

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



**Dear member,**

Recent weeks we have seen the release of [a major new report](#) on the potential of hydrogen from the Offshore Wind Energy Council, Cromarty Firth presenting its ambitious vision for a Hydrogen Hub and The Scottish Government indicating it will publish its Hydrogen Policy Statement and Action Plan before the end of the year. All of this has pushed hydrogen even further up the agenda as a key factor in achieving both net-zero and a successful energy transition in Scotland.

Scottish Renewables has been working on hydrogen for more than two years and we will be increasing our activity in this area in the coming months. I will be leading this work, and am currently developing a Hydrogen Position Statement in collaboration with members.

We have also just launched a new Hydrogen Forum for members wishing to get involved in this work.



To join, please sign in to your account on the Scottish Renewables website [here](#), go to Forum Preferences and tick Hydrogen Forum. We will also be holding a seminar, [Hydrogen's Place in the Energy System](#), on December 10, with [details available now online](#).

Helen Melone  
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## GENERAL



### **Manifesto launch turns focus to renewables ahead of 2021 election**

As part of the Scottish Renewable Energy Festival we launched [our Manifesto for 2021's Scottish Parliament election](#) on November 3 with calls for The next Scottish Government to establish a Net-zero Energy Commission to provide the country with a national net-zero pathway which would bring society together as it works towards a greener future.

We also proposed the appointment of a Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Net-zero Transition and changes to our planning system.

The launch was accompanied by [an opinion article by Claire Mack in The Herald](#). Read [the full press release on our website](#).

### **Scottish Renewable Energy Festival 2020 continues**

The second [Scottish Renewable Energy Festival](#) is being held from October 26 - November 6 after a launch which featured [this press release](#).

We've seen great engagement from members and politicians, with a Renewable Energy SME Summit with Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, taking centre stage this week, and a motion by Mark Ruskell MSP tabled at the Scottish Parliament too.

[This blog](#) explains the reason for the Festival and the steps we'd like you to take to make it a success. To discuss how

your business can get involved and help us raise the profile of the industry at this difficult time, please [email Nick Sharpe](#).



**Motion S5M-23200: Mark Ruskell, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Green Party, Date Lodged: 30/10/2020**

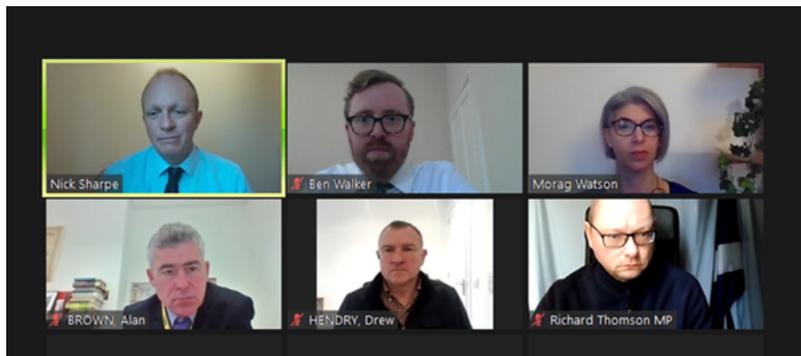
**Welcoming Scottish Renewable Energy Festival 2020**

That the Parliament welcomes the Scottish Renewable Energy Festival 2020 organised by Scottish Renewables, which celebrates the projects, people and places that are leading the shift to a clean energy future; appreciates that Scotland's renewable energy industry is generating the equivalent of 90% of the country's electricity demand from renewable sources; welcomes the role that renewable energy can play in supporting a green recovery, and values the contribution of the renewable energy community of businesses, government agencies, local authorities, community groups and charities that it considers have made Scotland a world leader in renewables.

## Engagement at Westminster

Morag Watson and Nick Sharpe delivered a briefing for SNP MPs to outline support measures which renewable energy needs following the cancellation of the autumn UK Budget. Attendees included Drew Hendry, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Alan Brown, Shadow Minister for Energy, with discussions focusing on the need for an immediate replacement for the Renewable Heat Incentive, a replacement for the Feed-in Tariff for small-scale technologies and support for innovative offshore technologies, including tidal and wave energy.

To discuss, contact Public Affairs Manager [Ben Walker](#).



## Busy period at Holyrood

Ahead of The Scottish Government's NPF4 statement this November we have met with Mairi McAllan, Special Advisor to the First Minister for Renewable Energy and Planning, and James Dornan, Convener of the Local Government and

Housing Committee, to ensure that they are apprised of our industry positions on planning reform.

We also worked with MSPs from across the Chamber to brief them ahead of the Parliamentary Debate on energy on October 28 with Willie Coffey of the SNP, Claudia Beamish of Scottish Labour and Alexander Burnett of the Scottish Conservatives all advancing our positions.

## **Blog: A renewables roundtable for the green recovery**

Fiona Hyslop, Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, was treated to a whirlwind tour of Scotland's renewable energy industry by Scottish Renewables' members last month.

The session, designed to place renewable energy at the heart of the green economic recovery from coronavirus, heard from 13 members and the SR team on three themes: renewable heat, infrastructure projects, and skills and export. Read more in [this blog](#).

## **UK Wind Week, November 23-27**

The UK's offshore and onshore wind industries are being brought together to celebrate UK Wind Week later this month.

Members can support the week using #UKWindWeek on twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook. More information [is available in this document](#).

## **Scottish Green Energy Awards 2020 - online and free, Nov 26**

The awards, a staple in the UK's renewable energy calendar, are now 100% online. They'll feature professional production, the return of host Jo Caulfield and an address from Scottish Government Finance Secretary Kate Forbes.

To join, or book your (free) virtual table to share with friends or colleagues, join hundreds of others who're already signed up by [heading to our website](#).



## Media reaction: Committee on Climate Change report to Scottish Parliament

Scotland must become the first UK nation to set out a net-zero-compatible climate change plan, according to the Committee on Climate Change's 2020 Progress Report to the Scottish Parliament.

[Responding](#), Claire Mack, Chief Executive of Scottish Renewables, said: "We welcome the Committee on Climate Change's 2020 Progress Report to the Scottish Parliament, which highlights that Scotland's renewable energy industry is leading the way in Scotland's efforts to become a net-zero economy by 2045."

## PLANNING & CONSENTS



### Consultation response: SPP and Housing Technical Consultation on Proposed Policy Amendments

Scottish Renewables submitted a [response](#) to the Scottish Government's [Scottish Planning Policy and Housing: Technical Consultation on Proposed Policy Amendments](#), which proposes removing the presumption in favour of Sustainable Development from Scottish Planning Policy.

We are calling for The Scottish Government to either retain the presumption in favour of Sustainable Development in SPP or to replace it with a policy of equal or greater weighting.

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

### Meeting with Homes for Scotland

Director of Policy Morag Watson and Policy Manager Stephanie Conesa met with Tammy Swift-Adams, Homes for Scotland's Director of Planning, to discuss aligning messages and joint working on the Scottish Government's SPP and Housing Technical Consultation on Proposed Policy Amendments.

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

## The Herald

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“

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we're recommending that the next Scottish Government introduces a low-carbon assessment into the

### **Herald coverage highlights planning failures**

In case you missed it, an [opinion article by Claire Mack in The Herald](#) discussed the need for planning reform this week.

She wrote: "Planning decisions can currently take years, with outdated policies requiring renewable energy schemes to prove they are needed. The climate emergency means that there is no longer any question of that, and we're recommending that the next Scottish Government introduces a low-carbon assessment into the planning process to recognise net-zero as a material consideration."

You can [read the piece online now](#), and [download our manifesto](#), which this article launched, from our website.

### **Proposed Changes to Pre-Application Consultation Requirements in Planning**

The Scottish Government has published [feedback from its consultation engagement events](#) held in early October, covering questions and issues raised by participants which may help inform responses to this controversial consultation.

Scottish Renewables has prepared a [second draft of our response](#) to the Scottish Government's [consultation paper](#). Member comments were due by Thursday, October 29 - if you would like to discuss our response please contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).

### **Update: NatureScot General pre-application and scoping advice for onshore wind farms guidance**

NatureScot has updated its guidance on [General pre-application and scoping advice for onshore wind farms](#) to

include new advice on the impacts of aviation lighting on birds (annex 2).

