

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

 scottishrenewables
MONTHLY BRIEFING
DECEMBER 2019

Dear member,

November saw much activity in offshore renewables, with positive and negative announcements for industry across Scotland.

Off Fife, contracts for the Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm were awarded, with Eyemouth Harbour, Dundee and BiFab all mentioned.

In Campbeltown, CS Wind announced redundancies after failing to fill its order book, despite making a £27 million investment at the site in 2016.



SR continues to engage through the Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council, among other methods, and work with government to ensure Scotland can capitalise on the growth of offshore wind as the sector develops.

Please get in touch if you'd like to talk about our work in this area.

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Scottish Green Energy Award winners

The [Scottish Green Energy Awards](#), which took place in Edinburgh on December 5, saw winners in 12 categories receive trophies recognising their work in the sector.

The event is a highlight in the SR calendar and was this year attended by 1,209 people. Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm won the Judges Award, while Energy Minister Paul Wheelhouse was honoured for his Outstanding Contribution to the industry.

SR CEO Claire Mack said: "Once again, the Scottish Green Energy Awards showcase the truly incredible innovation, drive and passion of those working within our industry." [Read the full press release on our website](#), and a blog by Claire reflecting on a ground-breaking year for the renewable energy industry [here](#).

New Public Affairs Manager

Our Communications team has welcomed a new Public Affairs Manager, Gareth Quinn, this month. Gareth joins us from the SNP, where he headed up the party's research team in Holyrood.

Please [get in touch with Gareth](#) for advice on interacting with politicians at Holyrood and Westminster, or to chat about our work in these areas.



General Election manifesto tracker and blog

Every one of the main party manifestos have now been analysed for their impact on the renewable energy industry in our member-only [General Election Manifesto Tracker](#).

You can also read an analysis of party positions, compiled for SR by member Message Matters, [in our blog](#).

COP26 preparation

We're already working to ensure that Scotland's renewable energy industry is highlighted at COP26 climate change talks in Glasgow next November.

Director of Communications and Strategy Nick Sharpe has met with UK Government in London twice, and we hosted a roundtable meeting with BEIS on industry involvement in the conference.

We'd love to hear from members who have ideas about making COP26 an impactful one for renewables. [Contact Nick](#) to discuss.

The Role of Public Sector Bodies in Tackling Climate Change

Scottish Renewables has [responded](#) to the Scottish Government's consultation on the [Role of Public Sector Bodies in Tackling Climate Change](#). The consultation was seeking views on whether public bodies should set targets for themselves to achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions and on proposed changes to mandatory reporting duties.

If you have any questions about our response, please contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

PLANNING & CONSENTS



SR Planning for Renewables seminar

Scottish Renewables organised a [seminar](#) which heard from Scotland's Chief Planner, Deputy Chief Planner, key decision-makers and experts in the field on the impact of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and the potential effect of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) on plan-making and future decisions affecting Scotland's renewable energy sector.

For more information contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).



SNH Aviation Lighting Workshop

Scottish Renewables participated in a workshop organised by SNH to discuss how aviation lighting is assessed through the EIA process as well as potential options to mitigate the visual impacts of aviation lights.

We are discussing next steps with our colleagues at RenewableUK and its Aviation Working Group. We are also meeting with SNH in mid-December to discuss this further.

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

Heads of Planning Scotland meeting

Scottish Renewables Chief Executive Claire Mack presented at a Heads of Planning Scotland meeting on the role of the planning system in delivering net-zero, as well as threats and opportunities of planning reforms such as National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4).

For more information contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).

Reviewing and Extending Permitted Development Rights

The Scottish Government is [seeking feedback](#) on its proposed work programme for substantially reviewing and extending Permitted Development Rights (PDR) in Scotland.

Following the outcome of this initial stage, the Scottish Government will undertake further stakeholder engagement and public consultation on any specific changes proposed to PDR for particular development types.

The deadline for responding is January 28. If you have any comments on this consultation, please contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES



Media reaction: Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind contracts

An announcement last month set out which companies will work to build the Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm, 15km off the Fife coast.

[Responding](#), Claire Mack, Chief Executive at Scottish Renewables, said: "Today's announcement is great news for offshore wind in Scotland and shows what can be achieved when developers, supply chain and government work together."

Media reaction: WindEurope offshore wind report

A new WindEurope report 'Our energy, our future', released last month, concluded that the EU Commission's offshore wind goals – between 230 and 450GW by 2050 – are achievable provided the right grid investment and spatial planning strategies are implemented.

[Responding](#), Fabrice Leveque, Senior Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables, said: "These new figures are very ambitious, but demonstrate the kind of thinking which countries across the world must now embrace if we are to deploy more renewable energy solutions to tackle the climate emergency."



Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council

The Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council, on which SR CEO Claire Mack sits, met last month. The group reflected on [its launch in October](#) and discussed plans for workstreams going forward.

In addition, SR coordinated a Barriers to Deployment Environmental Sub-Group meeting to contribute to the Scotland-wide response to the Offshore Wind Sector Deal. This Sub-Group feeds into the SOWEC Barriers to Deployment in Scotland workstream, which Claire leads. There are limited spaces available for those interested in joining the group. For more information contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).

Conservation Action Fund - Working Group meeting

Scottish Renewables participated in a Working Group meeting to discuss the details of a proposal to establish a fund to help the offshore wind sector contribute to marine conservation and restoration actions. The meeting brought together the offshore wind industry, RSPB Scotland, Marine Scotland and SNH.

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



SMP HRA Steering Group meeting

As part of our response to the forthcoming consultation on the Sectoral Marine Plan (SMP) for Offshore Wind Energy, Scottish Renewables coordinated a kick-off Steering Group meeting to consider our response to the SMP Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). This work is being led by Sally Kazer of GoBe consultants.

For more information contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).

Consultation on Scottish Offshore Renewables Decommissioning Guidance

Marine Scotland has launched a [consultation](#) on its draft Offshore Renewables Decommissioning Guidance. Please send any initial comments on this to [Stephanie Conesa](#) by January 20 to enable us to formulate our response. This consultation closes March 16.

Marine Scotland will also hold a consultation event on January 31 at Atlantic Quay in Glasgow. If you are interested in attending please [register your interest by email](#).

Offshore Wind Policy Statement

The Scottish Government will be consulting on a draft Offshore Wind Policy Statement alongside the forthcoming Sectoral Marine Plan consultation. The statement will set out the Government's aspirations for the sector, and we have met officials to discuss.

Contact [Fabrice Leveque](#) if you'd like to know more.

ScotWind Update

Crown Estate Scotland has published an [update on the ScotWind Leasing process](#). The update reiterates the commitment made in September 2019 to align timescales for ScotWind Leasing with Marine Scotland's Sectoral Marine Planning process. The submission window for applications to ScotWind Leasing will close after the Sectoral Marine Plan is finalised and adopted.

The intended timings for ScotWind Leasing have not changed since the September 2019 update. A further update on progress of this ongoing work and on ScotWind Leasing timings are expected early in the New Year. If you have any questions about this please contact [Fabrice Leveque](#).

ONSHORE RENEWABLES





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

A new study by Scottish Renewables showed that almost 50 wind farms which could power the equivalent of 850,000 homes risk losing vital planning permission unless a political ban on their access to the energy market is lifted.

The new study came as the UK's only wind turbine tower manufacturer, CS Wind, announced that market conditions means that it will cut three-quarters of its Argyll workforce. Full release [here](#).

LOW-CARBON HEAT



Scotland poised for Scandi-style heating revolution

Last month saw the publication of '[Piping Hot](#)', our new policy report on how the Scottish Government could support the deployment of low-carbon heat networks. This launched alongside [new research](#) that uncovered 46 potential projects in Scotland's seven cities. The reports were covered by the [Times](#), [Herald](#) and STV, and were also presented to Scotland's Energy Minister.

The Scottish Government has also published an [interim recommendations report](#) from a working group that SR attended over the summer; the report echoes our call for licensing, exclusive zones and measure to de-risk demand. Speak to [Fabrice Leveque](#) to find out more.



Scottish New-build Standards

The Scottish Government recently announced that all new homes will have to use 'renewable or low-carbon heat' from 2024.

SR met with officials last month, who confirmed that a consultation will be issued in Spring 2020 on new standards for domestic and non-domestic buildings, with interim updates implemented in 2021 before the full policy enters force in 2024.

Contact [Fabrice Leveque](#) to find out more.

ECONOMICS & MARKETS



Diary date: Economics & Markets Forum

Our first Forum of 2020 will be Economics & Markets, on the afternoon of Wednesday February 5.

With the election outcome clear and possible Brexit deadline passed, we'll be assessing the state of play for UK policies and mechanisms, including the Energy White Paper and potential CfD review.

We'll send out an Eventbrite invitation in the coming weeks.

Ofgem letter on CfD language

Following concerns raised by members we have written to Ofgem to clarify that its use of the word 'subsidy' to describe contracts awarded through the CfD scheme is misleading.

We will keep members updated on Ofgem's reply. Please contact [Nick Sharpe](#) if you would like to discuss.

GRID & SYSTEMS



Local Energy Policy Statement

Scottish Renewables has [responded](#) to a consultation on the Scottish Government's [Local Energy Policy Statement](#) which was published last month.

The statement sets out a series of key principles and outcomes to be considered during the development of future local energy systems and sectoral activity.

If you would like to discuss our response in further detail, please contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

Targeted Charging Review

Ofgem has published its final decision on the TCR, going ahead with partial BSUoS reform, to be implemented in 2021 for transmission and 2022 for distribution. Morag Watson, Director of Policy, [responded](#).

A second Balancing Charges Taskforce will look further at aspects of this reform in the first half of 2020. We have commissioned a detailed piece of work looking at the impact of these changes on all generators, together with the other proposed access charging reforms.

This will be published early in 2020 and will add weight to our advocacy on this important topic. Contact [Ben Miller](#) if you'd like to discuss.

Media reaction: Energy Networks for the Future report

[Responding](#) to the release of new paper, Energy Networks for the Future, which highlights the need for a new partnership between the public and private sector to deliver the energy infrastructure needed to achieve net-zero decarbonisation; Senior Policy Manager Ben Miller said: "This

new report from Regen and Scottish Power Energy Networks explores the ingredients needed for a smarter, greener grid which could better support the deployment of renewable energy in Scotland."

Scottish Parliament Energy Inquiry

The Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee at Holyrood has launched an energy inquiry with three strands: local energy, electric vehicles, and the RSE's Future Energy report.

We have already met with the Committee's clerks and will be putting together evidence for the deadline of January 10, so do [browse the questions](#) and contact [Ben Miller](#) if you'd like to discuss.

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