



The role of the Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland

APRS Planning Webinar

20 January 2022

Ben Christman - bchristman@ercs.scot
Environmental Rights Centre for
Scotland www.ercs.scot

ERCS background

- In development since ~2016.
- Motivations include:
 - State of the environment.
 - Non-enforcement of environmental laws.



Our vision

...a Scotland where every person's right to live in a healthy environment is fully realised.



Our mission

To assist members of the public and civil society to understand and exercise their rights in environmental law and to protect the environment, through:

1. Public legal education
2. Advice, assistance and representation

What we do

- Free advice on environmental and related planning law.
- Advocacy on incorporation of the right to a clean and healthy environment, the need for an environmental court/tribunal and non-compliance with the Aarhus Convention.
- Public legal education – resources on our website.

Our role in planning

- 19/50 advice queries involve planning.
- Referrals to/from Planning Democracy and the Legal Services Agency.
- Examples:
 - Woodland and greenspace threatened by developments.
 - Development proposals without planning permission.
 - Pre-planning application consultation requirements

How you can get involved with ERCS

- Become a member or sign up to our mailing list (both free).
- Got an idea, want to get involved or support our work? Get in touch - bchristman@ercs.scot.