

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



scottishrenewables
MONTHLY BRIEFING
OCTOBER 2019

Dear member,

The Scottish renewable energy industry's asks of the next UK Government - the make-up of which will be decided by a General Election on December 12 - are set out in Scottish Renewables' Manifesto.

The [document](#) sets out five key requirements on economics, systems and support for the technologies we represent. These actions would help secure the future of an industry which is now unquestionably a mainstream part of the energy mix and, of course, help tackle the climate emergency head-on.



We will be continuing to work with the teams drafting political party manifestos in the coming weeks to ensure that your voice is heard, and will be providing members with a summary of those documents as they are published. If you would like to discuss our work in this area please do get in touch.

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GENERAL



New member of the Scottish Renewables team

We are delighted to welcome Ben Miller to the Policy team as our new Senior Policy Manager - Markets & Networks. Ben joins us from Smart Energy GB and will lead our work on grid reform and marine energy.

Ben 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 do email [Ben](#).



Scottish Green Energy Awards shortlist announced

Excitement is building ahead of the Scottish Green Energy Awards in December, with the shortlist [announced last month](#).

Scotland's largest offshore wind farm, projects using hydrogen to store power and four green energy champions are among those vying for gongs.

Announcing the shortlist, SR CEO (and Chair of the judges) Claire Mack [said](#): "It's impossible not to be bowled over by the quality of nominations we received for the awards this year."

Scotland's Green Investment Portfolio

We worked with the Scottish Government to ensure that its Green Investment Portfolio - [launched last month](#) - reflected the state of the industry in Scotland.

Our input helped shape the document, which seeks to attract foreign investment into Scottish green energy schemes. A [call for projects](#) is ongoing.

On the Portfolio's launch, SR Chief Executive Claire Mack [said](#): "While we have made great strides towards our world-leading renewable energy targets, access to finance is a major issue for Scotland's renewable energy sector."

Make the most of your Scottish Renewables membership

If you'd like to check which Forums you're signed up to, or change your preferences, you can do so [on our website](#).

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES



Offshore Wind & The Natural Marine Environment Working Group meeting

Scottish Renewables participated in a Working Group meeting to discuss the details of RSPB's proposal for a marine nature restoration fund to enable the offshore wind sector to contribute to marine conservation and restoration actions. The Group discussed potential funding mechanisms and governance, further proposals for projects and desired conservation outcomes.

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

Launch of Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council

The [Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council](#) [officially launched last month](#) with "bold plans" to increase the size of the sector and build enough capacity to power every household in Scotland twice over.

The Council, which is co-chaired by Energy Minister Paul Wheelhouse and SSE's Brian McFarlane and on which SR Chief Executive Claire Mack sits, has a vision of "an offshore wind sector which plays to Scotland's strengths, delivering jobs, investment and export opportunities in line with the UK Sector Deal as a key part of the path to net-zero".

SR also leads the Council's communications function. Contact [Nick Sharpe](#) to discuss.



Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind

Scottish Renewables continues to liaise with Marine Scotland regarding the forthcoming spatial plan for future offshore wind development. The public consultation is expected to launch soon, signalling the start of the ScotWind leasing round.

Scottish Renewables has procured consultancy support to inform our response. To find out more please contact [Fabrice Leveque](#).

Blog: Offshore wind, ready to float?

In a [guest blog](#) for SR, Dr Matthew Hannon, Director of Research at the Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Strathclyde, outlines the key findings from [a new report by the university](#), which examines how quickly floating wind is progressing towards becoming a major contributor to

the global electricity supply mix, uncovers challenges that may undermine the growth of floating wind and makes policy recommendations that could help overcome these challenges.

ONSHORE RENEWABLES



Hydro and Solar Member Forums

Our Hydro and Solar Member Forums met on October 23 to discuss key issues facing our members, from reforms of our grid network to how the National Planning Framework 4 can deliver for both the hydro and solar sectors.

If you were not able to attend the Forum but would like more details please contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

News: UK Government ban means wind industry idles as supplier announces job cuts

News that [SR member CS Wind may cut its workforce](#) because of a lack of onshore wind orders prompted new research from SR, [detailed in a press release](#).

It showed almost 50 wind farms which could power the equivalent of 850,000 homes risk losing planning permission unless a political ban on their access to the energy market is lifted.

