

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



scottishrenewables

MONTHLY BRIEFING

MARCH 2020

Dear member,

For five years Scottish Renewables has made one policy issue central to our engagement with UK Government: the reinstatement of access to the Contracts for Difference mechanism for onshore wind and large solar PV.

This week Ministers responded, acknowledging that "ending our contribution to climate change means making the most of every technology available".

2021's auction will now be open to all, with a consultation - to which SR will of course respond - setting out proposals to support innovative technology, like tidal and wave power and floating wind, too.

Read more about everything we've done on this vital issue by clicking [the infographic to the right](#), and see the Onshore Renewables and Planning & Consents sections below for some of our future work on enabling a positive development environment for this key technology.

And please do get in touch with our Director of Policy, Morag Watson, if you'd like to discuss our future work in this area.



Claire Mack

Claire Mack

Chief Executive

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GENERAL



COP26 roundtable and reception

Director of Communications and Strategy Nick Sharpe took part in a roundtable on COP26, chaired by Moray MP Douglas Ross and organised by CBI Scotland.

The event, in Westminster, discussed business's contributions to the event and its use as both a showcase for Scottish climate change mitigation and a chance to push UK governments and businesses on further action.

At a reception afterwards SR discussed onshore wind with Mr Ross, as well as our work across all renewable energy technologies with other MPs including SNP Energy Spokesperson Drew Hendry.

To discuss our work on COP26, please [contact Nick](#).

Westminster Select Committee engagement

Following the December 2019 General Election, chairs and members of the House of Commons committees are currently being appointed.

We have written to members of the Business, Energy and Industrial Committee, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, and will be writing to the Scottish Affairs Committee, seeking opportunities for on-going engagement on our key priorities for this Parliament.

Contact [Ben Walker](#) to discuss.



Join the SR Policy team

The news that Fabrice Leveque is moving to a role with WWF Scotland may already have reached you. We are now [recruiting for a replacement Senior Policy Manager](#) as well as [adding a new Policy Research and Support Officer role](#). If you are interested in one of these roles, or know someone who is, please apply by 9am, Monday March 16.

Scottish Conservatives engagement

SR CEO Claire Mack met Murdo Fraser MSP last month, primarily to discuss potential development in offshore wind in Scotland. Mr Fraser, MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife, was interested in future sites and the opportunities which could develop for local supply chain companies.

The Scottish Conservative energy inquiry which launched recently was also a topic for discussion, and Scottish Renewables will provide an input into this as part of our 2021 Scottish Parliamentary Manifesto development process. Claire also gave an overview of industry views on the possible impacts of Brexit on the sector.

Contact [Ben Walker](#) to discuss.

Blog: What future for energy in rural Scotland?

“By 2032 at least 30% of all cars are likely to be electric. The range of these advanced EVs will be more than 400 miles on a single charge.”

We published [this blog](#) from Jeremy Sainsbury, Director at Natural Power, ahead of our Transport Conference, which was held on February 19.



News release: Renewable energy tops growth prediction poll

New research released by SR in February showed more MSPs cite renewable energy as an industry with high growth potential than any other.

Claire Mack, Chief Executive of industry body Scottish Renewables, told how the independent research demonstrated that “a low-carbon energy system powered by renewables will be the engine of our future economic growth”.

Read [the full release on our website](#) and [some of the media coverage in The National](#).

PLANNING & CONSENTS



SR NPF4 Position Paper submitted

After one of the most complex policy development processes in recent years, [Scottish Renewables' Position Statement on National Planning Framework 4 \(NPF4\)](#) has been finalised and submitted to the Scottish Government's [Call for Ideas](#) on NPF4. Our Position Statement will form the basis of an advocacy campaign with key stakeholders to build awareness and support for our policy asks.

We have already begun engagement with the Scottish Government's Wind Energy Policy and Development Team, Planning & Architecture Team and NPF4 Team, and will continue to work with them and other key stakeholders on the development of NPF4 over the coming months.

To discuss, please contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).

Consultation response: Planning performance

Scottish Renewables has responded to the Scottish Government's [consultation](#) on Planning Performance and Fees, commenting on proposals for a new approach to measuring the performance of planning authorities, the role of the planning improvement coordinator and a revised planning fees structure. Our response is [available on our website](#).

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

NPF4 think piece

Last year Scottish Government asked planning stakeholders to provide think piece contributions on Scotland 2050 to stimulate discussion and debate during the early engagement period and to help stakeholders to think about priorities for NPF4.

