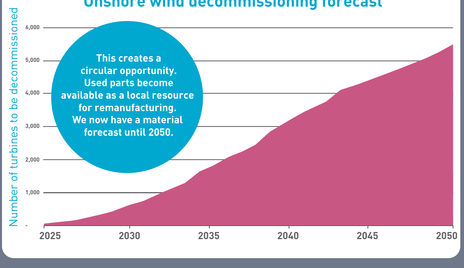
ONSHORE WIND DECOMMISSIONING

There is
8.4 GW
of onshore wind in Scotland spread across over 800 sites comprising around
70%
of the country's total renewables capacity.

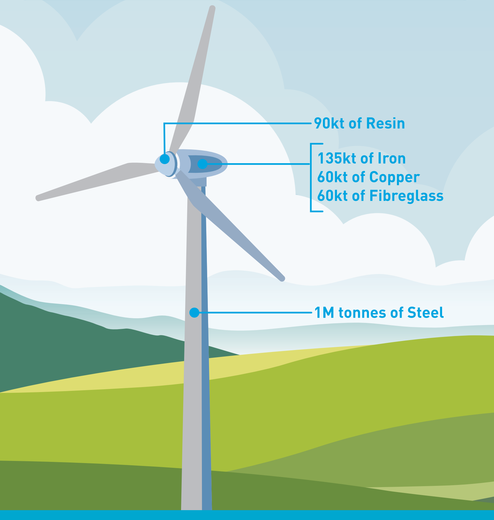
Wind turbines typically have an asset life of 25 years
Decommissioning of old turbines will soon become a large-scale activity in Scotland

Onshore wind decommissioning forecast



Turbines against time

It's estimated that 4,800 – 5,500 turbines will be decommissioned between 2021 - 2050 which corresponds to 1.2 – 1.4M tonnes of materials by 2050. The breakdown is:



Forecasting can now show what materials will be available, when, and what end of life options offer the greatest value at the lowest carbon cost.

What does the circular economy mean for onshore wind?

- 35% embodied carbon saving if new turbines are manufactured using recycled content.
- Solutions such as refurbishment and reuse create circular skills & jobs.
- Scalable opportunity with offshore wind growth.
- Reduces industry carbon impact.
- Safeguards against future shortages of critical materials.

What are the opportunities for Scotland?

Decommissioning creates opportunity for **Scottish businesses to take advantage** of newly available materials and components.

Storage and reprocessing infrastructure will be required to handle assets; **ports are ideally suited to host these facilities.**

A circular decommissioning industry **will create jobs** but there is need to improve training opportunities to create a **sufficiently skilled workforce.**