

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



scottishrenewables  
**MONTHLY BRIEFING**  
APRIL 2020

**Dear member,**

What a difference a month makes. March's Monthly Briefing email focussed on the reinstatement of access to the Contracts for Difference mechanism for onshore wind and large solar PV - our most prominent UK Government policy position for five years.

Now, a new threat has emerged: the upheaval caused by the global coronavirus pandemic.

Rest assured that while SR staff are all now working from home, our efforts on your behalf continue.



In fact, we've opened a new member Industry Resilience Forum, which currently meets weekly, to give you the best possible access to governments in Westminster and Edinburgh as the crisis progresses.

I look forward to speaking with you on those calls - details of which are emailed to members who're registered for any of our Forums - and hearing how we can use our strengthened links to both governments to enable the continued success of your businesses.



Claire Mack  
**Chief Executive**

[chiefexecutive@scottishrenewables.com](mailto:chiefexecutive@scottishrenewables.com)

0141 353 4980

GENERAL



## Industry Resilience Forum

As mentioned in the introduction to this email, our new Industry Resilience Forum is currently being held every Friday.

In it we update on the work we've done on your behalf during the coronavirus pandemic, as well as using Slido to gauge how your organisations are faring - and which issues we need to focus our attention on in the coming days.

[Sign up for Friday's video call through Eventbrite](#), and see [our most recent update email](#) for positions on some of the high-level issues faced by our members.

## Changes to our events programme

In order to protect the health of our members, delegates and suppliers, we have chosen to reschedule, postpone or cancel a number of our more imminent events.

The headlines are:

- Annual Conference (was March 24-25, Edinburgh): **rescheduled** to August 31 – September 1, Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh.
- Hydro Conference (May 6, Perth): **postponed**. Please [indicate here](#) if you would be interested in taking part in a free, virtual version of this event.
- Young Professionals Green Energy Awards 2020 (21 May, Glasgow): **rescheduled** to the week beginning June 15 in a new format of engaging online activity. You can read more about our plans [here](#).
- Onshore Wind Conference 2020 (9 June, Glasgow) **postponed**. Please [indicate here](#) if you would be interested in taking part in an onshore wind themed event later in the year.

For more information please refer to the [Q&A document](#) on our website, or see the [events page](#) for a full list of what's happening to individual events.

## Young Professionals Green Energy Awards: definitely NOT cancelled

We've now committed to holding the 2020 Young Professionals Green Energy Awards – in a new format of engaging online activity, with an extended nominations deadline. [This new blog](#) outlines what we have planned so far to make sure we recognise our future industry leaders.

If you know someone who's worked in the industry for five years or fewer and has done amazing things - or, of course, if you are that person - then nominate now before the new, extended deadline of 5pm on April 17. It's fast, it's free and it couldn't really be any easier.

For more information about #YPGEA20, email [Carol Burns](#).



## Meeting with Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands

SR Chief Executive Claire Mack met with Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, for a regular industry update. Recognising the current public health crisis this meeting took place via teleconference. Key policy issues which were raised with the Minister included planning and NPF4, supply chain, Sectoral Marine Plan and renewable heat.

If you would like to discuss this please contact [Ben Walker](#)

## MSP engagement

Despite the current climate, we have been continuing to advance our political engagement with key MSPs.

Claire Mack and Nick Sharpe joined a teleconference with Annie Wells MSP, Deputy Leader of the Scottish Conservatives and Environment, Climate Change, Land Reform and COP26 introducing her to the renewable industry in Scotland. Morag Watson and Ben Miller also held a

teleconference with Mark Ruskell MSP, Climate, Energy, Environment, Food and Farming lead for the Green Party, to discuss routes to market for onshore wind.

If you would like to discuss this please contact [Ben Walker](#)

### **Climate Change Plan update delayed**

Publication of the update to the Scottish Government's Climate Action Plan has been delayed due to the coronavirus.

Work on the update is continuing but it will not be laid before Parliament on 30 April as planned. An update from Climate Change Secretary Roseanna Cunningham can be found [here](#).



### **Blog: A beginner's guide to COP26**

COP26 has now been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic and is expected to take place in Glasgow in mid-2021, with the dates still to be confirmed by the UN. [This blog](#) outlines what COP26 is, and why it is so important.

### **Blog: Ventilators: help needed - can you do more than you think?**

The UK Government is calling for businesses to help make NHS ventilators to tackle the coronavirus outbreak. We published [this blog](#) for more information on which organisations may be able to help.

### **Positive news from SR**

We released two items of positive news on the same day at the end of March:

- Community groups across Scotland are using onshore wind community benefit funds to help those in need in coronavirus pandemic. Read the full news release [here](#).

