No to West Calder Hyperscale Data Centre	slava.it.com/?sel=1174696951563789
19 Nov	Our Power	slava.it.com/?sel=122140156557244466
19 Nov	Worth Valley against Walshaw Moor Wind Farm	slava.it.com/?sel=1444275850611188
19 Nov	Wind Energy's Absurd	slava.it.com/?sel=1579238127566815
19 Nov	Environmentalists Against Wind Turbines	slava.it.com/?sel=29224532680533478
19 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30224674660468208
19 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30224688917133449
19 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30225306123738395
19 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30226305550305119
19 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30226851826917158
19 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30227239040211770
19 Nov	Scotland Against Spin	slava.it.com/?sel=30229142540021420