

Decommissioning

RES has proven experience in the decommissioning of battery storage projects, returning the site to its original use in a safe and efficient manner.

The Machaire site would be returned to its original use at the end of its life. Once all materials and components have been removed, the retained topsoil will be reseeded, according to the landowner's requirements.

Traditionally, decommissioned materials end up in landfill, contributing to environmental degradation. We aimed to break this cycle, in the recent decommissioning of two projects, by prioritising reuse and recycling for each of the batteries, in addition to the transformers, cabling and components that had further useful life and concrete repurposed by crushing it into aggregate.

By demonstrating the feasibility of a nearly waste free decommissioning process and meeting our goal of recycling 98% of all materials of the project, we hope to set a precedent for sustainable practices in the industry as well providing a blueprint for future decommissioning projects, paving the way towards a more sustainable energy landscape.

There are current directives to ensure battery producers are responsible for minimising harmful effects of waste batteries on the environment and they must accept batteries for recycling and disposal at the end of life. Recovered materials can be used to make new batteries from recycled batteries. This reduces manufacturing costs, the quantity of materials sent to landfill and our reliance on mining. As the battery markets grows, we are already seeing the number of techniques available for recycling increase.

The decommissioning and restoration of the site is usually secured via a planning condition and through obligations within land agreements.

