

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

 scottishrenewables
MONTHLY BRIEFING
JULY 2019

Dear member,

June saw the culmination of weeks of work as we submitted a detailed consultation response on heat in off-gas grid buildings alongside a new policy paper on supporting investment in low-carbon heat networks. More details about these documents are included in this Monthly Briefing.



With so much happening on the heat agenda, we will be holding a [Heat Forum](#) on July 25 to make sure you are all kept up-to-date with what is happening. To book a place please click [here](#).

If you'd like to discuss any aspect of our work on heat, do get in touch.

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GENERAL



Launch of Scottish Renewable Energy Festival

June saw the launch of the [2019 Scottish Renewable Energy Festival](#), which will be held between Sept 16 and Oct 1.

The Festival will give a Scotland-specific platform for the renewables sector to showcase the businesses who're making change happen, as well as providing an opportunity for Scotland's politicians and media to highlight the hard work our industry does every day.

For more information, keep an eye out for an [upcoming blog](#), or contact [Public Affairs Manager Peter Speirs](#).



Media reaction: New renewable electricity record for Scotland

New statistics released on by the UK Government show renewable electricity generation in Scotland reached record levels in the first quarter of 2019.

[Responding](#), Claire Mack, Chief Executive of Scottish Renewables, said: "This fantastic new figure shows how Scotland's remarkable renewable energy resource is being harnessed by technologies like wind, hydro, biomass, solar, marine energy and more, and is continuing to deliver environmental and economic benefits across Scotland."

Passage of Climate Change Bill

The [Climate Change \(Emissions Reduction Targets\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) has passed through Stage 2 of the Scottish Parliament's process. The Bill's provisions have been strengthened and Stage 3 will be an opportunity to ensure that

the Scottish Government's actions match up to its recent language on climate change mitigation.



Gender balance of event speakers at 32%

As part of our efforts to increase the gender diversity of our work we're keeping detailed records of the number of women who speak at our events. Records show that between October 2018 and March 2019, 47 of the 149 people who spoke at our events were female - that's 32%.

We know we can do better, and will continue to work with women, and particularly those in our membership, to ensure they have the opportunity to get involved in [our events programme](#).

ECONOMICS & MARKETS



Energy White Paper submission

In anticipation of the UK Government publishing its Energy White Paper later this year, we [set out our views](#) on what government will need to do if the UK is to achieve the net-zero by 2050 target.

Our key points are that the forthcoming White Paper must articulate a clear UK energy policy and that achieving the net-zero target will only be possible if it is supported by robust, meaningful and enduring policy frameworks.

Contact [Morag Watson](#) to discuss our work in this area.

PLANNING & CONSENTS



Planning Bill completes its Parliamentary passage

The Planning (Scotland) Bill has concluded its Stage 3 proceedings.

Scottish Renewables worked hard to ensure that the Bill did not include any changes to the planning system's appeal rights and that attempts to enhance the status of Wild Land were defeated. A fuller exploration of the Bill's provisions can be found in [this detailed breakdown](#), which was sent to our Planning & Consents Forum last month.

Information on our ongoing programme of work on planning will be sent to our Planning & Consents Forum by email shortly. If you'd like to join that Forum, you can do so [on our website](#).



Offshore 'Environmental net-gain' discussed in Parliament

Scottish Renewables board member Patricia Hawthorne [gave evidence](#) to the Scottish Parliament's Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee as part of its Marine Enquiry.

The concept of environmental net-gain or enhancement and its applicability to offshore renewables was discussed.

Contact [Stephanie Conesa](#) for more information on this subject.

ONSHORE RENEWABLES



Blog: Onshore Wind Conference 2019 – optimism and the climate emergency

Scottish Renewables' Onshore Wind Conference and Exhibition was held on June 11 in Glasgow, as part of celebrations around Onshore Wind Week.

This [blog](#) by Director of Communications Nick Sharpe looks back at a day of renewed positivity for a sector which hasn't

had its troubles to seek.



Onshore Wind Week 2019

Onshore Wind Week 2019 saw a number of events take place across the UK. In Scotland, MSPs joined industry to show their support for new onshore wind projects, while at Westminster a reception to mark the Week was held.

A [report from Vivid Economics](#) also demonstrated the significant benefits of increased deployment of onshore wind in the UK.

