



scottish  
renewables

# A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Priorities for the next  
Scottish Government

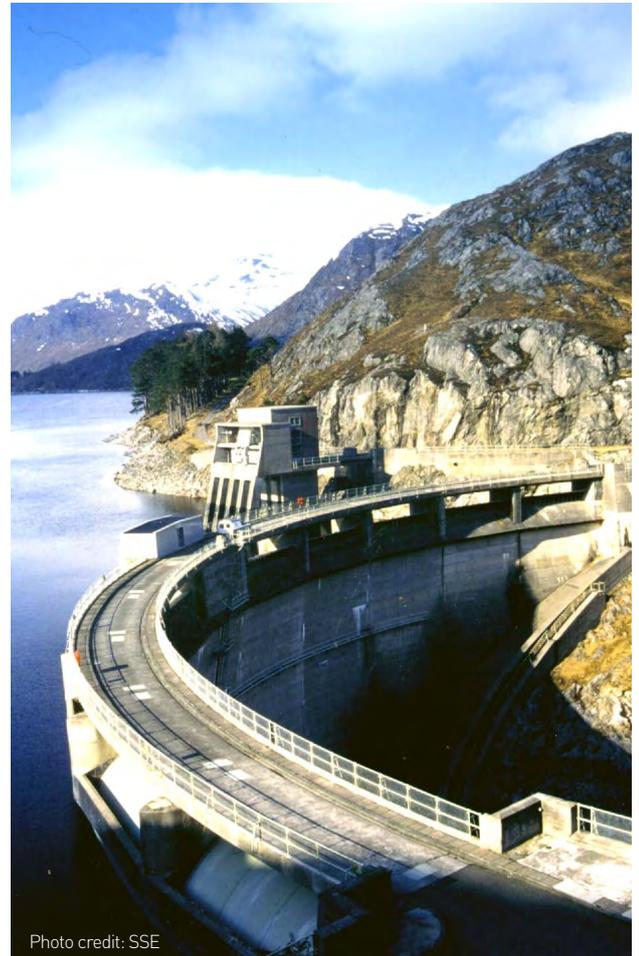


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# INTRODUCTION

Scottish Renewables is the voice of Scotland's renewable energy industry. Our vision is for a Scotland leading the world in renewable energy. We work to grow Scotland's renewable energy sector and sustain its position at the forefront of the global clean energy industry. The sectors we represent deliver investment, jobs, social benefits and reduce the carbon emissions which cause climate change. Our members work across all renewable energy technologies in Scotland, the UK, Europe and around the world.

This election is pivotal to the future direction of our nation. The challenges facing our economy and our environment have never seemed greater.

Scotland's renewable energy industry is ready to play its part.

Our world-leading natural resources can provide the next Scottish Government with enormous opportunity to improve our wellbeing, strengthen our economy, sustain our environment and set Scotland on the path to becoming the renewable powerhouse of the world.

Together we can work to create a society where low-carbon affordable energy produced using Scotland's abundant natural resources is the new normal.

Our lights can burn brightly with electricity produced using our winds, water and long daylight hours.

We can heat our homes from the air, the ground or our lochs, rivers and seas - not by burning gas, coal and oil.

The cars, lorries, buses, trains, ferries and planes on our roads, rails and in the skies above Scotland can be powered with clean energy.

The recommendations in this manifesto can help our environment flourish, strengthen our economy and benefit every community across our nation; city, town, rural and island.

Scotland needs a vibrant renewable energy sector, and Scotland's politicians must support it.



# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Scottish Renewables recommends that the next Scottish Government introduces the following priorities.

## For our environment

1. The next Scottish Government should establish a Net-zero Energy Commission to provide Scotland with a national net-zero pathway establishing how we can collectively achieve our net-zero target.
2. The next Scottish Government should support the opening of an office of the Climate Change Committee in Scotland.
3. To ensure that all decisions are guided by our net-zero targets, the next Scottish Government should introduce a low-carbon assessment to the planning process.
4. The next Scottish Government should lead a clean energy revolution by ensuring Scotland's public sector harnesses the full solar energy potential of its buildings by 2030.