- [New figures show the equivalent of 90% of Scotland's electricity consumption now comes from renewable sources](#) - with the 100% by 2020 target still within reach.

Both received widespread media coverage. Please contact [Nick Sharpe](#) or [Laura Russell](#) if you'd like to get involved in our work communicating positive news about our industry to the media.



## PLANNING & CONSENTS



### Meeting with Callum McCaig

Scottish Renewables met with Special Advisor for Finance, Local Government, Energy and Planning, Callum McCaig, to discuss key priorities for NPF4, the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy, supply chain development and the impact of COVID-19 on industry.

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

### National Peatland Group meeting

Director of Policy Morag Watson and Policy Manager Stephanie Conesa participated in an NPG meeting, highlighting the peatland restoration and management work that our members have undertaken on wind farm sites.

The Group agreed an update of the carbon calculator and addressing gaps in data collection and usage as key priorities. SR will be working with the Group and with our members to progress this work.

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

### NPF4 Policy Advisory Group meeting

The SR NPF4 Policy Advisory Group met to discuss advocacy strategies and opportunities throughout the NPF4 process, as well as updates on progress.

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

The image shows a website banner for 'Transforming Planning'. At the top left is the logo for 'Transforming Planning' with the Scottish Government logo below it. To the right is a navigation menu with four items: 'National Planning Framework', 'Planning Reform', 'Digital Planning', and 'News'. Below the navigation is a large teal banner with the text 'A forward-looking planning system that works for everyone'. Underneath the banner is a paragraph of text: 'Planning in Scotland is undergoing a substantial transformation. This has a wide reach across all aspects of how Scotland's planning system operates. This means changes to legislation, to national planning priorities and policy, and to the digital systems that can enable better collaboration and more efficient processes - all to help planning to lead and manage the development and use of Scotland's land in the long-term public interest. It is taking great commitment from people who get involved in planning from across all different interests and perspectives to help make this transformation happen. Everyone can help to shape the new planning system and the high-quality development it will deliver. On transformingplanning.scot, you can get involved and keep up-to-date with events and progress towards stronger, collaborative and effective planning.' Below this text are three columns, each with a heading and a short paragraph: 'National Planning Framework' (National Planning Framework 4 will be a long term plan for development and infrastructure in Scotland looking to 2050.), 'Planning Reform' (The legislation which gives direction to our planning processes and decision-making is changing. We have a new Planning Act, but there's plenty still happening to design and implement the new planning system.), and 'Digital Planning' (The Digital Planning programme is working towards the delivery of new services and systems, putting data and technology at the heart of planning).

### SG NPF4 Call for Ideas deadline extended to April 30

In light of current events, including the need to cancel its final seven NPF4 roadshow events, the Scottish Government has extended the [Call for Ideas](#) deadline from March 31 to April 30.

Further information and resources are available on the [Transforming Planning](#) website. At this stage SG still aims to consult on a draft NPF4 in September 2020.

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

## Scottish Wind farm Bird Steering Group meeting

Director of Policy Morag Watson and Policy Manager Stephanie Conesa participated in a SWBSG meeting to discuss the future of the Group. SR will be working with relevant members to agree key priorities for the group going forward, as well as to contribute to an update of the Group's Terms of Reference.

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

## GRID & SYSTEMS



### Grid & Systems Member Forum, April 21

The latest Scottish Renewables Grid & Systems Forum will take place on April 21, 2pm - 4pm. The Forum will provide an opportunity for members to hear from Baringa Partners LLP on [recent research](#) commissioned by Scottish Renewables and RenewableUK examining the current range of grid charging reforms and their likely combined impact on the renewables industry. There will also be the opportunity to ask questions and raise any additional issues affecting grid and systems.

Registration is open via [Eventbrite](#). If you would like to discuss, contact [Cara Dalziel](#).



### National Grid ESO: Weekly COVID-19 Preparedness Webinars

National Grid ESO will be running a weekly webinar to provide an update on the actions taken by the Electricity National Control Centre in response to the coronavirus restrictions. The webinars will take place every Wednesday at 2pm. If you are interested in attending, please sign up via [National Grid's website](#).

If you would like to discuss, contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

## **SSEN Customer Connections Steering Panel**

On March 17, SR Policy Manager Cara Dalziel attended SSEN's Customer Connections Steering Panel. The meeting provided an overview of SSEN's Incentive on Connections Engagement strategy relevant to distribution generation customers for 2020/21 and attendees were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed commitments.

If you would like to discuss, contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

## **Changes to Reference Node**

Ofgem is seeking feedback on [changes](#) to the demand-weighted distribution reference node. Ofgem is asking that industry provide a clear justification for any changes to the current reference node approach, rather than outlining specific outcomes of any individual change option. Ofgem will be accepting submissions until April 30.

