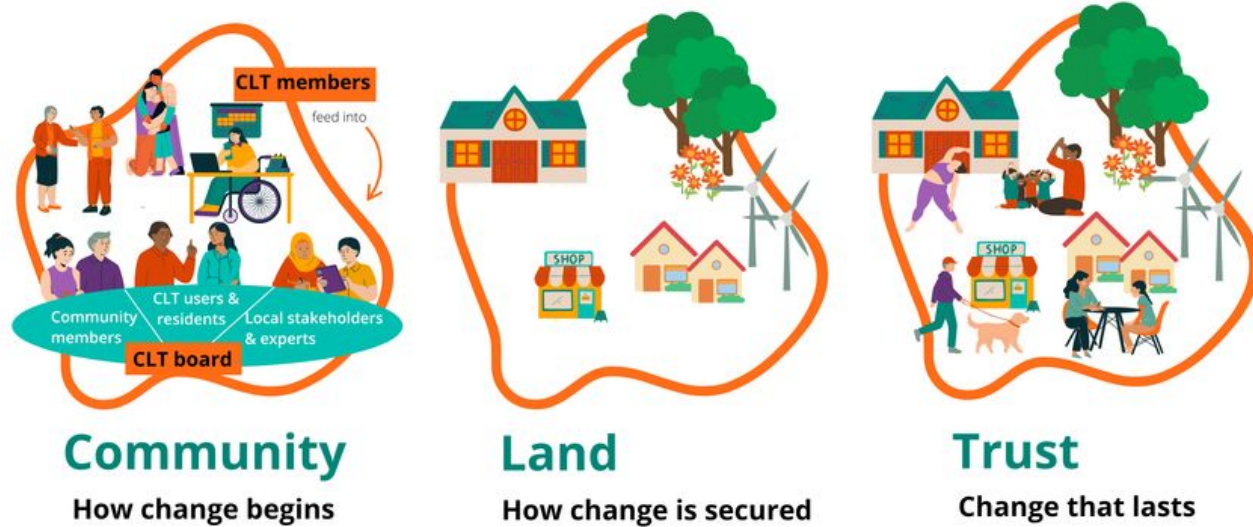




Community Land Trust Network Strategy 2026-2031

*building collective power to make community ownership and
development of land commonplace*

In short



Communities are buying, stewarding and developing land for people and nature. Community Land Trusts (CLTs) put the power in their hands to do this. But communities cannot succeed alone, and so the CLT movement is building the power of communities to make this commonplace.

The CLT potential



CLTs now own over 2,200 community assets.

They could develop 10,000 community assets each year within the next decade.

This would transform the power of communities, tackling the interlinked housing, inequality and nature crises with a regenerative approach that builds community cohesion.

The CLT potential

Years of
practice and
research show
that...

If (inputs)	→	Then (outputs)	→	Meaning (outcomes)
Communities own & steward the land		Greater priority is given to affordability and social & economic justice		Better access to genuinely affordable homes, workspace, land
Communities shape or control development		Greater priority is given to environmental considerations and sustainable lifestyles		Less greenhouse gas emissions, resource extraction, impact on local ecology
Communities have the capacity and expertise to be active agents		Local people participate more in the stewardship, design and development of assets and services		More social cohesion, reduced loneliness and better physical and mental health
		More emphasis is given to local views and insights		People feel confident and empowered

Who we are



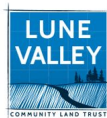
>271 CLTs



4.3 FTE
staff



8 trustees



& 100s more...

A thriving peer network of CLTs across England and Wales, the Community Land Trust Network gives trusts a national voice. We connect CLTs, help them to build their power, and to build the movement infrastructure they need. More than two thirds of CLTs are members of the network.

Our movement's roots



A global movement that emerged from the American civil rights movement, with deep roots in other models of community-led development, community asset ownership and community organising in England and Wales, and connections with the diversity of movements working alongside us today.

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Challenges and barriers

Our **land, planning and development systems** are weighted in favour of big, wealthy organisations able to risk upfront money to buy land and buildings, navigate the planning and regulatory systems and raise lower cost capital.