## For our economy

5. The next Scottish Government should work in lock-step with the renewable energy industry to develop a Renewable Energy Economic Plan to aid a green recovery and help Scotland lead the world in renewable energy.
6. The next Scottish Government should truly internationalise Scotland's renewable energy industry by utilising its trade and investment powers to promote Scotland's renewable energy skills and technologies to nations seeking a green economic recovery.
7. The next Scottish Government can facilitate a just transition for Scotland's oil and gas professionals, supply chain businesses, tradespeople and public servants and remain committed to delivering the Green Jobs Fund and National Transition Training Fund, developing the skills and expertise needed to achieve net-zero.
8. The next Scottish Government should establish a Renewable Energy Skills Centre of Excellence to ensure that training and professional development remains relevant to the new innovation and emerging technologies needed to power Scotland's net-zero journey.

## For our communities

9. A Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Net-zero Transition should be established and appointed to the next Scottish Government.
10. The next Scottish Government should commit to the delivery and expansion of the 46 potential heat networks identified in Scotland's cities.
11. Scottish Planning Policy and building regulations should be revised by the next Scottish Government to ensure new-build communities are heated by renewable sources.
12. The next Scottish Government should use its regulatory powers to phase out fossil fuel heating and establish a Rural Heat Decarbonisation Fund to support Scotland's island and rural communities to transition to green heating systems by 2030.
13. To help Scotland's community-owned energy systems meet the target of 2GW by 2030, the next Scottish Government should encourage the development of new and existing schemes by providing non-domestic tax relief and streamlining all funding and support into the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme.
14. The next Scottish Government should accelerate existing low-carbon transport plans by expanding electric bicycle hire stations, zero-emissions zones and by building Scotland's green hydrogen economy to provide transport fuel.

# THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM



**Onshore technologies** include onshore wind and hydropower, where wind or a combination of water and gravity rotate a turbine and generate electricity, and solar PV, where sunlight produces electricity.

**Offshore technologies** include wind-power, both fixed, where turbines are set directly into the ocean floor, and floating, where they're anchored to the seabed, as well as tidal, where underwater turbines rotate in tidal currents, and wave, where the motion of the ocean surface is captured and converted into electricity.

**Renewable heat technologies** include heat pumps, which use latent heat from ground, air or water, compressed using electricity, to heat buildings; solar thermal panels which capture the sun's warmth, and biomass, where wood is burned to produce power. District heat networks use large versions of these technologies to warm a large number of buildings, connected by hot water pipes, and can decarbonise the heat requirements of whole communities.

**The electricity grid** carries power from where it's generated - in our industry, that's where the wind, water and sunlight are - to the homes, businesses and other buildings where it's needed. As we move to a low-carbon energy system new technology will change the way those transfers of power happen, using smart technology to cut carbon emissions.

## GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Renewable energy is low-carbon and can help Scotland reach our **net-zero future**

## GOOD FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Renewable energy doesn't emit the dangerous pollution which fossil fuels do - pollution which harms humans and air quality

## GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY

Every gigawatt of renewable energy installed in Scotland creates 1,500 jobs and adds £133 million of GVA to our economy



## GOOD FOR TRADE AND EXPORTS

Scotland's renewable energy expertise is already being put to work in 72 countries, with staff employed on six of the world's seven continents

## GOOD FOR EVERY COMMUNITY

Renewable energy can be deployed in every community across Scotland, allowing everyone to benefit from our amazing natural resources



# OUR ENVIRONMENT

Scotland has rightly recognised the emergency facing our climate, and we now have an ambitious net-zero target. To protect our environment and help it flourish for future generations we now need to establish how we can collectively achieve net-zero, and map out the route that will take us there. Renewable energy is perfectly positioned to support Scotland on this journey.

## Working together to achieve net-zero

The next Scottish Government must recognise that all the renewable technologies which generate electricity, provide heat and power transport are one energy system. Taking an integrated approach to Scotland's energy use will help policy makers understand the changes that need to be made to transition to a clean energy system.

