

RENEWABLE ENERGY: DELIVERING FOR THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS



Across the Highlands and Islands, Scotland's renewable energy industry is working to harness our world-leading natural resources to generate the clean energy we need to run our lives while tackling climate change.

This factsheet shines a spotlight on just some of the renewable energy projects in the Scottish Highlands and Islands which are building healthier communities, creating green jobs and investment and making vital progress in tackling the climate emergency.

Renewable energy facts: Highlands and Islands

1. Two-thirds of the region's renewable energy capacity is onshore wind, followed by hydro power at 32%.¹
2. Scotland has 11.9GW of renewable electricity generation capacity - 3.5GW are in the Highlands and Islands.²
3. Every year onshore wind farms in the region contribute £7,629,830 of community benefit funding - money which would not otherwise be available for good causes.³

Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm

Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm in Caithness is Scotland's largest single source of renewable energy. The largest-ever private investment in Scottish infrastructure with a capital expenditure of around £2.6 billion, (twice the amount of the Queensferry crossing), Beatrice can generate enough electricity to power 450,000 homes.⁴

Located around eight miles from the Caithness coastline, Beatrice is operated and maintained by a permanent team of 90 people from the Beatrice operations and maintenance base at Wick Harbour. During its development and construction phases Beatrice supported 7,180 years of employment in Scotland.⁵ And this is long-term, sustainable employment: the wind farm's circa 25-year

operations phase will create £34 million of value for Scotland and support 370 jobs, including those in Wick.

To create more green jobs for communities across Scotland, Scottish Renewables is calling for the delivery of a Renewable Energy Economic Plan to underpin Scotland's green recovery.



Lerwick District Heating Scheme

Scotland's most northerly town, Lerwick is at the forefront of innovation in low-carbon heating, with an advanced waste to energy plant providing heat and electricity to many of the Shetland capital's inhabitants.⁶

Vital Energi oversaw a £6.5 million project which connected Shetland Heat & Power's Waste to Energy scheme to over 800 homes and 100 community centres, schools, churches, and commercial buildings across Lerwick through 30 kilometres of hot water pipe.⁷

Switching to renewable heat has reduced the Shetland economy's reliance on expensive imported oil and gas. This successful district heating schemes reduces CO2 emissions by 7,800 tonnes every year.

Scottish Renewables is calling for the introduction of a Rural Heat Decarbonisation Fund by The Scottish Government to support more communities across the Highlands and Islands to transition to low-carbon heating.



Marine energy in Orkney

The Orkney islands are a global hub for marine renewables and lead in the development and testing of tidal and wave energy devices. The European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney has hosted more of these innovative machines than anywhere else across the globe, and the 40 marine renewables-related businesses which service the sector currently employ around 200 people locally.

During its operating life to 2017 the European Marine Energy Centre added £98.3 million to Orkney's economy, and a total of £116.3 million to that of the

Highlands and Islands. In addition, visits to Orkney to see EMEC's facilities and the support services available there have totalled around 5,250 visitor nights between 2003 and 2017.⁸

To maintain our global lead in renewable energy and ensure Scotland has the skills for net-zero, Scottish Renewables is calling for The Scottish Government to establish its Green Jobs Workforce Academy at pace.

1. Scottish Energy Statistic Hub. Renewable electricity capacity by local authority (2019)
2. Scottish Energy Statistic Hub. Displaced emissions (2019) and renewable energy electricity generation by local authority (2019).
3. Local Energy Scotland
4. Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Limited - <https://www.beatricewind.com/about>
5. Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Limited project: Socio-economic impact report, July 2017
6. Vital Energi - Lerwick District Heating Scheme - <https://www.vitalenergi.co.uk/our-work/lerwick-district-heating-scheme/>
7. Vital Energi - Lerwick District Heating Scheme <https://www.vitalenergi.co.uk/our-work/lerwick-district-heating-scheme/>
8. 1 EMEC Socio-Economic Report, May 2019



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