Communities are frozen out, leaving a **niche** of successes built on the **hidden foundations** of heroic and connected entrepreneurs.

Our community sector **ecosystem is fragmented**, undermining the foundations of a more powerful movement.

The combined effects of these challenges leave too many communities disillusioned, plans abandoned, funding wasted, and industry partners and government agencies unable to engage in a programmatic way. We see this most acutely in communities that experience the most disinvestment, poverty and racism.



Changing the system together



The Community Land Trust Network was set up by pioneers to tackle these challenges. We use the analogy of a flock of geese – very strong birds may be able to overcome headwinds to reach their destination alone. But as a flock we can take turns in leading, while others follow in the slipstream. Together, we can build the strength to give every community the power they need.

Changing the system together

Our collective work to build power in communities, develop new scalable models, and change government policy is changing the system.



For example, CLTs built 4 homes/year in the three years before the network was formed, but 111 homes/year in the last three years. Every successful project depended on some mix of peer learning, scalable models, policy wins and our development of the wider ecosystem, changes we brought about as a network.

Our vision and mission

Our vision is that every community has the power to further social, economic and environmental justice through community ownership of land.



Our mission is to build collective power to make community ownership and development of land commonplace - so it is possible for every community to overcome those systemic barriers.



Strategic objectives

Our strategy is based around three strategic objectives, and one supporting objective:

1. Communities organising with CLTs

Outcome: Communities have the knowledge, skills, relationships and capacity to run an effective CLT.

2. Innovating & scaling development models

Outcome: Communities and partners have the financial and delivery capability to achieve their aims.

3. Building a powerful movement

Outcome: Community Land Trusts and community led development are wired into national, regional and local policy

SO. Sustaining the network

Outcome: CLTN is a sustainable membership network and charity



1. Communities organising with CLTs

In the last three years 68% of CLTs were members of the network; two-thirds of those actively engaged in our activities; we helped 37 new CLTs incorporate; and 82 people from 53 CLTs attended peer-led training courses. In the next three years we will be...

Leading Promoting and uplifting stories about CLTs and our network,

Providing services to help CLTs incorporate, train their board, and get 'health checks'.

Curating a library of learning courses and resources

Supporting Facilitating peer learning and support through communities of practice, webinars and design sprints

Connecting Signposting CLTs to other parts of the ecosystem, and working with convenors of other programmes to promote an understanding of the CLT model and the network among those on their programmes.



2. Innovating & scaling models

In the last three years we launched the CLH Growth Lab with the UK Cohousing Network, supporting teams to research, design and test models for suburbs, empty high streets, rural communities and urban regeneration. In the next three years we will be...

Leading Rolling out a new financing model for rural CLT-housing association partnerships, piloting a new delivery model for urban regeneration in the Liverpool City Region, and seeking funding for further iterations of the CLH Growth Lab with UK Cohousing.

Supporting Bringing the tools and insights from the CLH Growth Lab into our communities of practice to enable wider participation in design sprints

Connecting Signposting CLTs to other innovation programmes, and working with convenors of other programmes to pick up our learning and integrate the CLT model and the network where appropriate.



3. Building a powerful movement

In the last three years we collectively lobbied 147 MPs and secured recognition for community-led development in national planning policy and the New Towns programme, protections in leasehold law and more public land sales. In the next three years we will be...

Leading Securing new long-term financing for community-led development in England following work we got it the UK Government to commission, and equivalent funding mechanisms in Wales

Pursuing other manifesto priorities around land, planning, community ownership and land use/land justice.

Supporting Coordinating advocacy campaigns led by members, and providing training and resources to help them advocate to local and combined authorities

Connecting Working in alliance or coordination with others in adjacent social movements on shared policy goals

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The prize - build power with us!

Sustaining and growing this level of community-led development over the next decade will make community land trusts a **truly catalytic force**.

This will only happen if we can value and **develop the entire ecosystem** of stakeholders that can take community-led development out of its niche. This includes **stabilising the funding for the CLT Network**, so we can focus on bringing about the changes that realise the power of communities.

We want to **connect** with any networks, funders and industry partners who share our ambition. **Together we can build power in communities.**

Let's build this