SR Policy Manager Stephanie Conesa's article on [planning for net zero](#) is now live on the [Transforming Planning website](#). If you would like to discuss this, please contact [Stephanie](#).

Meeting with SG Wind Energy Policy and Development team

SR Director of Policy Morag Watson and Policy Manager Stephanie Conesa met with the Scottish Government's Wind Energy Policy and Development Team to discuss Eskdalemuir, an assessment of renewable energy capacity needed in Scotland to meet net-zero targets and the Scottish Onshore & Aviation Ministerial Group.

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



NPF4 Scotplan 2050 Roadshow

As part of Scottish Government's [Programme for Engagement](#), the government is hosting a [NPF4 Scotplan 2050 Roadshow](#) offering general drop in sessions where attendees will have the opportunity to speak to the NPF4 Team, as well as facilitated workshops where attendees can discuss key issues with other stakeholders.

Events are taking place all over Scotland and we encourage SR members to participate in these sessions and use [the SR Position Statement on NPF4](#) as the basis of their input.

GRID & SYSTEMS



Scottish Government Networks Vision Summit

Claire Mack gave a keynote speech on behalf of generators as part of this Scottish Government event, which brought stakeholders together with representatives of all the network operators and Ofgem. In her comments she focused on existing barriers to renewables expansion, including network charging and grid access, as well as making the case for more anticipatory investment in infrastructure. A report of the summit is expected to be published.

If you would like to discuss, please contact [Ben Miller](#).



Rewarding Flexibility for the Value it Provides to the Electricity System event

Scottish Renewables attended an event hosted by BEIS on 'Rewarding Flexibility for the Value it Provides to the Electricity System' in February.

The event covered a discussion on the current status of flexibility signals, as well as an update from the ENA and

National Grid ESO on their key deliverables in 2020. If you would like to discuss, please contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

DER Connections Steering Group

Scottish Renewables participated in the latest meeting of the DER Connections Steering Group on February 20.

The group heard updates on the Open Networks Project, including the System Wide Resource Register and interactivity and queue management processes, as well as discussing connection offer expenses and Incentive on Connections Engagement. Contact [Cara Dalziel](#) for further information.

Constraint payments

The issue of constraint payments has risen up the media agenda in recent weeks, pushed by issues with the Western Link HVDC cable.

We're working on a package of measures to address misconceptions, including digital tactics to counter popular myths plus close working with traditional media outlets to ensure our industry's voice is heard.

Please contact [Nick Sharpe](#) with any questions, and do always refer interested stakeholders to [our blog on why these payments are a necessary part of our evolving energy system](#).

EnergyUK's report

Following on from the blackout event of August 8, EnergyUK, on behalf of E3C, has produced a [report](#) outlining the key lessons learnt from affected generators, and potential actions and considerations for similar parties to help mitigate such events in the future.

EnergyUK is looking to share further information when available as investigations continue. If you have any questions, contact [Matthew Dietz, Energy UK](#).

DER Cyber Security Connection Guidance Webinar

Actica Consulting, on behalf of BEIS and the Energy Networks Association, will be hosting a webinar on Tuesday March 10 to introduce their draft DER Cyber Security Connection



Draft Consultation Response - Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind

We have published the [first draft of our response](#) to a consultation on the Scottish Government's draft [Sectoral Marine Plan \(SMP\) for offshore wind](#).

Please send any comments to [Fabrice Leveque](#) as soon as possible; we will circulate a revised draft on March 10.

Draft Consultation Response - Offshore Wind Policy Statement

We have published the [first draft of our response](#) to a consultation on the Scottish Government's draft [Offshore Wind Policy Statement](#).

Please send any comments to [Fabrice Leveque](#) as soon as possible; we will circulate a revised draft on March 10.

Offshore wind: Supply Chain Development Statements

Following the resignation of Finance Secretary Derek Mackay, SR is continuing to work to understand - and mitigate the potential impact of - the proposed Supply Chain Development Statement process which Scottish Government intends to apply through the upcoming ScotWind Leasing round.

We will be meeting with Energy Minister Paul Wheelhouse on this issue, as well as following a planned package of future work to demonstrate industry's commitment to developing a successful Scottish supply chain for offshore wind.

Contact [Ben Miller](#) to discuss.

Supporting SMP Research

We have commissioned additional analysis on behalf of our members to inform our response to the draft SMP. GoBe consultants have produced [an assessment of the Habitats Regulations Assessment \(HRA\)](#) and [a briefing on the derogations process](#) - please send comments to [Fabrice](#)

[Leveque](#) by March 6 so that they can be incorporated in the final versions of these documents.



Draft SMP - Additional Consultation Event in Kirkcudbright

Marine Scotland will be holding an additional consultation event for the draft Sectoral Marine Plan for offshore wind in Kirkcudbright on Monday March 9 between 13:00 and 20:00 (presentations and discussions will take place between 18:30 and 20:00).

Please contact SectoralMarinePlanning@gov.scot for more information.

Conservation Action Fund meeting

SR Policy Manager Stephanie Conesa participated in the third meeting of the Conservation Action Fund, coordinated by Marine Scotland, to discuss progress on engagement with other sectors and a proposal for securing a fund coordinator.

If you would like more information, please contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).

Marine Scotland Decommissioning Guidelines consultation

A joint submission to this important [consultation](#) is being drawn up in conjunction with RenewableUK, and a draft will be published on our website shortly. Please do contact [Ben Miller](#) with any comments on the guidelines. The final deadline is March 16.



BEIS Minister attends All-Party Group on Marine Energy

Scottish Renewables attended the APPG on Marine in Westminster, along with leading Scottish marine developers. Marine Energy Council members presented the industry's proposals for an Innovation PPA to Kwasi Kwarteng, the Minister of State at BEIS.

Following discussion, he asked for a further written briefing on the proposal. We will continue to work with our members to explore every opportunity to bring about revenue support.

Please do come along to our next Wave & Tidal Forum on March 18 - [registration is now open](#).

ONSHORE RENEWABLES



SHEPD Distributed Generation Forum

Scottish Renewables' Policy Manager Cara Dalziel attended SHEPD's bi-annual Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum on 25th February.

During the event, participants were provided with a rundown of current outage statistics within the network area, as well as an

update on outage planning processes. SHEPD also outlined proposals for its updated access policy, which will be open for consultation shortly.

Contact [Cara Dalziel](#) if you would like to discuss further.



Onshore wind - political action

Following welcome news that onshore wind is once again able to compete in the energy market SR has written to all Scottish MPs and MSPs outlining the benefits of this technology ahead of new developments coming forward in the planning system.

We will also be meeting Fergus Ewing, the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, to discuss the economic boost renewable energy can deliver across his portfolio.

Contact [Ben Walker](#), Public Affairs Manager, with any questions on this aspect of our work.

LOW-CARBON HEAT



New funding announced in Scottish Government Budget

A new £120 million 'Heat Transition Deal' has been [announced](#) by the Scottish Government that will provide a £50 million 'Heat Networks Early Adopters Fund' to local authorities, and £10 million for hydrogen heat projects. Use of the final £60m has yet to be confirmed and we are seeking to meet officials to understand more.

[Read our media reaction to the Budget](#), in which SR CEO Claire Mack said: "This package of measures will plug vital funding gaps and help Scotland build on its lead in rolling out innovative low-carbon heat projects."

Please contact [Fabrice Leveque](#) if you have any questions.

Heat Networks Bill unveiled

The Scottish Government has published [a draft of its Heat Networks Bill](#) which proposes to introduce a licence for heat network operation and measures to de-risk investment in the sector, something that we have been working hard on members' behalf to achieve. The [Bill](#) will now be scrutinised by the Scottish Parliament with assent hopefully granted by early 2021.

Please contact [Fabrice Leveque](#) if you have any questions.

ECONOMICS & MARKETS



CfD - changes for AR4

The announcement that onshore wind and solar projects will be able to take part in the next round of the Contracts for Difference auction was part of a [wider consultation](#) seeking views on a number of proposals to the next CfD Allocation Round 4, including, but not limited to:

- Creating a new 'Pot 3' solely for offshore wind
- Defining floating offshore wind as a separate eligible technology with a distinct administrative strike price
- Extending the delivery years from 2026 to March 31, 2030.
- Reviewing and strengthening the current policy on Supply Chain Plans
- Seeking views on barriers to storage co-located with CfD projects and amending the existing negative pricing rule

The consultation will be open until May 22 and Scottish Renewables will be responding. Please contact [Cara Dalziel](#) if you would like to provide input.

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