

A round-up of the work SR is doing  
on your behalf



scottishrenewables  
**MONTHLY BRIEFING**  
APRIL 2019

**Dear member,**

After ten years as a Senior Policy Officer with WWF Scotland followed by four years working on access and land management, I'm delighted to be joining the SR team as the new Director of Policy.

I join at a time of challenge and change for renewables as the political, financial and policy environment in which we operate continues to evolve.



The policy team and I are all hard at work ensuring that your views and concerns are heard by policy makers, and you can read more about this work below.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all at our upcoming Forums, seminars and conferences and hearing about your priorities. Please do take these opportunities to say hello.

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**GENERAL**



**Meeting with SNP Westminster group**

Members of the SNP's Westminster group of MPs, including Drew Hendry, the party's Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy spokesperson and a member of the BEIS Committee, met with SR in London last month.

The meeting covered a wide range of topics, from UK Government support for renewable energy to the repowering opportunity, UK-wide grid issues, energy security and international links.

For more information on our ongoing political engagement please contact Public Affairs Manager [Peter Speirs](#).



## BEIS Committee evidence

Parliament's Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee is holding an inquiry into the financing of energy infrastructure.

SR submitted [a response](#) focussing on support schemes, the attractiveness of the UK for green energy financing and the role government should play in financing large projects which could benefit many parts of the country.

## Blog: The ultimate guide to Scottish Renewables 2019 Annual Conference

Our Annual Conference took place last month in Edinburgh. The event, which was attended by 270 delegates, heard from Energy Minister Paul Wheelhouse, Scottish Government, UK Government, the Committee on Climate Change and many more.

Read the full event summary in our new [blog](#).

## Media reaction: Green power boost for Scotland

New UK Government figures show that Scotland increased the amount of renewable energy it generated by 6% between 2017 and 2018.

[Responding](#), Joe Mitchell, Policy Officer at Scottish Renewables, said: "This increase means Scotland is now home to exactly a quarter of the UK's renewable electricity capacity, with wind power an increasingly important part of our contribution."

## Blog: How renewables are providing power at the edge of the Earth

"As we seek to learn more about Earth's remotest regions – often to understand the effects of our actions on the natural world – the need for fuel has not abated". Find out how renewables are providing power at the edge of the Earth in our new [blog](#).

## ECONOMICS & MARKETS



### CfD AR4 & Energy White Paper

The Energy Act requires that BEIS undertakes a review of the Contracts for Difference mechanism every five years, and this is underway. The Department is considering how the mechanism has delivered against its objectives as well as thinking ahead to what changes it may want to implement in CfD auction round 4. Scottish Renewables has been feeding into this process through workshops and bilateral conversations with senior BEIS officials.

Linked to this, BEIS will publish an Energy White Paper following from the Cost of Energy Review process. For further information, and to understand how SR is feeding in, please contact [Hannah Smith](#).

### New SR figures show scale of sector endangered by end of FiT scheme

Analysis by Scottish Renewables has revealed how the end of the Feed-in Tariff last month will hit a sector which has

installed the equivalent of 360,000 solar panels in Scotland every year since 2010.

In a [press release](#), Hannah Smith, Senior Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables, said: “The end of the Feed-in Tariff at the end of March 31 will mean, at best, a period of enormous uncertainty for the companies that install FiT-scale projects and for the people who work for them.”

## Infrastructure: regulation & priorities

With the [Infrastructure Commission for Scotland consulting on future priorities](#) and the [National Infrastructure Commission seeking views](#) on how to best regulate essential infrastructure services, Scottish Renewables has been giving thought to infrastructure requirements for the future of our energy system. We will be responding to both these documents.

[This blog by CEO Claire Mack](#) gives an indication of the areas we think are key to ensuring progress for the sector. Please speak to [Hannah Smith](#) for further details

## Economics & Markets member Forum

Our E&M member Forum met in March to discuss key issues facing the sector, from the closure of the Feed-in Tariff to the Scottish Government’s Local Energy Policy Statement.

[Hannah Smith](#) can provide more information on the content of this Forum, and you can sign up for email alerts on evolving policy issues and invitations to future Forums [on our website](#).

**PLANNING & CONSENTS**





## Energy Consents Unit meeting

Stephanie Conesa and Fabrice Leveque met with the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) to discuss the current application pipeline, upcoming variation guidance, s36 fees and service improvements and repowering.

ECU agreed to publish information showing a link between service improvements and an increase in fees charged for applications under the Electricity Act (1989). SR will circulate this information once it is available.

If you would like to discuss this further contact [Stephanie Conesa](#) or [Fabrice Leveque](#).

## SNH gull report

SNH has published a review of the terrestrial and marine avoidance rates of herring gull and other large gulls to assess whether there is a valid case for differing avoidance rates onshore and offshore, and if the higher marine avoidance rates are also suitable for onshore proposals. The report is available on the [SNH website](#).

## Planning for Great Places webinar series

SNH is delivering a series of 'Planning for Great Places' webinars, covering various development and natural heritage related topics:

- Planning for coastal change - Thursday, May 9 (date tbc), 1:00-1:30pm
- Wind farm visualisations - Wednesday, June 5, 1:00-1:30pm

For more information contact [Caroline Anderson](#).

