

Innovation and Partnerships in Mountain Areas

KINLOCHLEVEN – THE ICE FACTOR



JAMIE SMITH
FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR

•Partnerships at the heart of Europe



•Kinlochleven- At the Edge of Europe



Dam construction 1885

- Biggest Man Made Project In the World

Created Dam/Town from Wilderness
No Road until 1917



- **Created 2nd Biggest Town in Region**
- **First Town in UK where every house had electricity**
- **Generated Heavy Industry – Jobs, Service Sector and Infrastructure**





1994

Alcan announce closure by 2000

Kinlochleven Working Group

Partnership

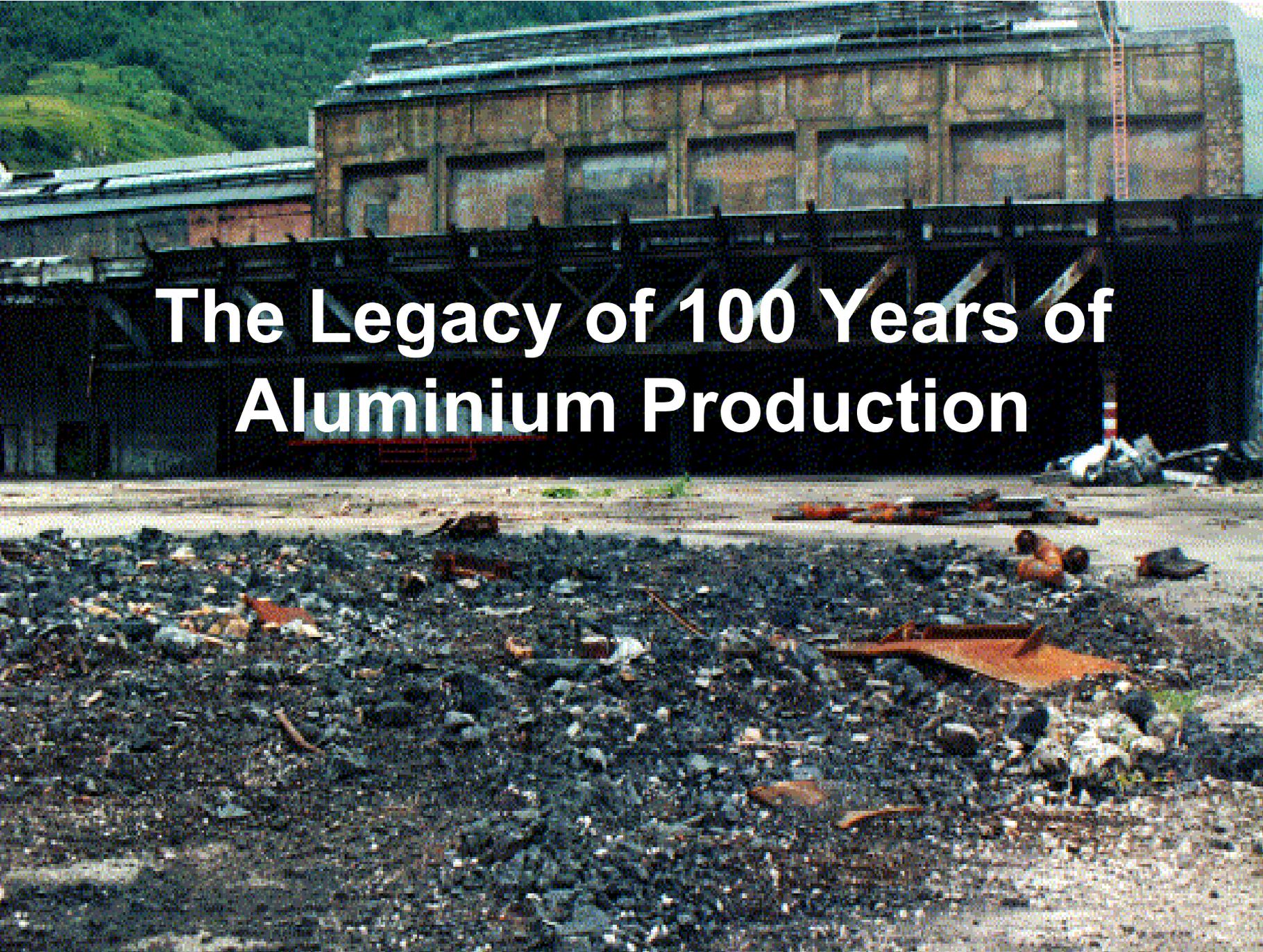
Alcan

Highlands and Islands Enterprise/Lochaber
Enterprise

Highland Council

Community

Europe



The Legacy of 100 Years of Aluminium Production

KLDT

- 100 Jobs Lost
- The Most Polluted Site in the Highlands of Scotland (Listed on Friend of the Earth Website)
