

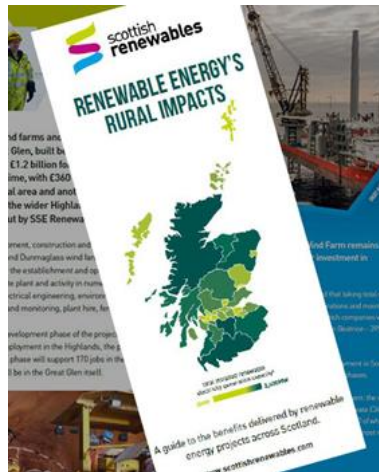
A round-up of the work SR is doing
on your behalf



Dear member,

Hopefully you caught some of the [media coverage](#) following the launch of a [new Scottish Renewables](#) publication last month. It provides an easy-to-digest summary of the benefits of renewable energy to rural Scotland and aims to show the long-term, year-round impacts of our industry in remote parts of the country.

The document contains summaries of five case studies carried out by SR members in recent years and shows the impacts of wind, marine and hydro projects from Dumfries and Galloway to Orkney.



We were pleased to see rural MSPs and Scotland's Energy Minister support the publication on social media, as well as several members. If you'd like to join them, you can retweet [this post](#) or make your own using [this graphic](#). As ever, your support is crucial to enable us to spread the good news stories which are so prevalent in our industry as widely as possible.

If you'd like to chat more about the document, or how you can get involved in our communications work in future, please do [drop me a line](#) or pick up the phone.

Nick Sharpe

Director of Communications and Strategy

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GENERAL



HM Treasury meeting

Claire Mack and Nick Sharpe met with HM Treasury last month to update on a range of reserved policy issues.

The timing and capacity of the next CfD auction and future support - both financial and non-financial - for renewable heat were discussed, as well as the opportunity to boost exports from the sector and the need to begin planning for skills transfer from carbon-intensive industries during the energy transition.

Scotland's ability to feed into the UK Government's 'levelling-up' campaign was also on the agenda, with the rural impacts document, detailed in the introduction to this email, used as the crux of discussions.

Green recovery engagement

Despite the summer recess we're continuing to advocate for renewable energy to be at the centre of Scotland's green recovery from coronavirus (read more about our plans in [this press release](#)).

Last month we hosted virtual roundtables with Scottish Labour Shadow Cabinet MSPs and with SNP backbench MSPs on the priorities needed for renewable energy to support a green recovery. We've also met with Liam McArthur MSP, Scottish Liberal Democrat Energy spokesperson and Ian Murray MP, Labour Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, to discuss renewables' role in our economic recovery.

[Contact Ben Walker to discuss.](#)

Media release: UK's largest renewable energy awards to be held in hybrid format

Nominations are [now open](#) for the [Scottish Green Energy Awards 2020](#), which will be held in a hybrid format, with a socially-distanced physical awards ceremony and live-stream to comply with the latest government guidelines.

Claire Mack, Chief Executive of Scottish Renewables, said:
“Scotland’s renewable energy industry is playing a critical role in our fight against climate change. The Scottish Green Energy Awards give us an opportunity to take a step back and celebrate the truly incredible work being done by our industry as we work towards net-zero.”

Read our full press release [here](#), and [nominate now!](#)



Media reaction: UK research and development roadmap published

The UK Government has published the '[UK Research and Development Roadmap](#)' on July 11 setting out the government's vision and ambition for science, research and innovation.

[Responding](#), Morag Watson, Director of Policy at Scottish Renewables, said: “We welcome the commitment of the UK Government to invest in research and development in technology such as zero-emission vehicles, hydrogen and carbon capture use and storage, which will help in tackling climate change.”

Scottish Renewables' Annual General Meeting and Member Forum

SR's AGM will be held via Zoom at 3pm on September 3, following our Annual Conference.

The AGM will be conducted by SR Chair Rob Forrest and will be followed by a Member Forum, where attendees will hear updates on recent work from Director of Policy Morag Watson and Nick Sharpe, Director of Communications and Strategy.

[Register on our website](#) before noon on September 2.

Media reaction: New report outlines an eight-point plan for Scotland's green recovery

The Climate Emergency Response Group released [this report](#) on July 13 outlining an eight-point plan for Scotland's Green Recovery.

[Responding](#), Morag Watson, Director of Policy at Scottish Renewables, said: "This report outlines pragmatic actions the Scottish Government could take as part of Scotland's green recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The eight proposals, in which renewable energy plays a key part, would capture many benefits including new jobs, improved health and well-being, as well as reducing carbon emissions."

