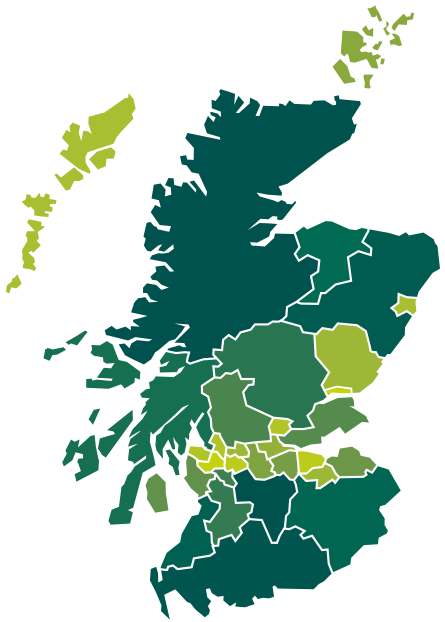
scottish renewables

RENEWABLE ENERGY'S RURAL IMPACTS



total installed renewable electricity generation capacity[5]

3MW — 2,600MW

A guide to the benefits delivered by renewable energy projects across Scotland.

www.scottishrenewables.com

A report for ScottishPower Renewables by BVG Associates[2] assessed the UK, Scotland and local economic benefits created by eight onshore wind farms in south west Scotland commissioned between 2016 and 2017.

The report covers four predominantly rural local authority areas: Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire and South Ayrshire.

It found that the projects will provide, over their 25-year lifetimes:

- **£1.6 billion in investment**
- **51% Scottish content, including 16% local (south west Scotland) content**
- **£297 million local value-added**
- **7,768 local years of full-time-equivalent employment**
- **£59 million in voluntary community benefit funding.**

Local content identified in the report, as in most onshore renewable energy developments, comes from three main sources: local suppliers working on the wind farms; accommodation for workers working on the wind farms and community benefit payments, rent and rates.

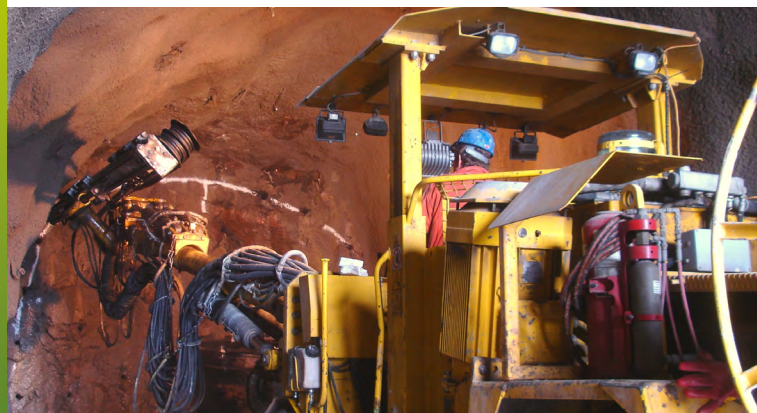
CREDIT: SCOTTISHPOWER RENEWABLES

INDEPENDENT POLLING IN 2018 SHOWED 66% OF RURAL SCOTS SUPPORT THE USE OF ONSHORE WIND ENERGY, WITH 22% SAYING THEY HAVE NO OPINION OR DON'T KNOW

Three wind farms and a hydropower station in the Great Glen, built between 2012 and 2018, will generate £1.2 billion for Scotland's economy over their lifetime, with £360 million of that staying in the local area and another £120 million being added to the wider Highland economy, research carried out by SSE Renewables in 2020 found.

The development, construction and operation of Stronelairg, Bhlaraidh and Dunmaglass wind farms and Glendoe hydro station saw the establishment and operation of a local quarry and concrete plant and activity in numerous sectors including civil and electrical engineering, environmental and technical evaluation and monitoring, plant hire, fencing and hospitality.

While the development phase of the projects supported 1,860 years of employment in the Highlands, the projects' 25-year operational phase will support 170 jobs in the Highlands, 130 of which will be in the Great Glen itself.



CREDIT: BEATRICE OFFSHORE WINDFARM LTD (BOWL)

The Caithness-Moray electricity transmission link is a £970 million, 70-mile undersea cable installed by SHE Transmission over four years and completed in 2019. It was the largest investment in the north of Scotland's electricity network since the hydro development era of the 1950s.

Projects like Caithness-Moray, and the economic benefits they deliver, exist because Scotland's diverse geography means we must transmit power from areas with renewable energy resource – winds, tides and rainfall – to where it is needed.

The Caithness-Moray scheme alone employed 217 locally-resident workers and used 91,000 bed nights in Caithness, Sutherland and Moray, worth an estimated £4.5 million.

Around 2,500 organisations are registered on the Open4Business Highlands and Islands portal, established by SSE in 2012 and taken over by Highlands and Islands Enterprise in 2018. £47 million of contracts were awarded to businesses through the portal during the Caithness-Moray project. Companies which benefited include AJ Engineering (Forres, structural steel work); MM Miller (Wick, civil engineering); Clean Crazy (Thurso, cleaning services) and Edward MacKay (Brora, civil engineering)[4].

The Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm remains the largest private sector investment in Scottish history.

A report[3] by SSE Renewables found that taking total spend on development, construction and operations and maintenance into account, it is expected that Scottish companies will secure contracts worth £2 billion from Beatrice – 39% of the project spend.

Beatrice supported 7,180 years of employment in Scotland during its development and construction phases.

And this is long-term, sustainable employment: the wind farm's circa 20-year operations phase will create £34 million of value for Scotland and support 370 jobs, 100 of which will be permanent posts in Wick – one of the UK's most remote mainland communities.

CREDIT: SSEN TRANSMISSION

CREDIT: COLIN KELDIE

Scotland leads the world in the development and testing of tidal and wave energy devices.

The European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney has hosted more of these innovative machines than anywhere else on the globe, and the 40 marine renewables-related businesses which service the sector currently employ around 200 people locally.

During the operating life of the European Marine Energy Centre to 2017 it is calculated that the GVA added to local economies is:

- **Orkney: £98.3 million**
- **Highlands & Islands: £116.3 million**
- **Scotland: £213.6 million**
- **UK: £284.7 million**

In addition, visits to Orkney to see EMEC's facilities and the support services available there have totalled around 5,250 visitor nights between 2003 and 2017[1].

1 EMEC Socio-Economic Report, May 2019
2 BVG Associates, Economic benefits from onshore wind farms, September 2017
3 Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Limited project: Socio-economic impact report, July 2017
4 Caithness-Moray Transmission Project: Delivering Economic and Social Benefits report
5 BEIS regional statistics, 2018