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



Dear member,

2019 has already been a busy year on the planning front, and work has now started on the drafting of the fourth National Planning Framework. The content of the NPF4 will shape planning policy for years to come and is of crucial importance to Scottish Renewables members.

We already have a <u>Planning & Consents Forum</u> organised for August 21 and a Planning Policy Advisory Group (PAG) organised for August 28 to refine members' asks into a Position Paper that can be fed into the NPF4 development process. We are also meeting with the Scottish Government teams involved in energy, renewables and planning to make sure the voice of the renewables industry is a key influence in the development of this document.



The Chief Planner, John McNairney, has just <u>published an</u> <u>update</u> on Government's current workstreams. Government will be publishing more details later in the summer and we will update members as soon as this is available.

If you'd like to discuss any aspect of our work on the changes to the planning system, do get in touch.

Director of Policy <u>mwatson@scottishrenewables.com</u> 0141 353 4005

GENERAL



New member of the Scottish Renewables Team

We are delighted to welcome Cara Dalziel to the Policy Team as our new Policy Manager - Markets & Networks. Cara joins us from Ofgem and will lead our work on distribution networks and local energy systems. Cara will be at our upcoming Forums and Conferences, so there will be lots of opportunities to say hello.

If you'd like to discuss any aspect of this work please <u>get in touch</u>.



Blog: All change for UK Government

Boris Johnson's new Government includes Andrea Leadsom as the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; a new Energy Minister, Kwasi Kwarteng; and Secretary of State for Scotland, Alister Jack. Lord lan Duncan has now joined BEIS as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State.

This <u>blog</u> gives more details of the key appointments' positions on green energy and how these may impact the industry. Read <u>our media reaction to the new Cabinet here</u>.

Blog: It's time for a Scottish Renewable Energy Festival

The <u>Scottish Renewable Energy Festival</u>, taking place between September 16 and October 1, is THE opportunity to

tell the country about Scotland's achievements in transforming our energy sector for the better, and will be a chance for those who work in the sector to inform politicians, decision-makers and influencers about their work.

This blog details how you can get involved.



Scottish Renewables Member Forums

SR members can join our member <u>Forums</u>, which meet twice a year to discuss the issues that matter to you across our policy and communications work. Forums are free to attend.

If you'd like to check which Forums you're signed up to, or change your preferences, you can do so <u>on our website</u>.

Workshop on future European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

The Scottish Government has organised a series of workshops on future European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (Interreg/Urbact).

The purpose of the workshops is for attendees to share ideas for future collaborations and to suggest which partner countries should be prioritised. Scottish Government will also provide an update on its current work and next steps.

Workshops will be held in late August to September in <u>Dundee</u>, <u>Edinburgh</u>, <u>Glasgow</u> and <u>Inverness</u>.

ECONOMICS & MARKETS



BEIS publishes a series of energy consultations

While we still await an overarching Energy White Paper, and the long-awaited consultation on 'community energy' is absent, the following were published ahead of Parliamentary recess and cover a number of topics expected to receive attention in the White Paper process.

- Consultation on facilitating energy efficiency in the electricity system - looks at market barriers to energy efficiency and how we can create new markets for efficiency products.
- Consultation on flexible and responsive retail markets focused on consumers, this consultation looks at how
 retail markets can ensure benefits from smart, flexible
 systems are delivered to support net-zero ambitions.
- The <u>Capacity Market</u> review has been published, setting out additional changes and technical tweaks to the scheme along with Government's position on allowing renewable technologies to compete.
- Views are sought on the <u>RAB financing model for new nuclear</u>.
- <u>CCUS projects: re-use of oil and gas assets</u> and <u>new</u>
 <u>business models for CCUS</u> are also being examined.

The Policy team at Scottish Renewables will be working through this material. We would welcome any comments from members. Please get in touch with <u>Morag Watson</u> to discuss.

PLANNING & CONSENTS



SNH Repowering Guidance success

Following SR's <u>consultation response</u> and participation in SNH's stakeholder workshop on its repowering guidance, we have succeeded in getting SNH to revise its view on the EIA baseline for repowering applications. The baseline for assessment - the current state of the site - has now been agreed with the Scottish Government.

SNH has also agreed to update its existing relevant guidance rather than publishing a dedicated guidance document on repowering. SNH intends to update its advice by the end of the summer so that this approach can apply to applications that come forward.

If you would like to discuss this further please get in touch with <u>Stephanie Conesa</u>.



Updated Landscape Character Assessment for Scotland

The long-awaited updates to the Landscape Character Assessment for Scotland have now been made and the revised assessment is <u>available on SNH's website</u>. Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is the process of identifying and describing variation in character of the landscape. Scotland, which was the first country to achieve full coverage of LCA, now has a digital map-based <u>assessment</u>. The SNH <u>website</u> contains a range of information on landscape character.

Please get in touch with <u>Stephanie Conesa</u> if you would like to discuss.