- Utilitarian Style of Village at odds with rest of Highlands
- Allegation of 'DUMPING GROUND' for Anti-Social Tenants
- Loss of service infrastructure/ancillary industries/school and community
- NIGHTMARE!



Largest decontamination project in the Highlands to date

•Euros – 1.6m



Private Enterprise / Community PARTNERSHIP

- The Ice Factor Working on Plan for Major Climbing Activity Centre
- Looking for Location
- Real Pressure from Venture Capital/Banks to locate in a city
- Building in Kinlochleven was perfect
- Without Private Enterprise the project would never happen, without EU Funding no Private Company Could/Would Invest



So Why Kinlochleven?

Principal Climbing/Mountaineering Area

Visited by 280,000 climbers every year

Visited by 1,00,000 tourists every year

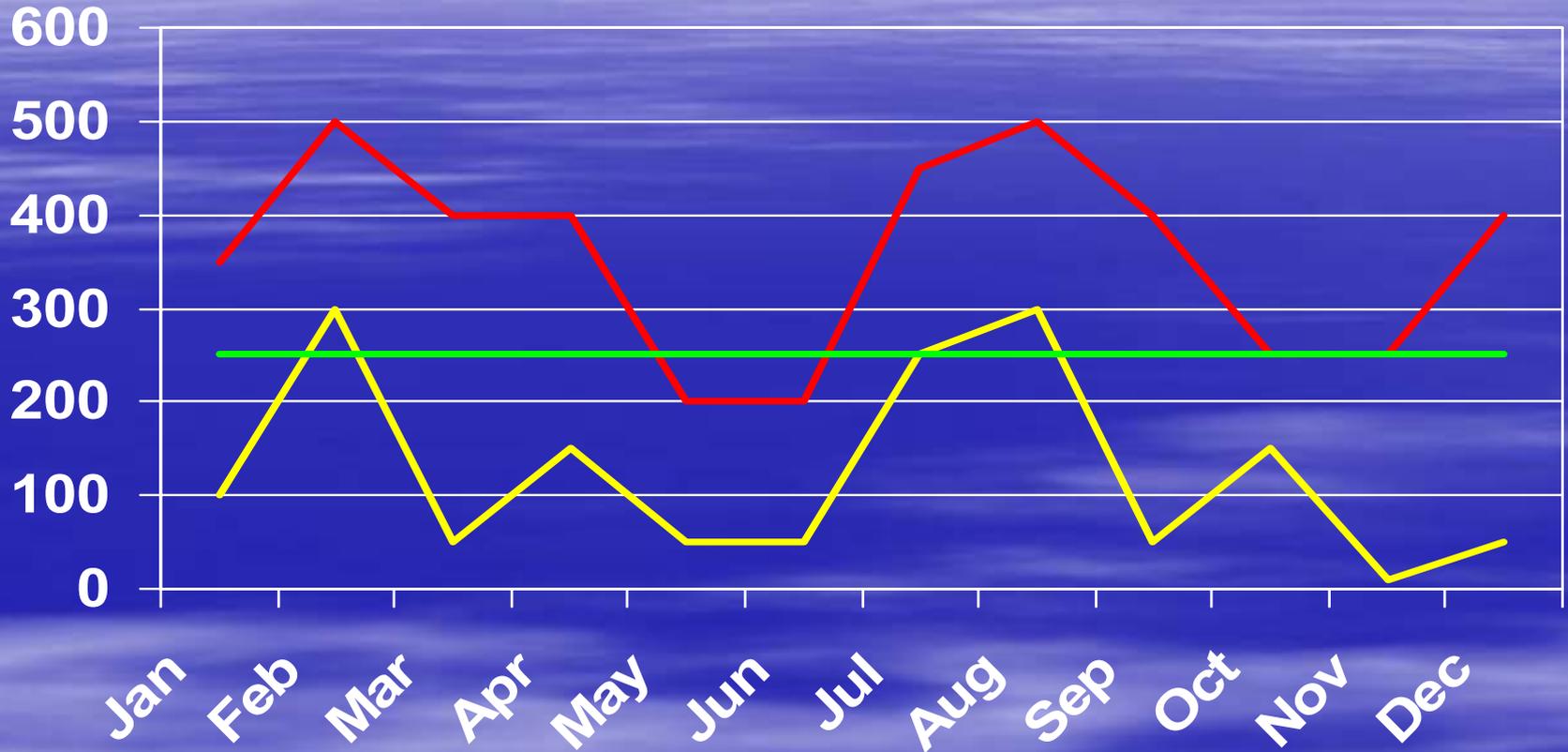
Climate Change – Less Snow, More Rain, Less Skiing, Less Climbing – Drop in Visitors