PLANNING & CONSENTS



Letter to Minister: SPP Presumption for Sustainable Development

The Scottish Government has opened a consultation on [Scottish Planning Policy and Housing: Technical Consultation on Proposed Policy Amendments](#). Although not obvious from the title, this consultation proposes to remove the presumption in favour of sustainable development from Scottish Planning Policy.

This is of deep concern to the renewables industry and we have written a letter to Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, requesting an urgent meeting to address this issue. We are also adding this issue to the agendas of upcoming ministerial meetings and are working in collaboration with the CBI and Homes for Scotland to bring wider political pressure to bear.

If you have any questions please contact [Morag Watson](#).

SR LDP Policy Advisory Group meeting

Scottish Renewables' Local Development Plan (LDP) Policy Advisory Group (PAG) met earlier this month to discuss our approach to challenging LDP updates that seek to constrain renewable energy in ways that are at odds with Scottish Planning Policy (SPP).

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



SR consultation response: East Ayrshire LDP2 Main Issues Report

Scottish Renewables has responded to East Ayrshire Council's consultation on its [LDP2 Main Issues Report](#). SR's [response](#) is now available.

If you have any questions on the comments set out in our response contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).

SR consultation response: Aberdeenshire Council Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP) 2020

Scottish Renewables has responded to the consultation on [Aberdeenshire Council's Proposed Local Development Plan \(LDP\) 2020](#). This is now available on the SR website. Due to the Council's word limit this representation was split into three parts:

1. [General observations](#)
2. [Sections 7,10, 11 and 12](#)
3. [Section 13](#)

If you have any questions, contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).

South Ayrshire Modified Proposed Local Development Plan

South Ayrshire Council is currently consulting on its [Modified Proposed Local Development Plan \(MPLDP2\)](#). The Wind Energy section includes a Spatial Framework map showing Areas of Significant Protection and Areas of Potential for Wind farm Development (subject to detailed consideration against identified policy criteria), depicting over half the council area as unsuitable for wind farm development.

This consultation closes at 4pm on Friday, August 14.

Eskdalemuir meeting

The Eskdalemuir Working Group (EWG) met this month to hear from Xi Engineering which has been commissioned by the Scottish Government to conduct a technical headroom analysis for the region. Xi Engineering presented Phase 1 and 2 of its analysis and the EWG agreed there was merit in continuing with proposed Phases 3 and 4.

The Scottish Government has stated that it still considers the Eskdalemuir region to be of strategic importance for wind energy development and net-zero and is committed to finding a solution to the issue that sufficiently protects the interests of the MoD while allowing maximum deployment of wind energy.

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



DPEA Stakeholder meeting

SR Policy Manager [Stephanie Conesa](#) participated in the most recent DPEA Stakeholder Meeting. Virtual site visits, PIs and consultations, timescales for decision making and DPEA resourcing were all discussed.

If you would like to know more please get in touch.

SNH consultation on draft Landscape Sensitivity Assessment guidance

SNH has launched a [consultation](#) on its draft guidance for Landscape Sensitivity Assessments. This technical guidance is primarily aimed at landscape architects who would undertake Landscape Sensitivity Assessments.

Scottish Renewables is seeking consultancy support to develop its response. In the meantime, please send initial comments to [Stephanie Conesa](#) by COP Friday, August 14.

This consultation closes on September 8.

Scottish Renewables planning work in reNews

Scottish Renewables is mentioned in an [editorial](#) in the July issue of reNews. The article, "Scotland's Planning Frontline," recognises some of SR's key planning asks which are designed to enable further onshore wind development.



Scotland's planning frontline

Pressure for rapid action from the Scottish government to address planning obstacles limiting the build-out of onshore wind is mounting just as discussion of green routes to a post-pandemic economic recovery reaches a crescendo. The Committee on Climate Change has highlighted planning as a key lever of devolved governments and developers are keen for a supportive statement on tip heights to enable modern technology.

Trade body Scottish Renewables has fleshed out other options to give weight to net zero strategies, pushing for consenting in perpetuity, support for extensions and repowerings, along with measures to ensure timely decision-making on applications.

In that light, the coronavirus-induced delay to publication of a new national planning framework

to next year while understandable is disappointing, as is the adoption of case law that appears to have closed the door on using the Section 42 procedure to vary turbine specifications post-consent.

So it is reassuring Holyrood has confirmed it will consider and respond by the end of the month to all the recommendations of its Advisory Group on Economic Recovery for including more effective and accelerated planning and consenting processes.

That should give clues to Scotland's direction even before an interim statement from Planning Minister Kevin Stewart this autumn that is expected to highlight "opportunities" and potential policy changes to come in next year's National Planning Framework 4. Whether that will offer material support to developers in the shorter term is less clear.