Achieving net-zero is in Scotland's national interest. The next Scottish Government should establish a Net-zero Energy Commission, led by a Cabinet Secretary, to set Scotland's net-zero pathway and operationalise our ambitions.

The Net-zero Energy Commission should establish priority areas of action which need to be taken to ensure we can reach our net-zero target using home-grown renewable energy. Whilst we generate the equivalent of 90% of our energy consumption from renewables Scotland has a long way to go on renewable heat, transport and energy efficiency, and these should be key priorities for this Commission.

It is essential that all Scottish Government directorates and agencies are fully aligned with our net-zero target, which must guide policy decisions and regulation. The Commission will need to address key areas of policy across government which impact upon how we can maximise renewable energy generation and ensure collaboration on key issues including land use, business rates and planning. Cross-government opportunities to increase generation include removing business rates for commercial rooftop solar installations to help smaller and larger businesses decarbonise, extending relief for small-scale hydropower and ensuring that planning allows use of the latest turbine technologies for onshore and offshore wind farms.



The Net-zero Energy Commission can bring together the parts of Scottish society with vested interests in clean energy and climate change - from industry, local government, planning, environment, climate and conservation bodies - to achieve inclusivity, accountability and consensus on the best way forward. Engagement and understanding of how to achieve net-zero across Scotland's cities, towns, rural and island communities is needed, and this should be a focus of the Commission. This pathway should be established by 2023, allowing The Scottish Government sufficient time to operationalise within the next parliament.

Building a greener future should happen in the most sustainable way and the Net-zero Energy Commission can establish how to shift our existing energy system - both infrastructure and generation - from one built on dirty fossil fuels to one built on clean renewable energy. This will support a just transition which protects jobs and prosperity.





Scotland would benefit greatly from the guidance and support of climate change experts in the design and delivery of this pathway. We would encourage Scottish Government Ministers to provide adequate funding for an office of the Climate Change Committee in Scotland which would provide expert advice tailored to the unique political culture and institutions of Scotland.

- 1. THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD ESTABLISH A NET-ZERO ENERGY COMMISSION TO PROVIDE SCOTLAND WITH A NATIONAL NET-ZERO PATHWAY ESTABLISHING HOW WE CAN COLLECTIVELY ACHIEVE OUR NET-ZERO TARGET.**
- 2. THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPORT THE OPENING OF AN OFFICE OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE IN SCOTLAND.**

### **A planning system fit for net-zero**

Scotland's planning system determines how much renewable energy generation technology can be deployed and is critical to determining whether enough energy can be generated to meet net-zero.

The Climate Change Committee calculates that the UK will need to quadruple the amount of renewable electricity deployed by 2050 in order to meet net-zero climate change targets.

Scotland has 25% of Europe's renewable energy capacity from wind and tidal power sources, with a further 10% of the continent's wave energy capacity and 85% of the UK's hydroelectric energy capacity.

Our abundant renewable energy resources mean we are not only more than able to meet our own energy needs, we also have the potential to export renewable energy to the rest of the UK and Europe.

Currently planning decisions can take years, with outdated policies requiring renewable energy schemes to prove that they are needed. The climate emergency means that there is no longer any question that we need more renewable energy developments, and a well-resourced planning system which can deliver a proportionate and timely consenting process is key to the delivery of net-zero.

Powering Scotland through renewable energy is in our long-term national interest and our planning system needs to provide explicit support for further deployment, and for the repowering of sites nearing the end of their operational consent. This must be considered by the next Scottish Government during the delayed National Planning Framework 4.

