



Inverary mountains, Benji Brown

Welcome to our Autumn Bulletin!

It's been a series of highs and lows since our last bulletin in July.

The highs include welcoming Preslava as our new Assistant Legal Officer to support Ben our in-house Solicitor. You can [read more about the Advice Service](#) in Ben's blog below.

We also had our second AGM. You can watch a video of my [10 minute presentation on our key achievements last year](#). The team got to meet some of our 100 members and had the opportunity to talk about our priorities moving forward. Thanks to everyone who contributed. The key message we heard was that ERCS needs to get out more and talk to folk about what we do. So that's why [we're inviting our supporters to come and have 'a wee blether'](#) - I do hope you can join us.

Another high has been welcoming Benji as our Policy & Advocacy Officer, [who reflects on his first four months in post](#). Find out what he's been up to and our plans for the new year. You can also read about our [FOI request on Protective Expenses Orders](#).

And, of course, Cornell, our Rights Officer has been reaching out to organisations and communities to raise awareness of our environmental rights and how to use them. He's also been busy compiling our [FAQs on air pollution](#) and [greenspace](#) and we'd appreciate your feedback. Please do forward Cornell's [Rights Flyer](#) to anyone you think might be interested in speaking to him. Our [Voices for justice blogs](#) give a small insight into the challenges communities face.

So what about the lows? The threats inherent in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, Retained EU law (Revocation and Reform) Bill and the UK Bill of Rights Bill (yes it's back) underscore why Scotland needs an enforceable right to a healthy environment incorporated in the Human Rights (Scotland) Bill. Although disappointed at the delay in the Consultation, we hope it means there will be a meaningful process when it comes.

You will be reading this as COP27 unfolds - we must all do what we can to ensure that the calls for environmental, social and climate justice are finally heard and the seismic redirection towards a sustainable future is made.

At ERCS, we will continue to work and hope...

Thanks for your on-going support,

Shivali

Blogs



We offer free advice on environmental law. Since launching in June 2021, we've received 127 enquiries from individuals, community groups and NGOs based all across Scotland ...

[Read Ben's blog](#)



It is now four months since I joined ERCS as Policy & Advocacy Officer and, in that time, we've achieved a lot! ...

[Read Benji's blog](#)

Voices for justice

These blogs give voice to the lived experience of people across Scotland fighting environmental injustices.



Rural communities affected by sewage sludge spreading on agricultural land continue to wait for the Scottish Government to act on the human and environmental health risks. Read how community representatives, Doreen and Jo, have been at the forefront of public action against sewage sludge for more than a decade ...

[Read more](#)



In the Murieston Valley, Livingston lies a plot of vacant contaminated land which is now a valued local greenspace. Despite significant community concerns, a planning application was approved on appeal. Find out more about their struggle and how "its the financial side that inhibits the small man from doing something" ...

[Read more](#)



Ann Coleman has been challenging developments on behalf of communities and the environment for over 25 years. Our Rights Officer interviewed her to learn more about her fight for environmental justice ...

[Read more](#)

Latest briefing



Protective Expenses Orders - access to information remains a barrier to justice

In October 2021, ERCS submitted a Freedom of Information request to investigate the impact of Protective Expenses Orders - which are intended to reduce the cost of litigation for environmental cases. A year later, we are still in the dark about how they are really working ...

[Read our briefing](#)

What you can do - come to our event!

Meet ERCS - find out what we do and why we do it (online)



Tuesday 29 November 2022
6pm-8pm

This is an informal event and we hope it will be a good opportunity to ask us questions, share experiences and network. There will also be a quiz!

The event is free to attend and will be hosted on Zoom.

We would like the event to be accessible to all so if you have any particular accessibility requirements, please contact Emma (our Finance and Administration Officer, email: admin@ercs.scot, tel: 0131 358 0038) as soon as you can.

[Register to attend](#)

[Check out our resources](#)

[Join us by becoming a member](#)

Contact us

Office number: 0131 358 0038
Freephone number: 0800 861 1738

admin@ercs.scot
www.ercs.scot



**The Environmental Rights
Centre for Scotland (ERCS) is a
Scottish Charitable
Incorporated Organisation
(SC050257)**



© 2021 Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland