

Climate Change Bill Consultation  
Scottish Government  
3J South, Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

22 September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Response to the Climate Change Bill consultation**

Scottish Renewables is the voice of the renewable energy industry in Scotland, representing over 250 member organisations working to deliver a low-carbon, secure energy system, providing clean and affordable power, heat and transport while supporting thousands of jobs throughout the sector's supply chain in Scotland.

The implementation of policies supporting the development of renewable electricity to date from both the UK and Scottish Governments has seen renewable energy capacity in Scotland almost treble in the last eight years, now providing enough power to meet well over half of Scotland's electricity consumption<sup>1</sup>. This success has led the industry to displace more than 13 million tonnes of harmful CO<sub>2</sub> emissions<sup>2</sup> each year in Scotland, demonstrating the industry's ever-growing contribution to tackling climate change.

However, achieving Scotland's hugely important future goals for climate change mitigation will require a step change in clean energy supply, alongside changes in consumer behaviour.

Scottish Renewables recognises the ambition within the Climate Change Bill consultation paper and that of the Scottish Government thus far in ensuring Scotland is viewed as a world leader in this space. Our industry shares this high ambition and sees renewable energy as instrumental in meeting the climate change challenge.

The policies referred to above which have supported the considerable increases in renewables capacity in recent years have since been replaced, reduced or removed altogether. While a number of technologies (most notably onshore wind<sup>3</sup> and solar PV, with offshore wind now not far behind) are in a more mature stage of development and able to compete more effectively on price with new gas plant, the scale of renewable energy supply

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Business/Energy>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.scottishrenewables.com/news/scots-renewables-sector-reduces-carbon/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.baringa.com/getmedia/99d7aa0f-5333-47ef-b7a8-1ca3b3c10644/Baringa\\_Scottish-Renewables\\_UK-Pot-1-CfD-scenario\\_April-2017\\_Report\\_FINA/](https://www.baringa.com/getmedia/99d7aa0f-5333-47ef-b7a8-1ca3b3c10644/Baringa_Scottish-Renewables_UK-Pot-1-CfD-scenario_April-2017_Report_FINA/)

required to meet the aspirations outlined in the consultation document is substantial and will require a significant increase in deployment of a range of technologies.

As we have outlined in our responses<sup>4</sup> to the various draft Scottish Energy Strategy consultations, this is particularly pertinent in terms of meeting the proposed ambitions for decarbonising Scotland's built environment and transport systems.

Although Scottish Renewables is not in a position to comment on the specific levels, timelines or measurements of emission reduction targets and monitoring processes, we are in no doubt that the aspiration should be towards zero and that the Scottish Government should aim to meet this goal as early as possible.

Setting ambitious decarbonisation targets sets a clear signal to low-carbon industries that Scotland is the place to invest, which in turn delivers sizeable social, economic and environmental benefits.

We do, however, recognise that there are numerous practical issues that will determine the trajectory and final state of emissions come 2050.

Ensuring the required level of public investment in and support for the renewables industry and related frameworks – from regulatory processes to innovation support - will therefore be critical.

Scottish Renewables would be happy to contribute to any further work that may arise from this consultation process.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Hogan

**Deputy Chief Executive  
Scottish Renewables**

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.scottishrenewables.com/publications/consultation-response-energy-strategy/>