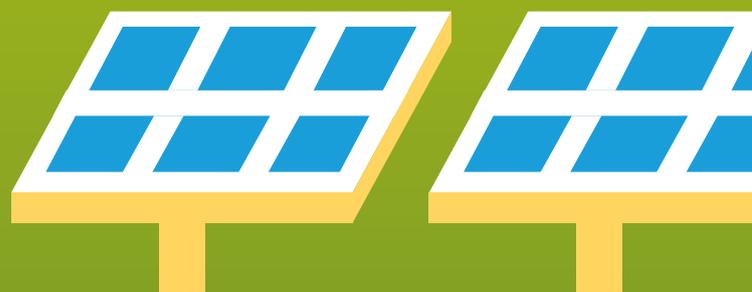
We recommend that the next Scottish Government introduces a low-carbon assessment into the planning process. Assessments should recognise net-zero as a material consideration, with renewable energy always viewed as sustainable development that supports our national interest. Renewable energy should receive favourable treatment in these assessments including but not limited to fast tracking. This will place our net-zero target at the centre of our planning system and ensure that decisions are taken with the objective of decarbonising our society.

Improving our planning and consenting processes can ensure that more companies want to do business in Scotland helping to create the jobs and prosperity our economy needs. We recommend that the next Scottish Government streamlines the processes for consenting for offshore wind deployment making our nation a global exemplar in regulation.

- 3. TO ENSURE THAT ALL DECISIONS ARE GUIDED BY OUR NET-ZERO TARGETS, THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD INTRODUCE A LOW-CARBON ASSESSMENT TO THE PLANNING PROCESS.**

### **The Scottish Government should continue to lead a clean energy revolution**

The next Scottish Government can continue to reap the benefit of Scotland's clean energy revolution and power our public sector from renewable sources.



Scotland is blessed with long hours of summertime daylight. The next Scottish Government can harness this resource to power our public sector by installing solar PV and solar thermal energy systems.

By 2025 solar energy systems could be installed upon all suitable Scottish Government buildings, producing clean electricity and heat for buildings and powering electric vehicle fleets across Scotland.

By 2030 this level of solar deployment should be rolled out across Scotland's full public sector estate, including our schools, NHS and local authority buildings – some of which have the largest energy demand in their local areas. This public sector clean energy revolution should be accompanied by a programme of insulation in order to maximise energy efficiency.

By demonstrating how public buildings and vehicle fleets can be powered by renewable energy, The Scottish Government can then set the ambition for commercial, industrial and residential buildings to achieve environmental sustainability. This programme would also provide an opportunity for the local manufacture of low-carbon heating systems, as well as the training of tradespeople needed to carry out the next stage of Scotland's transition to net-zero.

#### **4. THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD LEAD A CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION BY ENSURING SCOTLAND'S PUBLIC SECTOR HARNESSSES THE FULL SOLAR ENERGY POTENTIAL OF ITS BUILDINGS BY 2030.**



# OUR ECONOMY

Harnessing our abundant natural resources – our winds, waves, tides, longer daylight hours and high rainfall – to strengthen Scotland's economy has never mattered more. Our industry can work with The Scottish Government to aid a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure the future of our economy and energy is low-carbon. Together we can realise our potential and make Scotland the renewable powerhouse of the world.

## Scotland can become the world's renewable energy powerhouse

Renewable energy, unlike other energy sources, is home-grown, and therefore less susceptible to economic shocks and market volatility. Putting renewable energy at the centre of our economy can help to future-proof our energy needs, ensuring our economy is more stable and resilient.

Renewables can improve our wellbeing. No other energy source but renewables provides the opportunity for the improvement of health: by reducing reliance on gas boilers, petrol and diesel vehicles and fossil power stations which are enormously polluting, we can reduce the direct harms to our health.

The economic potential of renewables is enormous; for every gigawatt (GW) installed in Scotland, 1,500 jobs are created and £133 million of GVA is added to our economy.

Renewable energy is already providing 90% of our electricity, and heating 387,000 Scottish homes, but we can move faster and further on the journey to net-zero.

To reap these benefits and future-proof our economy we recommend that the next Scottish Government works in

close partnership with industry to develop a Renewable Energy Economic Plan. Led by a Scottish Cabinet Secretary this plan can establish the support required to stimulate economic opportunities and job creation across the renewable technologies that form our energy system.

To set the aspirations of this plan, the next Scottish Government should increase its ambitions and revise the target for the total of Scotland's energy consumption from renewables to 60% by 2030.

Recognising that certain energy matters are reserved by the UK Government, the Renewable Energy Economic Plan could collaborate with UK Governmental structures on areas of disadvantage to Scotland, such as transmission charging.

