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# SOLAR



# 2017-18 IN REVIEW

## Feed-in Tariff

Scottish Renewables, alongside nine other trade associations, sent an open letter to UK Energy Minister Claire Perry in February 2018 expressing our concern over the delay in the Feed-in Tariff consultation.

That intervention, spearheaded by Scottish Renewables, led to a meeting, held at Westminster, between Energy Minister Claire Perry and Scottish Renewables Chief Executive Claire Mack, alongside representatives from RenewableUK, the Solar Trade Association and the National Farmers Union Scotland.

We stressed the importance of the tariff and what it has delivered thus far, as well as highlighting the damage which had already been done by the delay to a consultation on the future of the FIT.

Following that meeting, Scottish Renewables submitted supplementary evidence to BEIS and continued to engage with officials.

We submitted [our response to the call for evidence on the future of small-scale, low-carbon generation](#) on August 31, calling for a transition period away from the FiT to ensure small-scale renewables can deliver for rural economies and underpin our smart energy system.

We are now preparing our response to the UK Government's consultation on the future of the FIT. Scottish Renewables members can [submit their views](#) until September 13.

## Support letter calling for removal of the MIP and trade duties - success beckons

Scottish Renewables signed a [support letter](#) calling for removal of the MIP and trade duties on solar panels and cells.

The 45 signatories to this letter believe that the EU's solar trade measures, consisting of the minimum import price (MIP), anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on cells and modules from China, Taiwan and Malaysia, should be removed immediately, and at the latest by September 3, 2018.

[Reports](#) indicate that our letter was a success and that The European Commission has reportedly decided not to re-examine the existing anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures for crystalline solar PV cells and modules imported from China.



## Business Rates

The Scottish Government has [launched a consultation on implementing the elements of the Barclay Review of Non-domestic rates](#) which require primary legislation, ahead of the introduction of a Bill during the current term of Parliament.

Areas of relevance requiring primary legislation include the move to three-yearly evaluations, reform of the appeals system and the implementation of the General Anti-Avoidance Rule. The consultation will close on 17 September.

Our Economics and Markets Member Network met on August 9 to discuss this.

Scottish Renewables' draft consultation response can be reviewed [here](#).

## Media reaction

A press release issued on May 27 announced that Elgin Energy has received planning permission for a 50MW solar PV project at Milltown Airfield near Elgin in Moray.

Commenting, Stephanie Conesa, Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables, [said](#): "With most of Scotland having just enjoyed a long weekend of sunshine, it seems like perfect timing for Elgin Energy's announcement that it has received planning permission for the largest consented solar PV project in Scotland to date."



## Solar in the CfD

The announcement of new contracts for offshore wind and biomass in Scotland in September provided Scottish Renewables with another opportunity to remind the UK Government of the benefits of allowing solar PV to access future auctions.

Scottish Renewables Chief Executive Claire Mack said: "Onshore wind and solar are currently excluded from competing in Contracts for Difference auctions. The government has the tools to drive down costs even further and these technologies can and should be allowed to play their role in delivering the government's own Industrial Strategy."

## Planning & Section 36 fees

Earlier this year, Scottish Renewables [responded](#) to Scottish Government's [consultation](#) on Fees Charged for Application Under the Electricity Act 1989, setting out that any proposed changes to fees should be proportionate and clearly linked to improved planning service.

Following the passage of the Planning Bill, Scottish Government will consult on restructuring the categories of development and the associated fees for applications submitted through the planning regime, as set out in [Places, People & Planning](#). Scottish Renewables is engaging with government early on to ensure that any proposed changes to fees are proportionate, fair and ultimately sustainable.



## Blogs

Our blog on changes to the Feed-in Tariff acted as a briefing to industry and stakeholders, and has currently been read almost 400 times.

You can see it [on our website](#), and sign up to our spam-free blog mailing list [here](#).



**Claire Mack** @McClarity · Aug 29

Ahead of our @ScotRenew Solar Conference next Tuesday the sun is shining on the north east. We'll be thinking about what we need to do to create more large-scale deployment like this #SRSOLAR18



On July 31 Scottish Renewables hosted a members-only meeting to gather views on our response to the FIT consultation.

We are currently finalising our response and are trying to gather as much data-driven evidence as possible.

Our draft consultation response to the FIT closure can be reviewed [here](#).



## Solar Conference and Exhibition

### September 4, Edinburgh

Our team has been working hard to bring together the best possible agenda for our [Solar Conference and Exhibition 2018](#), which takes place in Edinburgh on Tuesday September 4:

- 4 insightful plenaries
- 12 expert speakers
- 6 exhibitors including SP Energy Networks, Energy Technology Partnership and Shepherd + Wedderburn
- Unparalleled networking opportunities
- Interactive Q&A sessions
- Exhibition of posters created by research students from universities across Scotland
- CPD accredited event

A few tickets remain - [BOOK YOURS NOW](#).

## Solar Network meeting

Scottish Renewables hosted a meeting of our Solar Network on July 25. The meeting brought together members to network, discuss pressing policy issues, feed back on matters relevant to the sector and hear updates from the Scottish Renewables team.

The meeting covered the closure of the Feed-in Tariff, the proposed increase to planning fees the barrier created by business rates, and building regulations.

A summary note of the meeting is available [here](#).



## Clean Growth Plan

The UK Government published its Clean Growth Strategy in 2017. The document disappointed renewable energy developers, however, as it contained no commitment to allow onshore wind and solar PV - the cheapest forms of new power generation - to compete for

contracts to sell the clean power they produce.

At the time, Scottish Renewables Chief Executive Claire Mack said: "With cost reduction recognised as an important part of the continued growth of our low-carbon energy system it is startling that cheap, popular onshore wind and solar PV are excluded once again from plans for the UK's energy future.

"We now look forward to seeing the outcome of the Government's Cost of Energy Review, where we expect to see these lowest-cost technologies recognised as crucial for the delivery of cheap, clean power for Britain's homes and businesses."

That response is expected to be published in September.

## Press releases

### [Feed-in Tariff fightback on agenda at key industry conference](#)

The role of solar in Scotland's future energy system will be debated in Edinburgh on September 4.

[Scottish Renewables' Solar Conference](#) will bring together key players from across the sector to consider the opportunities and challenges faced by this key green energy technology.

Solar's future after the looming 2019 FIT closure will take centre stage. [Read the full press release](#).

Images: thanks to [Absolute Solar and Wind / Soltropy](#)

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