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climate change research and policy

Clarification Questions on Invitation to quote – IQ07-2025 Decarbonising Scotland's Islands: What Does Good Look Like?

Please see below responses to clarification questions received on the above tender:

13 May 2025

Q: Are you able to provide any further detail on the scope of the project? The text in the 'need for this research' section suggests it's emissions focused, and mentions grid, heating etc. but I note the plans themselves have some wider elements e.g. habitat diversity.

A: The CNI project focuses on emissions reduction but in a broad sense, using island-level emissions to frame this. Many of the initiatives under the CNI project have focused on energy use eg reducing the use of carbon emitting vehicles. However, improvements to island biodiversity (for example the removal of non-native species) has also been valid.

The progress report gives a clearer idea of the projects and activity that should be considered in scope for the current project: [Carbon neutral islands project: progress report - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/carbon-neutral-islands-project-progress-report/pages/12.aspx).

14 May 2025

Q: From our experience conducting research in this space, we've found that presence on the island is really important for ensuring that we have strong engagement with local communities and anchor groups. This was also expressed in the lessons learnt section of a recent CXC [report](#) looking into the Carbon Neutral Islands, which suggests that visits to the island are useful and critical.

I wanted to check to see if you had a preference for any of the following:

- In-person stakeholder engagement conducted by [bidders'] researchers on the islands. This would enable us to gather rich qualitative data directly but would be more expensive and would likely reduce the number of interviews conducted.
- In-person stakeholder engagement on the islands designed by [bidders'] researchers but conducted by local actors on behalf of [bidder].
- Virtual stakeholder engagement sessions conducted by [bidder].

A: Bidders can suggest the approach they consider best suited to the project and available budget. However, it is anticipated that stakeholder engagement would be predominantly online. Stakeholder contacts will be at organisational level such as local authorities, local anchor organisations rather than the general public and it is envisaged that contact may be facilitated through project partners and the Scottish Government.

16 May 2025

Q: We're keen to understand the request for case studies. Are these intended to be solely focused on the results of existing CNI projects, or would you expect relevant examples from other communities across Scotland/the UK?

A: It is envisaged that case studies should be developed from existing CNI projects that progress towards CNI-outcomes.