Decarbonising our economy makes it essential for local economies, particularly in the North East of Scotland, which have been reliant on oil and gas to be supported by Government to transition to renewable energy. Scotland's Renewable Energy Economic Plan can build on the work of the Just Transition Commission and establish how to ensure sustainable prosperity for these communities.

The Renewable Energy Economic Plan can support these communities, for example, by harnessing the skills of oil and gas professionals with expertise in offshore development through an increased ambition of 12GW of fixed-bottom and floating offshore wind to be deployed by 2030, and for a successful ScotWind leasing process which tackles constraints to achieving this by addressing planning, supply chain, grid networks and interactions with other marine activities.





## 5. THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD WORK IN LOCK-STEP WITH THE RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP A RENEWABLE ENERGY ECONOMIC PLAN TO AID A GREEN RECOVERY AND HELP SCOTLAND LEAD THE WORLD IN RENEWABLE ENERGY.

### Exporting our renewables industry around the world

In Scotland we have acted very early to utilise the strength of our natural resources and to deploy renewable energy technologies. Our head start has given us the skills that nations around the world need to transition to renewable energy and decarbonise their own economies.

Scotland's renewable energy expertise is already being put to work in 72 countries and is employing staff on six of the planet's seven continents.

More than half (57%) of the companies which took part in a survey on Scotland's green energy export impact in 2019 say they are currently moving into new markets, with almost a third (29%) considering doing so. Many of these companies are working in tidal and wave energy, where Scotland leads the world, and the next Scottish Government can develop creative policies to extend deployment in this sector, boosting our skills and knowledge base as we seek to capitalise on the renewable energy industry's impressive export potential.

To truly internationalise our renewable industry, the next Scottish Government can use its trade, and investment powers to promote Scotland's renewable skills and knowledge to existing and new global markets which are undertaking a green economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

Exporting Scotland's renewables skills and knowledge can help strengthen Scotland's economy, and the next Scottish Government should ensure that we export our skills to all of the nations seeking a green economic recovery.

Already, countries with more than \$3.6 trillion in combined GDP have placed a green recovery at the heart of their post-pandemic response. They include France, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, South Korea, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden.

## 6. THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD TRULY INTERNATIONALISE SCOTLAND'S RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY BY UTILISING ITS TRADE AND INVESTMENT POWERS TO PROMOTE SCOTLAND'S RENEWABLE ENERGY SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGIES TO NATIONS SEEKING A GREEN ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

### Supporting a just transition for Scotland's energy workforce

With a stronger pipeline of renewables projects across all technologies, supported by a robust but climate-driven planning system, the demand for skills from our industry will be greater than ever before.

We have welcomed the announcements from The current Scottish Government in its Programme for Government 2020/21 of a £100 million Green Jobs Fund and a £25 million National Transition Training Fund to help build the green skills needed to support Scotland's transition to net-zero.

The next Scottish Government must remain committed to delivering this and allocating further funds to ensure a just transition for those in carbon-based roles who want to retrain and acquire the transferable, exportable, low-carbon skills which Scotland is developing as we move towards a net-zero energy system.



The Scottish Government can work with Skills Development Scotland and further education institutions to provide the educational packages needed to support professional groups to make the transition to renewables. These should include:

- Engineering professionals working in Scotland's oil and gas industry, whose skills and support will be highly valuable as we change the way we generate, transmit and use power.
- A robust and reliable supply chain which will support our industry to reach its potential, and whose businesses will need to be prepared for the energy transition.
- Scotland's army of gas, electrical and heating tradespeople who need to be equipped to manufacture, install and maintain renewable alternatives to gas and oil boilers, coal and other high-carbon heating alternatives.
- Public servants of The Scottish Government, its agencies and regulators who need the skills and knowledge that accompany the intensification of renewable technology deployment.

The next Scottish Government should also establish a Renewable Energy Skills Centre of Excellence. This Centre can work with further education establishments and industry to ensure the development of Scotland's renewable energy skill base and that training and professional development remains relevant to new innovation and emerging technologies.