Scottish Renewables in the Scottish Planner

SR Policy Manager [Stephanie Conesa](#) is featured in the new issue of the [Scottish Planner](#), RTPI Scotland's quarterly journal. The issue, entitled "National Planning Framework 4: A Route Map to the New Normal?" focusses on the upcoming NP4.

Stephanie's piece, "How can NPF4 help meet climate change targets?", sets out what is needed in NPF4 to achieve Scotland's climate change commitments.

It is now available to read as [a blog on SR's website](#).

SG Planning performance statistics 2019/2020

The Scottish Government has published its [annual Planning performance statistics 2019/2020](#). The report contains planning decision-making and timescales for April 2019 to March 2020, with historic data going back to 2012/13.

They show an increase in average decision time for major developments: 33.5 weeks in 2019/20, up from 32.6 weeks for the previous year.

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

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES



Consultation response: Supply Chain Development Statement engagement paper

Following several member discussions, we have submitted [our response](#) on behalf of industry to Crown Estate Scotland.

We are continuing to engage with CES about this aspect of ScotWind as it works to finalise the process. Please contact [Ben Miller](#) to discuss.

Floating Offshore Wind 2020

Scottish Renewables is once again working in partnership with RenewableUK to deliver [Floating Offshore Wind 2020](#). The event will return on October 7-8 and will take place virtually with delegates able to enjoy the new virtual conference centre equipped with an auditorium, exhibition hall and networking zone.

The event will explore opportunities for the supply chain, how cost reduction will be achieved, the role of innovation and the necessary advances in infrastructure to support this industry's growth. You can view the programme [online](#).

Exhibition stands and delegate passes are available for booking and SR Members are eligible to access the member rate by entering FLOAT20SRM as the discount code when [registering to attend](#). Anyone interested in taking part in the exhibition or sponsorship opportunities should contact [Carol Burns](#).



Fishing Management and Mitigation Strategy consultation

Marine Scotland is consulting on a [draft new FMMS](#) for offshore project developers. SR will be submitting a response, and ask that members send initial comments to [Ben Miller](#) by Friday August 21 ahead of the consultation deadline on September 1.

SMP consultation analysis published

The Scottish Government has [published an analysis](#) of consultation responses to the Sectoral Marine Plan.

Those responses able to be published are also online [here](#).

Global Offshore Wind V-Fest

Nick Sharpe and Carol Burns were on hand at SR's virtual booth as delegates made their way into the [Global Offshore Wind V-Fest](#) exhibition hall last month.

The same virtual platform will be in use for the [Floating Offshore Wind conference](#) on October 7-8 and as our first experience of a virtual exhibition, this was a great opportunity to meet and engage with members and industry and catch up with contacts old and new.

If you will be attending [Floating Offshore Wind 2020](#) and would like to meet our team there please contact [Carol](#).



New ScotMER publications for National Marine Week

Three new papers with consenting relevance have been published as part of the Scottish Marine Energy Research Programme. You can see the papers on seabirds [here](#).

ONSHORE RENEWABLES



FiT deadline response

Scottish Renewables has responded to a [consultation](#) from BEIS on providing an extension to pre-accredited Feed-in Tariff (FiT) projects. In our response we highlighted our strong support for providing a 12-month extension to hydro projects with deadlines on or after October 1, 2020, as well as

providing a further extension to projects which originally received a 6-month extension back in March 2020.

The response is [available on our website](#). If you would like to discuss, contact [Cara Dalziel](#).



Onshore Wind Conference

Our 2020 [Onshore Wind Conference](#) took place as a virtual experience for the first time at the start of this month, and included a Ministerial Address from Paul Wheelhouse MSP.

Through investment in virtual event software and the services of a professional production company, SR brought together over 100 delegates from industry to discuss how we can secure a sustainable future for Scotland's onshore wind industry. Delegates were able to engage with speakers and

our staff team through live polling and Q & A sessions, and were also able to connect with other delegates 1-2-1 via direct message and video calls.

Feedback on the conference format, virtual platform and any other aspect of the event can be sent to [Rachel Dickie](#).

Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme Fast Track Process

A Fast Track Process has been introduced to the Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme (ALoMCP) which aims to speed up compliance with new requirements in the Distribution Code EREC G59. The Fast Track Process offers an additional payment of £5,000 to distributed generation sites that meet specific criteria and can commit to making Loss of Mains protection changes quickly.

Guidance about the programme and timescales can be found on the [registration portal](#). If you would like to discuss, contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

ECONOMICS & MARKETS



Capacity Market

The Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth, Kwasi Kwarteng MP, has [written a letter](#) to National Grid Electricity System Operator outlining the auction parameters for the next Capacity Market auctions. The T-1 auction planned for January 2021 will have a target capacity of 0.4GW, while the T-4 auction planned for February 2021 will have a target capacity of 41.2GW. An [annex](#) has been published alongside the letter with full details of auction parameters and interconnector de-rating factors.