Please contact [Cara Dalziel](#) if you would like to discuss.

**OFFSHORE RENEWABLES**



## **Final submissions to SMP and Policy Statement consultations**

Following extensive member consultation over recent months, our final responses to the [Sectoral Marine Plan](#) and [Offshore Wind Policy Statement](#) are now available online. Please note that the deadline for the Policy Statement consultation has been extended until April 8 in light of the organisational challenges being faced by many at present.

## **SR/RUK submission to Marine Scotland decommissioning guidelines**



After discussion in various member Forums, we were able to submit our final response to the Scottish offshore renewable energy decommissioning guidelines, which you can find online [here](#).

We are seeking to set up a follow up discussion between Marine Scotland and those members who fed into the response. Contact [Ben Miller](#) for more details.

## Wave and Tidal Forum

We hosted a well-attended member forum to discuss a wide range of policy topics concerning the future of marine renewables, from the CfD consultation through to Scottish Government support. Contact [Ben Miller](#) for more details.

## Floating wind strategy

We held a very constructive floating wind strategy discussion with key members at the end of March to agree next steps following the successful Industry Vision report of late last year.

Please do contact [Ben Miller](#) if you would like to be involved as we increase our activity in this exciting area.

## Media reaction: Floating wind funding announced

[Responding to news](#) that the Floating Wind Technology Acceleration Competition, run by the Carbon Trust's Floating Wind Joint Industry Project, has announced eight technologies are to receive a share of £1 million Scottish Government funding and developer support, Ben Miller, Senior Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables, said: "Floating wind technology provides us with another tool to tap Scotland's outstanding offshore renewable energy resource.

"As home to the world's first floating offshore wind farm we're already leading the way, and today's announcement represents welcome investment in the development of the technologies which will be needed if Scotland is to retain that world lead."

**ONSHORE RENEWABLES**



**New virtual hydro event - register your interest**

We have taken the difficult decision to postpone the Hydro Conference & Exhibition, which was due to take place in Perth on May 6. You can find out more about this decision in our [Q&A document](#).

We are exploring holding a revised virtual hydro event to enable us to further support our members and engage with industry during this challenging time. To indicate your interest in a virtual version of this event, please email [Carol Burns](#).



### **Blog: Why that wind turbine isn't turning**

Media reports around constraint payments create significant reputational damage to our industry, and SR has always been focussed on combating them at source: briefing journalists and editors to rebut misinformation and working with National Grid and other stakeholders to understand the most up-to-date information on the topic.

We are now escalating that action to ensure not just that the facts about balancing payments are available, but that they are available to the right audience.

[This blog](#) by Nick Sharpe, Director of Communications and Strategy, explains constraint payments, and their importance in keeping the cost of the system as low as possible for consumers.

Contact [Nick Sharpe](#) for more information on our work in this area.

**LOW-CARBON HEAT**



## Media Reaction: Heat Networks Bill laid before Scottish Parliament

[Responding](#) to news that the Scottish Government's Heat Networks Bill has been laid before Parliament, Fabrice Leveque, Senior Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables, said: "This draft Bill is a crucial step on the road to net-zero climate emissions for Scotland. Its implementation will make it easier to build heat networks in our city centres, delivering renewable heat from the air, ground and sewers directly to homes and offices via a network of hot water pipes, either under or above ground."

## Blog: How the end of gas spells opportunity for Scotland's tradespeople

"Scotland's tradespeople are on the brink of an enormous opportunity. Grasping it would help meet our tough climate change targets."

CEO Claire Mack looks to the future of low-carbon heat in Scotland in [this blog](#).



## ECONOMICS & MARKETS



### Impact of coronavirus restrictions on Feed-in Tariff deadlines

SR has been made aware of the impact coronavirus restrictions are having on the ability for projects to meet Feed-in Tariff (FIT) deadlines.

BEIS is aware of the issue and are considering options to assess what can be done. In the meantime, BEIS has advised that all those developing projects keep a paper trail and gather

evidence showing the direct impact the coronavirus restrictions are having on the ability to progress a project. We will seek to update members further once more details become available.

If you would like to discuss, contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

## **Non-Domestic Rates Reform**

A [letter](#) from Kate Forbes MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance has been published outlining a number of changes to the Non-Domestic Rates system.

These reforms include the introduction of civil penalties for failure to provide information requested by assessors within 28 days, as well as a new two-step appeals system. Revaluations will also be carried out more frequently – changing to every three years instead of five from 1 April 2022.

If you would like to discuss, contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)