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES



Offshore Wind Ministerial Meeting

SR recently met with Mairi Gougeon MSP (Minister for Rural Affairs & Environment) and Paul Wheelhouse MSP (Minister for Energy, Connectivity & the Islands) to discuss the forthcoming Draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind being prepared by Marine Scotland.

We raised the need for an ambitious plan and clarity on timescales of this and future ScotWind leasing rounds. For more information please contact [Fabrice Leveque](#).

Proposed SPAs for Scottish marine birds: supplementary consultation

The Scottish Government has launched a [consultation](#) to update the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for a proposed network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the Scottish marine environment. This consultation closes on July 29.

SNH and the JNCC have now provided their Final Advice to Scottish Ministers, and the consultation also takes the

opportunity to update the preferred policy position for classification of a network of SPAs as per their advice.

If you have any questions about this, please contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).



Media reaction: Offshore Wind Growth Partnership

The Offshore Wind Industry Council has announced the launch of a £100m, 10-year programme, the Offshore Wind Growth Partnership, to support the growth of businesses working in the growing sector.

[Responding](#), Nick Sharpe, Director of Communications at Scottish Renewables, said: “This programme is a major opportunity for the UK supply chain to capitalise on a growing domestic and international offshore wind market, as well as allowing industry to increase the UK content of our offshore wind farms.”

Supply chain discussion in Scottish Parliament

Finance Minister Derek Mackay MSP gave evidence to the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee at the Scottish Parliament during a session looking at the Scottish offshore wind supply chain.

The Minister suggested that he would reconvene the recently held ‘Supply Chain Summit’ later this year, and said that his measure of success would be how much additional “tangible work” is in Scotland’s offshore wind supply chain. You can read the full transcript [here](#).

SR continues to work with our offshore wind members on this issue. To discuss, contact [Nick Sharpe](#).

Heat Forum - July 25

With so much happening on low-carbon heat, we will be holding our next Heat Forum between 11am and 1pm on July 25 at our office in Glasgow. The Forum will be an opportunity to hear from the SR team about the work we've been doing on your behalf including:

- Scottish Government district heat regulation working group & SR policy paper
- Cost modelling undertaken as part of our off-gas grid heat consultation response
- Future of the RHI
- Implications of new UK & Scottish climate change targets & declaration of a climate emergency.

To book a place please [click here](#).

Consultation response: Heat in Off-Gas Grid Buildings

[SR has responded](#) to a [Scottish Government call for evidence](#) on low-carbon heat in off-gas grid buildings.

We make the case for a phase out of high-carbon heating (coal, oil and LPG) in existing buildings from 2025 coupled with continued grant support to help consumers transition. Our submissions [include modelled case studies](#) which set out the costs and benefits of moving existing homes to low-carbon heat.

New Policy Paper: Supporting Investment in Low-Carbon Heat Networks

SR has published a [new policy paper](#) setting out how Scottish Government should implement [its proposals](#) to regulate the district heat sector in a way that would de-risk investment and accelerate deployment.

We are feeding these proposals into a Scottish Government Working Group that is tasked with finalising the details of a potential 'Heat Networks Bill'. This paper was also submitted in response to questions 13 and 14 in the Scottish Government's recent [Energy Efficient Scotland consultation](#). We welcome further member feedback on the paper so please do [get in touch](#).



Connections feedback wanted

Once again, [Ofgem is assessing DNO performance](#) against the Incentive on Connections Engagement (ICE). Under ICE, DNOs are required to set out plans for improving connections processes and report to Ofgem.

This is a meaningful opportunity for industry to set out any concerns and welcome progress. Scottish Renewables will submit a short response for each of the Scottish DNOs, but if your business goes through the network connections process we would encourage you to respond directly.

Please contact [Hannah Smith](#) for further information.



Making the case for island connections

SR submitted its formal responses to Ofgem this month, following the regulator's assessment of Island Needs Cases.

You can read our responses to [Shetland](#) and the [Western Isles](#) on our website.

Network Charging Materials available

If you missed our event on Network Charging, fear not - [materials from the day are available on our website](#). Have a read of our [quick guide](#) to what's going on and make sure you're signed up to our [Grid & Systems Forum](#) to stay involved.

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