



Dear Member,

Despite the continuing political uncertainty following last month's UK General Election, the fundamentals for the renewables sector remain unchanged.



With a largely new ministerial team in Whitehall, we at Scottish Renewables are continuing to push for a viable route to a viable market for all renewables at all scales, and the right support for early-stage technologies and innovation in the sector.

We will also continue to engage with Government on the decarbonisation of heat and transport under the Clean Growth Plan and make the case that the Industrial Strategy should focus on backing UK and Scottish companies with the right support to allow them to take advantage of the global transition to a low-carbon economy.

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General

New SR CEO

Scottish Renewables has appointed Claire Mack, currently Director of Policy and Place at SCDI, as our new Chief Executive.

Speaking on her appointment Claire said: "The role of the sector in driving wider economic growth in Scotland is evident and the opportunity to build on the expertise in innovation already here is very exciting."

Claire's appointment was the subject of a press release and was covered in trade and mainstream media. She will start on October 2.

Climate Change Bill Consultation Launch

The Scottish Government has opened its 12-week public consultation on a new Climate Change Bill, which is open until 22 September. Along with the consultation document, a Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment and Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment are available. An Environmental Report will also be made available on the page in the coming weeks.

If you have any comments on the document, please contact Jenny Hogan, Director of Policy, or Rachelle Money, Director of Communications at Scottish Renewables to feed into our response by Friday 01 September.

Westminster changes

The new Ministerial team for the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) was announced on 12 June.

The Prime Minister also re-appointed the Rt Hon David Mundell MP as Secretary of State for Scotland and appointed former Scottish MEP Dr Ian Duncan as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland.

The Queen's Speech on 21 June committed the UK Government to carrying on with its modern Industrial Strategy and supporting international action against climate change.

On 27 June Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry Claire Perry announced that the Government's long-awaited Clean Growth Plan will be published when parliament returns in September.

Scottish Renewables has already begun to engage with the new BEIS and Scotland Office ministerial team. Please contact Director of Policy Jenny Hogan or Rachelle Money, Director of Communications, for further information.

CCC Report

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) published its 2017 Report to Parliament on 29 June.

The report laid out the Committee's views on the progress required towards the UK's fourth and fifth carbon budgets, and also mentioned the Scottish Renewables-commissioned report by Baringa Partners on a further 'Pot 1' CfD auction.

New record for renewable generation

Policy Manager Stephanie Clark responded to new figures from BEIS which showed renewable electricity generation in Scotland had reached a record high.

Holyrood committee response to Energy Strategy

The Convener of the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee has written to the Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, Paul Wheelhouse MSP, in response to the draft Scottish Energy Strategy.

It is expected that the committee will receive a response at the end of the summer recess (beginning of September).

Scottish Renewables submitted written and oral evidence to the Committee's inquiry on the draft Strategy, and we are mentioned several times throughout the document, with the points we raised clearly reflected in many of the committee's recommendations.

Economics & Markets

Business Rates

The 2017 Business Rates Revaluation came into force on 1 April.

The lodging of competent appeals against the rating assessments must be completed by 30 September 2017. While there are appeal rights after that date, they are significantly reduced.

We recommend all members take the advice of professional rating experts before lodging appeals.

For further discussion on Business Rates please contact Hannah Smith.

Replacement of FIT generating equipment

Scottish Renewables has been working with a group of trade associations to seek a solution which allows for valid replacements of generating equipment in receipt of the Feed-in Tariff over the lifetime of a project.

Currently, replacing equipment could result in a site being seen as decommissioned. Recognising that in some cases replacements are required, we are working with BEIS and Ofgem to propose solutions.

For more detail on this ongoing work please contact Hannah Smith.

Systems and Storage

SSEN's Connection Engagement Report - feedback opportunity

SSEN has published a combined Looking Back and Looking Forward Report, setting out its achievements, plans and commitments for getting customers connected to the network.

Feedback can be sent directly to SSEN or alternatively contact Hannah Smith to provide input into our own response.

Ofgem final decision on embedded benefit

Ofgem has set out its final decision on changes to the Connection and Use of System Code (CUPS 264/265). The authority has determined that its 'minded to position' should be implemented.

This will remove the TNUoS Demand Residual (TDR) payments to smaller embedded generators and introduce a new payment (equivalent to the avoided GSP costs). This change will be delivered over a three year phased implementation, beginning on 1 April 2018. Contact Michael Rieley for information.

National Grid SNaPS

National Grid's System Needs and Product Strategy (SNaPS) consultation provides an overview of the products the system operator requires and recognises change is needed.

NGET is seeking views on the type of products it should procure in the future, contract lengths, and on how the procurement process should run.

A webinar is taking place on 7 July to provide more information.

Scottish Renewables will be responding to the consultation. Contact Michael Rieley to discuss.

Response: National Grid TEC consultation

Scottish Renewables and Renewable UK have submitted a joint response to the National Grid open letter on investment ahead of Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) guidance.

Onshore Renewables

Two conferences

Scottish Renewables' Onshore Wind and Storage & Systems Conferences were held on June 20 and 21 at Glasgow Caledonian University.

The conferences heard from a wide variety of speakers covering topics such as onshore wind costs, integration of energy storage, finding a route to market, accessing the grid and shared ownership of schemes. All presentations from the events can now be accessed online.

Two blogs last month were also connected to the conferences - one on how drones can cut costs and another wrapping up both events.

Hidden heat in sewage

Scottish Renewables worked with Scottish Water Horizons - the utility's sustainability arm - to calculate the amount of heat which is flushed down the country's sewers each year.

Our press release on this wasted resource gained media coverage in the UK, USA and Asia, and highlighted the importance of renewed heat in meeting our climate change targets.

Offshore Renewables

Crown Estate in Scotland - consultation responses published

The Scottish Government has published 197 responses received to its consultation on the long-term management of the Crown Estate in Scotland. We expect the summary report to be published shortly.

Media reactions

We responded to two offshore renewables announcements this month:

- News that £3 million of scientific research funding to be used at the Aberdeen Bay wind farm had been distributed by Vattenfall
The announcement of consent for a 30-turbine tidal energy park off Islay.