- 7. THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CAN FACILITATE A JUST TRANSITION FOR SCOTLAND'S OIL AND GAS PROFESSIONALS, SUPPLY CHAIN BUSINESSES, TRADESPEOPLE AND PUBLIC SERVANTS AND REMAIN COMMITTED TO DELIVERING THE GREEN JOBS FUND AND NATIONAL TRANSITION TRAINING FUND, DEVELOPING THE SKILLS AND EXPERTISE NEEDED TO ACHIEVE NET-ZERO.**
- 8. THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD ESTABLISH A RENEWABLE ENERGY SKILLS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE TO ENSURE THAT TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REMAINS RELEVANT TO THE NEW INNOVATION AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES NEEDED TO POWER SCOTLAND'S NET-ZERO JOURNEY.**



# OUR COMMUNITIES

Renewables are the future of Scotland's energy system. Technologies like wind, hydro and solar, which are already providing the equivalent of 90% of our electricity demand, are key elements of our national infrastructure.

## A Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Net-Zero Transition

Realising our energy transition is in the interests of every Scottish community, and whilst previous Governments must be commended for progress on net-zero policy, there is yet to be a Scottish Cabinet position which fully represents the importance of renewable energy to our national future.

Ensuring that renewable energy is fully represented in the collective decision-making of Scotland's Cabinet can only be achieved if there is a Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Net-zero Transition, and it is for this reason that we would recommend that this post is established and appointed to the next Scottish Government.

## 9. A CABINET SECRETARY FOR ENERGY AND NET-ZERO TRANSITION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND APPOINTED TO THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT.

### Clean energy for warm homes and healthy communities

Keeping warm is an energy-intensive process, and progress on cutting the carbon intensity of our heat sector has been slow. Renewable heat represented just 6.3% of Scotland's non-electrical heat demand in 2018, the latest figures available. Heat makes up 55% of Scotland's energy use and decarbonising heat is essential if we are to meet our targets for 2030.

Every year Scotland spends around £3 billion on gas for heating, which in future is increasingly likely to be imported from abroad.

Burning natural gas in boilers impacts on public health too, by producing nitrogen dioxide and nitric oxide, a key contributor to the urban air pollution which is estimated to cause 2,000 deaths and cost the NHS £2 billion per year in Scotland.



The technologies we need to replace gas in our homes exist now: heat pumps provide the solution for many homes, supporting healthier communities and insulating householders against the fossil fuel price volatility which is a driver of fuel poverty. Heat pumps use domestically-produced renewable electricity and increases in demand created by their wider deployment can be fuelled that way, too. The next Scottish Government can seize the enormous opportunities renewable heat provides and decarbonise heating systems while creating warmer homes and healthier communities.

Scottish Renewables' 2019 Piping Hot report identified that across Scotland's seven cities there are 46 potential heat networks in development which can supply renewable heat to the equivalent of 45,000 households. By delivering these projects and continuing to expand them over the next 10 years, the next Scottish Government can ensure that 460,000 homes are heated by renewables, the equivalent of 8% of Scotland's heat demand, whilst creating new jobs and economic opportunities.

By the end of the decade entire districts of Scotland's urban space will be served by green heat networks.

A commitment to extend heat networks or provide other green alternatives including hydrogen through the existing gas network or individual heat pumps by 2045 can ensure the complete decarbonisation of city heat.

## **10. THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD COMMIT TO THE DELIVERY AND EXPANSION OF THE 46 POTENTIAL HEAT NETWORKS IDENTIFIED IN SCOTLAND'S CITIES.**

New-build developments should also reap the benefits of renewable heat. To achieve this the next Scottish Government can work to ensure Scottish Planning Policy and building regulations are revised to establish the use of heat networks in new-build developments, accompanied by the best energy efficiency standards to ensure good insulation and healthier homes.