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

Scottish Ratepayers Forum

Policy Manager Cara Dalziel attended the Scottish Ratepayers Forum on 14 July. Attendees were given an update from assessors and Scottish Government on the impact Covid-19 has had on business rates, particularly the backlog of appeals caused by the lockdown restrictions.

Please contact [Cara Dalziel](#) to discuss.

GRID & SYSTEMS



SR draft response to DNO ICE plans

SR's draft response to the annual Ofgem [consultation](#) on DNO's Incentive on Connections Engagement (ICE) plans is now [available](#) on our website. Our response covers activity by SPEN and SSEN. This is an important opportunity to shape how your DNO approaches your connection process and engages with you as a customer.

If you have any feedback on this draft please send to [Cara Dalziel](#) by 5pm, Friday August 17.

SHEPD Network Access Policy

Following a [consultation](#) earlier this year, SHEPD has amended its Network Access Policy which sets out the principles that apply when managing generation during outages. A Pro Rata Percentage method will be applied to outages lasting six or more days. Where the outage is less than six days, the current approach of constraining to 50kW will apply. This is the first stage in SHEPD's commitment to minimise curtailment, with the eventual aim to extend this approach to all planned outages longer than one day.

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

Future Energy Scenarios 2020

National Grid ESO [published](#) its Future Energy Scenarios on 27 July. This year a new set of scenarios were developed that explored how the level of societal change and speed of decarbonisation could lead to a range of possible future pathways to net-zero. Policy Manager Cara Dalziel attended a series of virtual deep-dive sessions which shared the key insights from the analysis and these webinars are still available to watch on [NGESO's website](#).

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



nationalgridESO

RIIO-ED2 Sector Specific Methodology Consultation

Ofgem has published a consultation on the [RIIO-ED2 Sector Specific Methodology](#). This consultation provides an important opportunity to shape the design of the distribution price control, which runs from 2023-28, and ensure that our distribution network is prepared to support the decarbonisation of heat and transport.

The consultation is open until October 1, and Scottish Renewables is looking to respond. If you would like to contribute to our response, please send comments to [Cara Dalziel](#) by 5pm on September 1.

RIIO-2 Draft Determinations

Ofgem has [published](#) its draft determinations for network company allowances under the RIIO-2 price controls. A consultation on these proposals will be open until September 4 before Ofgem makes its Final Determinations at the end of the year.

From our initial assessment and discussions with stakeholders, we have serious concerns that these proposals do not go far enough to deliver net-zero. Scottish Renewables will be looking to respond to the consultation – please send any feedback on the proposals to [Cara Dalziel](#) by 5pm on August 14.

Open Networks Flexibility Consultation

The Energy Networks Association has launched a [Flexibility consultation](#) as part of the Open Networks Project. The consultation seeks views on developments across a number

of products within the Flexibility Services Workstream (WS1A), as well as planned future developments.

During the consultation period, the Open Networks Project team will be hosting two webinars. Register using the links below:

- [August 26, 2-3pm](#)
- [September 9, 2-3pm](#)

Please send any feedback on the consultation to [Cara Dalziel](#) by 5pm on August 25.

BSUoS interim report

The Second Balancing Services Task Force has published its [interim report](#). The role of the Task Force was to consider who should be liable for BSUoS charges and how these charges should be recovered.

The Task Force has concluded that final demand should pay all BSUoS charges and that fixing BSUoS charges ex ante would deliver overall industry benefit. These conclusions will be reviewed by Ofgem to determine the next steps for changes to the Balancing Services charging methodology.

The Task Force is welcoming feedback from industry by August 26. If you have any comments, please send these to [Cara Dalziel](#) by 5pm on August 14.

LOW-CARBON HEAT



BEIS consultations on the future of the NDRHI

BEIS issued a [consultation](#) on the proposed closure of the Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (NDRHI) and a second [consultation](#) on a proposed replacement for the NDRHI.

SR has responded to both of these consultations and the [NDRHI](#) and [Future Support](#) responses are available on our website.

Please contact [Morag Watson](#) with any questions.

Media reaction: UK Government £2 billion for energy efficiency

The UK Government released 'A Plan for Jobs 2020' paper on July 8, outlining the next steps for the UK as we recover from the coronavirus pandemic, including a £2 billion fund to support homeowners and landlords in making their homes more energy-efficient.

[Responding](#), Claire Mack, Chief Executive of Scottish Renewables, said: "We welcome the measures announced today by the Chancellor to improve the energy performance of our buildings which will support the adoption of low-carbon heating technology."



Images: Paul Riddell

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