Good Practice during Wind Farm Construction – updated guidance

Version four of the Good Practice During Wind Farm
Construction <u>guidance</u> has now been published. This version
has received input from a range of stakeholders, including
Scottish Renewables members, Perth and Kinross Council,
Historic Environment Scotland, Forestry Commission
Scotland, SEPA and Marine Scotland.

New material includes a chapter on the Historic Environment, SEPA construction site licenses, less prescriptive information on habitat restoration and a general refresh of all chapters to bring them up to date with current good practice.

Please contact <u>Stephanie Conesa</u> if you have any questions.

Planning and Environmental Appeals division (DPEA) update

The <u>Planning and Environmental Appeals division: annual review 2018-2019</u> has been published on the Scottish Government's website. 2018/19 saw an improvement in performance, with 74% of appeals being decided within the

target compared with 69% in 2017/18. Overall, the average time taken to decide an appeal in 2018/19 was 16 weeks.

<u>Paul Cackette</u> has also now returned to his post as Chief Reporter at DPEA.

Please contact <u>Stephanie Conesa</u>, who sits on the DPEA Stakeholder Forum, if you would like to discuss.

Homes for Scotland Non-Planning Consents Survey

Homes for Scotland has published a <u>survey</u> on non-planning consents to understand whether some of the issues affecting home builders in Scotland are also affecting other industries.

Results will be anonymised and the survey does not ask for individuals' names or contact details. This survey will close at midnight on Sunday September 8.

Please contact <u>Tammy Swift-Adams</u>, Director of Planning at Homes for Scotland, with any questions.

ONSHORE RENEWABLES



SWBSG Meeting

Scottish Renewables participated in the latest meeting of SNH's Scottish Windfarm Bird Steering Group (SWBSG). The purpose of this meeting was to discuss options for post-consent bird monitoring at onshore wind farm sites going forward, as well as to agree plans for the future of the working group.

A consensus was reached that current SNH guidance on windfarms and birds is now out of date. Revision will take place over the coming months with input from Scottish Renewables, SSE and SPR. For more information please contact <u>Stephanie Conesa</u>.



OFFSHORE RENEWABLES



ScotWind leasing - pre-launch

Crown Estate Scotland has pre-launched ScotWind leasing. It has prepared a <u>press release</u> and a <u>Pre-Launch Summary</u>.

<u>Document</u> detailing further information and next steps.

CES is keen to get feedback from those interested in ScotWind leasing, in due course, on how it might be able to fine-tune some of the arrangements, helping to ensure that the leasing runs smoothly.

Please contact <u>Stephanie Conesa</u> if you would like to discuss this with a member of the SR team.

Media reaction: Beatrice offshore wind farm opening

Beatrice offshore wind farm, Scotland's largest and the fourth largest in the world, was opened on July 27.

SR Chief Executive Claire Mack attended and was interviewed by BBC and STV. She <u>said</u>: "The scale of the Beatrice project is truly staggering: almost twice the investment of the Queensferry Crossing; the fourth largest offshore wind farm in the world, and all happening in the North East of Scotland. This is quite simply the most exciting renewable energy development in the UK right now."



LOW-CARBON HEAT



Low-Carbon heat exhibition shines light on hidden technology

As part of ongoing work to promote low-carbon heat technologies and demystify the sector to politicans and the public, SR opened an exhibition of images of low-carbon heat technology, taken by SR-commissioned photographers, in Edinburgh last month.

The free exhibition, which is open to the public on weekdays, will run to September 30 - throughout the Edinburgh Festival - at the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, so pop along if you're in town, or <u>read our blog</u> for more on this innovative initiative.



Low-Carbon Heat Forum

Our latest Low-Carbon Heat Forum was held on July 25 to update members on SR's work in this area and share intelligence on what is known about the proposed Bill on heat networks and supporting policy.

If you were unable to attend the Forum, please contact <u>Fabrice Leveque</u> for more details.

Low-Carbon Heat in the NPF4

The National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), discussed in the introduction to this Monthly Briefing, will play an important role in shaping the development of low-carbon heat in Scotland.

Heat will also be an important agenda item at our upcoming Planning & Consents Forum on 21 August. If you're not sure if you are signed up to receive information about Planning & Consents Forums, or to add yourself to the list, you can do so on our website.

GRID & SYSTEMS



Code Governance comes under the spotlight

A <u>Consultation on reforming energy industry codes (BEIS and Ofgem)</u> has been published.

Scottish Renewables has called for grid code governance to be reviewed, so welcomes this consultation. We would be keen to hear members views on the proposals and their impacts, so please get in touch with Morag Watson, Director of Policy, if you would like to contribute.



Open Networks Project - Flexibility Consultation

The Energy Networks Association has published a landmark consultation on grid flexibility as part of the DNO-DSO transition. <u>SR will be responding</u>. Please send views and comments to <u>Cara Dalziel</u> by August 16.

Scottish Renewables responds to DNO ICE Plans

Distribution connections are becoming ever more important as we work to realise the transition to a smart and flexible energy system.

Scottish Renewables has <u>responded to Ofgem consultation</u> <u>monitoring how well DNOs are performing on connections</u> <u>targets</u>. Please contact <u>Morag Watson</u> if you have any queries.

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