## **11. SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY AND BUILDING REGULATIONS SHOULD BE REVISED BY THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE NEW-BUILD COMMUNITIES ARE HEATED BY RENEWABLE SOURCES.**

To keep homes warm in rural and island communities that are still reliant on the use of dirty coal, oil and LPG boilers, the next Scottish Government can place net-zero at the centre of regulation and set a target that fossil fuel heating systems in these communities will be phased out by 2030 and replaced by low-carbon heat pumps.

With many of our rural and island communities often isolated from support systems, extra help will be required to ensure Scotland's tradespeople can enable and maintain the transition to green heat. The introduction of a Rural Heat Decarbonisation Fund by the next Scottish Government will help these communities to switch away from high-carbon heating.

## **12. THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD USE ITS REGULATORY POWERS TO PHASE OUT FOSSIL FUEL HEATING AND ESTABLISH A RURAL HEAT DECARBONISATION FUND TO SUPPORT SCOTLAND'S ISLAND AND RURAL COMMUNITIES TO TRANSITION TO GREEN HEATING SYSTEMS BY 2030.**

### **Getting the most out of locally-owned energy**

Across Scotland, local communities can benefit from developing place-based energy systems which harness their local climate and environment. In cities and towns local energy systems can harness solar power from rooftops, whilst in rural communities geography can allow for the deployment of hydro schemes or wind turbines. In coastal and island communities tidal and wave energy also offer exciting opportunities. Alongside generating clean energy to support net-zero, these systems can create new jobs, support local businesses and provide funds for community schemes.

The end of the UK Government's Feed-in Tariff has left many small-scale renewable developments stranded. The Scottish Government has provided welcome support through CARES (the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme) and we would welcome continued support within the next parliament.





transport by embracing vehicles powered by electricity and green hydrogen produced from renewable sources.

Work is already underway to make electric cars the norm across the country, with Dundee leading the way by using solar panels on the roofs of parking areas to provide electricity for transport. Aberdeen has successfully deployed hydrogen-fuelled buses and Scotland's first hydrogen ferry is being developed, but we can still go further and faster.

The suitability of electric batteries to power long-haul transport, heavy goods vehicles, ferries and other large maritime transport is poor due to battery weight, charging times and battery range. Hydrogen is the most practical and cost-effective decarbonisation alternative. Plans should be put in place to transition Scotland's long-haul transport, heavy goods and passenger vehicles and ferry fleet to using green hydrogen as a fuel source.

Similar schemes need to be expanded and replicated across Scotland, making greater use of our renewable energy potential to decarbonise transport. By doing so we can promote healthier lifestyles and more sustainable travel options.

We also advocate expanding Scotland's small but growing network of electric bicycle hire stations and accelerating plans to establish zero-emissions zone in Scotland's city centres.

The Scottish Government has set a target for 2GW of local and community-owned energy by 2030. The development of new and existing schemes will be needed to meet this target, and one of the ways in which the next Scottish Government can encourage this is through non-domestic tax relief. It's important to recognise that it can be hard for voluntary community groups, or those which do not necessarily have the right skills or experience, to access the funding and support which is already available. The next Scottish Government can help overcome this by streamlining all funding and support into the existing CARES, making it the one-stop shop for local energy support.

**13. TO HELP SCOTLAND'S COMMUNITY-OWNED ENERGY SYSTEMS MEET THE TARGET OF 2GW BY 2030, THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AND EXISTING SCHEMES BY PROVIDING NON-DOMESTIC TAX RELIEF AND STREAMLINING ALL FUNDING AND SUPPORT INTO THE COMMUNITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SCHEME.**

**14. THE NEXT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACCELERATE EXISTING LOW-CARBON TRANSPORT PLANS BY EXPANDING ELECTRIC BICYCLE HIRE STATIONS, ZERO-EMISSIONS ZONES AND BY BUILDING SCOTLAND'S GREEN HYDROGEN ECONOMY TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT FUEL.**

### Sustainable and greener transport

The coronavirus pandemic has shown that active travel options are a perfect fit for Scotland's cities and towns, whilst demonstrating the social and health benefits of low emissions and low traffic.

With our abundant renewable energy resource, Scotland is ideally placed to permanently remove emissions from





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**renewables**

