

Orkney Field Trip

Immerse yourself in
Orkney's community-led
energy revolution

- A series of connected events over 3-days in September 2025
- Explore systemic innovation processes in a vivid island context
- See the impact of local ecosystems in driving change
- Walk away with practical understanding, renewed inspiration and networks

Find out more 

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What can Orkney teach us about change?

Many celebrate Orkney for its remoteness, its natural beauty and rich history. Fewer know that the Orkney Islanders are recognised as clean energy revolutionaries.

They've achieved change with a pioneering approach to collaborative innovation.

One of the benefits of the island context is the legibility of the changes. That's one of the reasons we're going there to learn in place.

Come with us as we examine the new ideas and new skills, and meet the people that are delivering Orkney's green transition:

- Navigating systems
- Collective action
- Governance structures

Book your place now



How to start a revolution

Orkney's Energy Origins

Navigating
Systems

Collective
Action

Governance
Structures

With



Community
Energy
Scotland



Date and location:
Sunday 7 September 2025
Kirkwall > Burgar Hill



Description:

An afternoon trip to Burgar Hill, site of the world's first grid-connected wind turbine. Get an overview (literally) of Orkney's relationship with energy production and the ecosystems that support change.



Format:

Guided tour: Bus + Walk



What we'll do:

- Explore the past, present and future of Orkney energy innovation
- Learn about the role of community-led action for low-carbon futures
- Establish the skills evidenced in Orkney's energy transition



How to see skills

Climate Action Day

Navigating
Systems

Collective
Action

Governance
Structures

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international
ORKNEY
SCIENCE FESTIVAL



Date and location:
Monday 8 September
Kirkwall: Phoenix Cinema



Description:

Orkney International Science Festival is staging a Climate Action Day - a mini-COP targeting island wide change. We'll follow along - with a skills lens.



Format:

Conference: 2-hour sessions in the morning and afternoon



What we'll do:

- Make use of a First Hand 'User guide to Change' and briefing sessions to apply a skills lens to the conversation
- Understand local challenges and complexities and practical responses for climate resilience
- Areas covered: energy, food, transport and housing.



Up close change

Shapinsay Development Trust

With



Community
Energy
Scotland

Navigating
Systems

Collective
Action

Governance
Structures



Date & Location:
Tuesday 9 September
Kirkwall > Shapinsay > Kirkwall



Description:
A field trip to the island of Shapinsay.
Understand the role of its local development
trust, and the skills and practices that have
unlocked and maintain community energy
ownership.

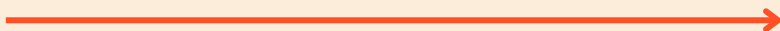


Format:
Guided walk + Brunch



What we'll do:

- A morning ferry trip to nearby island Shapinsay to explore community energy ownership
- Guided walks and talks on the island with a mini-skills workshop.



Skills building for change

Climate action skills workshop

With

UCL
Climate
Action
Unit

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Date & Location:

Tuesday 9 September

Kirkwall: St Magnus Centre



Description:

A hands-on deep dive into climate action skills. An opportunity to apply your new understandings and practise the skills and competencies that drive change.



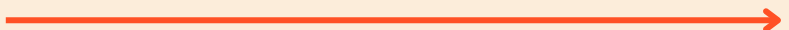
Format:

Workshop



What we'll do:

- An action-based climate action skills workshop by and with UCL Climate Action Unit.



Give and take away

The skills agenda wrap up



FIRST HAND

Navigating
Systems

Collective
Action

Governance
Structures



Date & Location:

Tuesday 9 September

Kirkwall: St Magnus Centre



Description:

A synthesis of insights and observations, inspiration and learnings. An opportunity for connection, exchange and mutual support with like-minded participants.



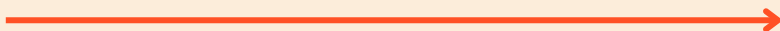
Format:

Plenary



What we'll do:

- A capstone session capturing views on skills for transformation
- A manifesto building exercise - identifying the key skills and practices that should be shared more widely
- Practical take aways for all - the frameworks, practices and tools to build on and/or get started.



“We can’t do this in isolation”

Andreas Ahrens,
Head of Climate,
Inter IKEA Group

How to join

- ✓ Early Bird tickets available until 19 July
- ✓ Orkney residents and NGOs get extra savings
- ✓ Tickets start at £95
- ✓ Join us from 7 – 9 September 2025

Book now

Travel to & accomodation in Orkney is not included

firsthand.tours

With thanks for support from:



**UK Research
and Innovation**