In media outlets including reNews and The National, SR Chief Executive Claire Mack [said](#): “It is heart-breaking to see jobs being lost at CS Wind in Argyll as the projects which could have provided the company with work are unable to proceed in large part because of the UK Government’s politically-motivated intransigence.”



LOW-CARBON HEAT



Evidence session on low-carbon heat

Scottish Renewables was invited to give evidence [on its submission](#) to a Scottish Parliament [inquiry](#) into Scotland's progress towards its 2020 renewable heat target.

The Economy, Energy & Fair Work Committee heard about heat networks, the future of the RHI and employment impacts of the transition during a wide-ranging session.

For more information contact [Fabrice Leveque](#).



UK Government consults on tightened building standards

BEIS [has launched a consultation](#) on building standards for new build homes. It proposes that its 'Future Homes Standard' (to be introduced in 2025) require 75-80% less carbon emissions than the 2013 Part L requirements.

It is also proposing an interim tightening of standards for 2020. The standard will only apply to England; the Scottish Government has committed to phasing out gas from new builds from 2024.

Media reaction: WWF Scotland / Vivid Economics heat report

A [report from WWF Scotland and Vivid Economics](#), launched last month, made the case for a significant increase in public spending to help move homes and other buildings away from a reliance on fossil fuel heating.

[Responding](#), Fabrice Leveque, Senior Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables, said: "Public funding has a role to play in growing this new industry and producing the cost reductions which come with deployment at scale, but the lack of certainty created by both the UK and Scottish Governments is pushing industry towards a cliff-edge when current support schemes end."



Future of the smart meter rollout

BEIS is consulting on the future design of the smart meter rollout after 2020. Its proposal is for suppliers to continue installing between 2021-2024, with 85% of customers smart by the end of this period.

[We have put together some comments](#) on the importance of the rollout to the energy transition, and would welcome any feedback or comments from members this week. The deadline for submission is November 11.

Please contact [Ben Miller](#) to discuss.

Treasury Net-Zero Review

The UK Treasury has [published the terms of reference](#) for its review of how the transition to net-zero emissions will be funded and where the costs should fall. The review will consider the options for how households, businesses and the taxpayer could contribute equitably, maximising opportunities for economic growth and evaluating the trade-offs between cost, competitiveness, effects on consumers and impacts on the taxpayer.



Planning Performance and Fees Consultation

The Scottish Government has identified reviewing planning performance and fee regimes as a priority in its [Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019 work programme](#). It has started drafting a consultation paper, and Scottish Renewables participated in a pre-consultation workshop to discuss planning performance, full cost recovery and changes to the current fee structure. A consultation should be launched in December.

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



Eskdalemuir Working Group update

Scottish Renewables met with the Scottish Government Wind Energy Policy and Development Team, who provided an update on the Eskdalemuir Working Group. The Scottish Government is working with Xi Engineering to develop a technical solution to enable the most efficient deployment of onshore wind resource within the Eskdalemuir Zone. The Scottish Government will present this to the Working Group at an upcoming meeting.

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



SNH's Climate Change Commitments 2019

Scottish Natural Heritage has published its [Climate Change Commitments](#) for 2019. These include sections on investing in renewables and enabling new developments to help address climate change, and on facilitating renewable energy developments on and offshore.

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

GRID & SYSTEMS



Grid & Systems member Forum

Our latest Grid & Systems Forum was held on October 24 to update members on what Scottish Renewables has been doing on their behalf and discuss emerging issues around our grid networks. The agenda included updates on Scottish island connections and Significant Code Reviews underway, as well as a discussion around Scottish Government's Local Energy Policy Statement.

If you were not able to attend the Forum but would like further details please contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

Scottish Government consults on Local Energy Policy Statement

Scottish Government's [Local Energy Policy Statement](#) is now open for consultation, setting out a series of key principles and outcomes for the development of future local energy systems and sectoral activity. The consultation is an opportunity for the renewable energy sector to continue to engage in the transition to a decentralised energy system and support the achievement of Scotland's net-zero target. You can read our reaction to the consultation [here](#).

The consultation is open until December 4. If you have any comments, please contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

Images: British Geological Survey / reNews / Insider / Herald & Times Group

