

Coylton Greener Grid Park

Planning permission for 50MW Battery storage facility,
land off Ayr Road, Coylton REF: 23/0580/PP.

Item 4 of Planning Committee, 16 February 2024 –

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Dear Member,

This document provides a summary of the Coylton Greener Grid Park proposal to the Planning Committee ahead of your meeting on 16 February 2024. It includes no new information.

We appreciate that Members have a comprehensive report with a recommendation for approval. This summary outlines the work we have carried out to reach this stage and the reason for the application.

Why do we need Greener Grid Parks?

At times, although renewable technologies can meet the energy demand on the grid, National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) is having to turn the renewable supply off and switch on fossil fuel power plants to stabilise the network – this is costing the environment and the consumer. **A Greener Grid Park can provide the same stability services as a fossil fuel plant but in a clean, green way.**

The story so far

Coylton has been identified as a key point with a stability need by NGESO who awarded Statkraft a contract to provide a stability service at this location in March 2022. Should the project gain consent it would help ensure grid stability and mean that we can use our renewable energy resources more efficiently.

We submitted a minor planning application in October 2021 for Coylton Greener Grid Park and received consent from East Ayrshire Council in August 2022 - the application received no objections.

When we submitted the first application, NGESO had not confirmed their exact requirements for the project. Now that they have confirmed their requirements, we have submitted this revised application to East Ayrshire Council.

The current application looks to:

- increase the energy capacity;
- move the infrastructure slightly to the south; and
- refine the layout and required infrastructure to remove the synchronous compensators.

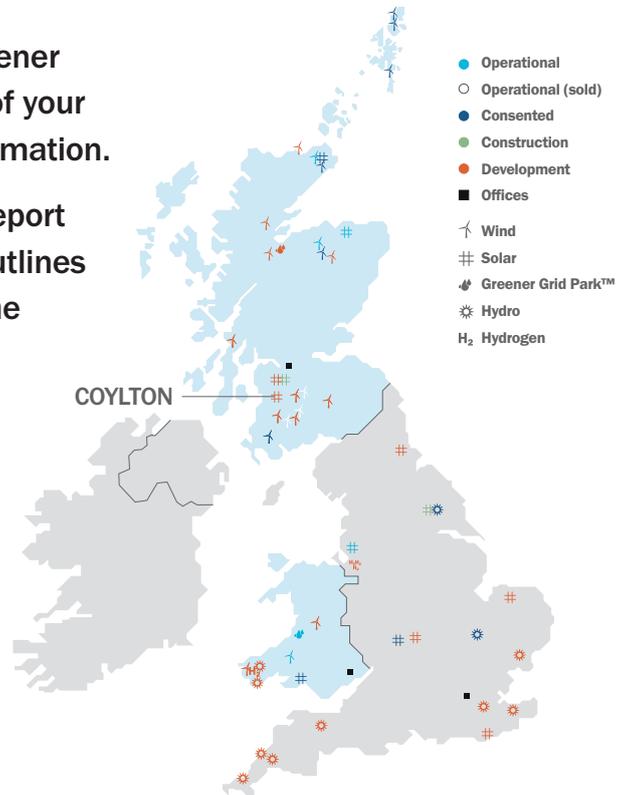
We held in-person and online exhibitions at Ochiltree Community Hub in Summer 2022 as part of our pre-application consultation and more recently held another event in the Community Hub on 13 February 2024 to keep the community up-to-date on the plans.

The project has received no objections from local residents or consultees.



You can find out more about our Greener Grid Parks here:

www.statkraft.co.uk/greenergridparks



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Why is this a good site for Coylton Greener Grid Park?

- Help the grid be more renewables-ready and more flexible - reducing consumers' bills in the long term.
- Good access to site from the A70
- Next to the existing substation which decreases disturbance and cable losses
- There are no ecological, landscape or cultural heritage designations at the site.

Contact us:



Phone the project hotline:
0800 772 0668



Email us at:
UKProjects@statkraft.com



Please complete the
feedback form provided



Scan the QR code to view
the project webpage or visit:
www.statkraft.co.uk/coylton



Community Benefit Fund

As a policy, and separate from the planning process, we look to establish a Community Benefit Fund of £20,000 per year on all our Greener Grid Parks – a policy which was the first of its kind for grid stability projects. The fund is dedicated to projects that help accelerate the just transition to a low carbon society. The first payment into the fund will be made at the start of construction following the Financial Investment Decision, to enable local projects to commence as soon as possible.



Local Supply Chain

We are a member of the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and we work with local business groups to increase awareness of opportunities to get involved in the construction and operation of our projects. We have a dedicated web page where local companies can register their interest in supplying the project and find out about opportunities to help deliver the development should it be consented. Similar to our plans at Coylton, we have an operational Greener Grid Park in Keith, Moray, where we worked with a number of local companies to deliver the project and spent £1.6 million in the local economy.



Biodiversity Enhancements

The development will include biodiversity enhancements, including native tree planting, native mix-species hedgerows, and wildflower meadows. We look to improve habitats for a range of species where needed. The project will result in a net gain for biodiversity.