223 days of Rain/Storm Every Year

Migration of Climbers/Skier (East and Alps - Cheap Flights)



SEASONALITY



— Alps — Scottish Highlands — City



PARTNERSHIP





•October 2002

•Demolitions and fitting out costs

•Euros – 3.3m

•Tenders out

•October 11 2002

•Ice Factor Complete Nov 2003

•Launched Dec 2003



From This....

A photograph of a modern building with a large glass facade and a gravel courtyard. The building has a blue-painted lower section and a white upper section. The courtyard is filled with large, irregularly shaped rocks in shades of grey and reddish-brown. A small evergreen tree is visible on the left, and a wooden picnic table is on the right. The text "To This" is overlaid in the center.

To This

EU and LEADER Projects

- Project Animateur (ERDF)
- Community Centre (Leader)
- Research (Leader)
- Inward investment (Leader)
- Tourism Upgrades (HIE Standards)
- Marketing



A scenic view of a valley with mountains in the background and a large industrial or community building complex in the foreground. The buildings are multi-story and appear to be made of brick or stone. The surrounding landscape is lush with greenery and trees. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

- Phase 111

- 2003-2006

- Renewable energy

- Partnerships with Local Business and Community

- New Community School

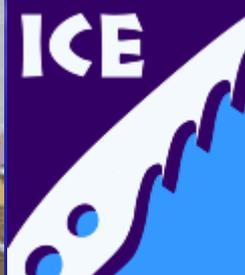
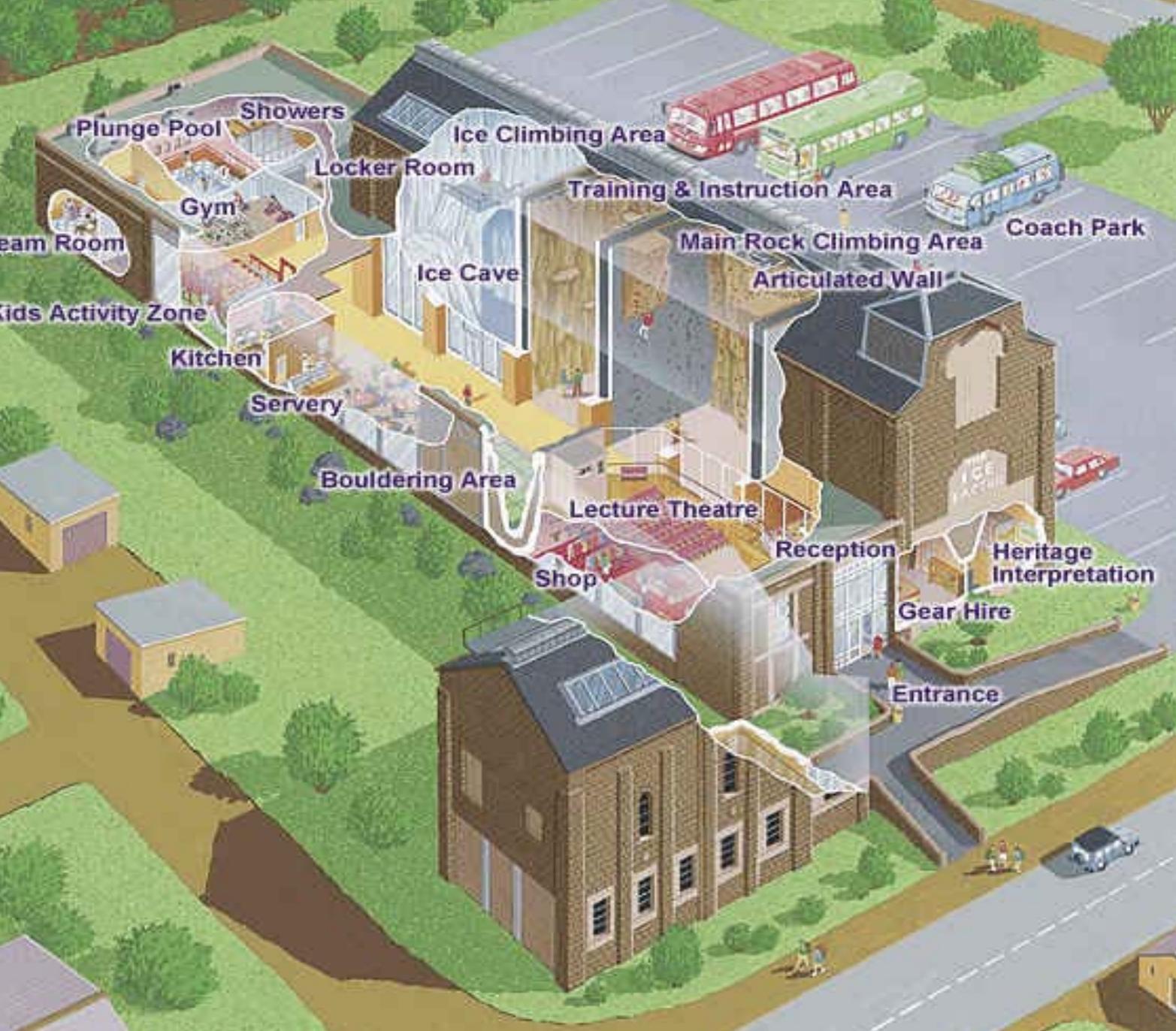
- Partnership with Highland Council



PARTNERSHIP

VIDEO CLIP!





PARTNERSHIP

The Biggest Indoor Ice Wall in the World

The Most Technical Advanced Climbing
Facility in the World

Regeneration – 88,000 visits since launch

25 Full Time Jobs

£4 million income to local area

Transformation through Partnership



Lessons?

Partnership / Synergy

Flexibility from public sector to respond to innovation

Access to Financial Assistance for mountain areas

Good Innovation can be self financing very quickly
and bolster local economy

This is a text book case of private enterprise working
with the public sector through Europe. We must be
able to apply this model in your areas?

THANK YOU!