Please note all webinars will be recorded and may be broadcast in the future. Registering to attend the webinar will be considered as acknowledgement of the recording.

## GRID & SYSTEMS



### Mitigating the impacts of grid charging

Scottish Renewables has worked with RenewableUK to set up a Charging Reform Task Force to lead thinking on future work around the Targeted Charging Review, as well as the forthcoming Electricity Networks Access Project.

Places on the group are limited, but if you'd like to take part please get in touch with [Hannah Smith](#).

### Shetland & Western Isles interconnector

Ofgem has announced it is minded to turn down an application for a 600MW electricity interconnector between the Western Isles and the Scottish mainland in favour of a smaller 450MW connection, while approving a 600MW connection to Shetland.

Scottish Renewables [responded](#), and will continue working to make the case for island connections, at the right size, across Scotland. For more information please get in touch with [Hannah Smith](#).

## LOW-CARBON HEAT



### Consultation: district heat (and Energy Efficient Scotland)

The Scottish Government has [launched a consultation](#) on the Energy Efficient Scotland programme and its proposed regulation of district heat networks. SR has encouraged the Government to look again at key regulations (obligations to connect and concession areas) and will make the case for these in our response.

The consultation closes June 26. [Please get in touch](#) with comments and suggestions.



### Call for Evidence: heat in off-gas grid buildings

The Scottish Government has [launched a call for evidence](#) on the future of heat in off-gas grid buildings.

It is seeking views on both the technical feasibility of retrofitting technologies and policies to encourage take-up as the end of the RHI draws near. It follows the publication of our [off-gas grid action plan](#) last year.

The consultation closes on June 26. [Please get in touch](#) with comments and suggestions.

## ONSHORE RENEWABLES



### Hydro & Solar Member Forums held

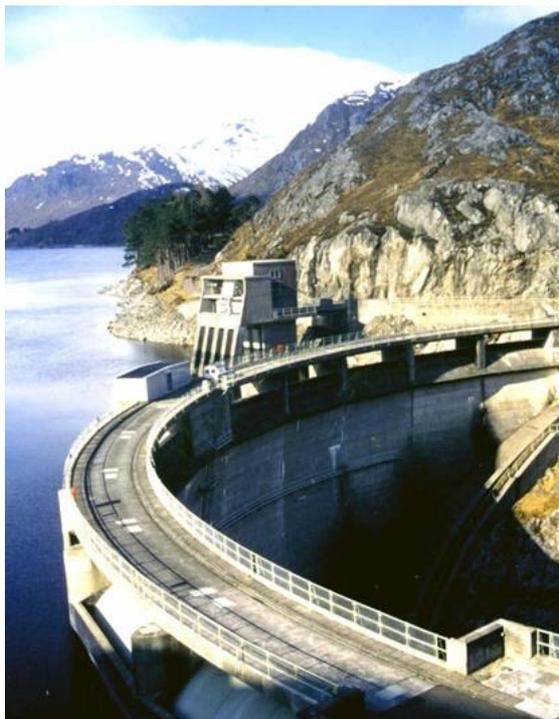
In early March we held a combined meeting of our Hydro and Solar member Forums. We discussed current issues impacting those sectors, including the Smart Export Guarantee, grid charging, and building regulations.

Members can sign up for email alerts on evolving policy issues and invitations to future Forums [on our website](#). For more information on this meeting, please contact [Joe Mitchell](#).

### Guide to Hydropower Construction Good Practice

The joint SNH, SEPA and Scottish Renewables [Guide to Hydropower Construction Good Practice](#) is currently under review. This guidance has been developed to direct all stakeholders involved in development and construction of a hydro scheme to the appropriate sections of existing guidance, as well as to provide a level of standing advice to help minimise construction impacts and highlight legislative compliance requirements.

Please send any comments on the revised guidance to [Kenny Taylor](#) at SNH by Friday April 26.



## SNH Workshop - wind turbine aviation lights

Policy Manager Stephanie Conesa attended an SNH workshop aimed at developing an EIA methodology to assess the effects of onshore wind turbine aviation lighting on birds. The group discussed potential species impacted as well as existing assessment methodologies and monitoring.

If you have any questions on this please [get in touch](#).

## OFFSHORE RENEWABLES



### SR Offshore Wind Forum - new date

SR will be holding its Offshore Wind member Forum on June 6. This meeting has been rescheduled from April 2 and will feature updates on the upcoming BEIS White Paper on the future of the energy market, the Offshore Wind Sector Deal and activities in Scotland, SR's grid charging work and the Draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind.



### Draft Sectoral Plan for Offshore Wind

Scottish Renewables has been engaging with Marine Scotland as it continues to refine the draft Areas of Search in its Sectoral Marine Plan for offshore wind. The Draft Plan is expected for public consultation this summer; SR will be meeting with the relevant Ministers before then to make the case for ambitious zones for both fixed and floating technology deployment.

To find out more please contact [Fabrice Leveque](#).

## **Fisheries and offshore wind**

SR recently met with representatives of the fishing industry in Scotland to discuss the draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind and how both industries can expect to interact in future. Again, please contact [Fabrice Leveque](#) for more information.

**Pictures: [Wikimedia Commons](#) / [National Grid](#) / [SSE](#) / [Natural Power](#)**

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