The addition provides advice on the potential impacts of aviation lighting on birds and how to assess this, as well as NatureScot's evolving thoughts on the effectiveness of the various mitigation measures for aviation lighting which are being considered by developers.

If you have any comments on the guidance, please share them with [Stephanie Conesa](#) before November 19.



## ECU Stakeholder Letter

The Energy Consents Unit has sent a letter informing stakeholders that The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act (Amendment of Expiry Dates) Regulations 2020 have come into force and amend the expiry date of consents from September 30, 2020, to March 31, 2021. Subsequently The Electricity Works (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 are in force until March 31, 2021.

Further information is available on our [Industry Resilience Forum page](#). If you have any questions contact

[Econsents\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Econsents_Admin@gov.scot).

## Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2

The proposed timescales for preparation of the new LDP2 have been delayed by about five months due to a range of factors, including the impact of COVID-19. The full revised timetable is available in the Development Plan Scheme [on the Council web site](#).

Further information is also available in the Council's [Local Development Plan Newsletter](#).

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

## Argyll and Bute Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy

The [Argyll and Bute IRSS](#) sets out the Council's ideas on how the region can grow and prosper in the period up to 2050, whilst also supporting the delivery of national priorities and outcomes. The draft document states that there is potential in the area for a mix of renewable technologies, links renewable energy development to economic growth and calls for grid upgrades.

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

## DPEA office move

DPEA will be moving office with effect from Monday, November 16. Its new address will be: Planning and Environmental Appeals Division, Scottish Government, Ground Floor, Hadrian House, Callendar Business Park, Callendar Road, Falkirk FK1 1XR.

All telephone numbers and e-mail addresses remain the same.

**OFFSHORE RENEWABLES**



**Sectoral Marine Plan and Policy Statement  
published**

A major milestone for the offshore sector last month was the publication of the adopted [Sectoral Marine Plan](#) and final [Offshore Wind Policy Statement](#). We were pleased to see the greater ambition that we had called for in our consultation response reflected in the recognition that deployment of 11GW is achievable by 2030.

Reacting for media, Ben Miller said: "Today's publications represent new foundations on which our members can continue to develop Scotland's tremendous offshore wind resource and deliver on Scotland's ambitious renewable energy and net-zero targets."

Further analysis and discussion about the SMP, and the implication for ScotWind leasing, is now under way. If you would like to discuss this, please contact [Ben Miller](#).

## **Latest Offshore Wind Growth Partnership funding call**

A new funding round by the Offshore Wind Growth Partnership (OWGP) has been launched, with £1.5 million of Development Grants available to support supply chain competitiveness. There is a briefing webinar on November 4, with more information available [here](#).

## **ScotWind timescales confirmed**

Following the SMP publication, Crown Estate Scotland have confirmed in an Interim Update the timings for the ScotWind Leasing round. The Post Adoption Addendum, confirming final arrangements and incorporating changes to plan areas, will be published on January 15. The closing date for ScotWind applications will then follow on March 31.

Further detail and some welcome changes to the Supply Chain Development Statement requirement has also been published. Contact [Ben Miller](#) to discuss further.



## Media reaction: PM sets new offshore wind goal

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has outlined plans for Britain to "build back greener" from the coronavirus pandemic by committing funds to boost Britain's offshore wind energy capacity.

[Responding](#), Claire Mack said: "The Prime Minister is right to acknowledge the UK's renewable energy resource as one of the best in the world and right to focus on the development of wind power, as part of a balanced green energy mix, as a key way to power the UK's green economic recovery." Full response [here](#).



## Floating conference success

Floating Offshore Wind 2020 was held online on 7 & 8 October, co-organised by SR and RenewableUK.

More than 400 delegates attended the two-day event and heard a Ministerial Address by Kwasi Kwarteng MP as well as

updates from developers involved in this exciting new sector across the globe.

You can [catch up on the programme](#) on the event website.

## ONSHORE RENEWABLES



### **Good Practice Principles for Grid Scale Battery Storage: final report published**

The Good Practice Principles for Grid Scale Battery Storage final report is [now available](#). The report provides an evidence base to inform Scottish policy in relation to the role that grid-scale battery storage could play in providing a resilient, affordable electricity network.

In line with Scotland's Energy Strategy and Net Zero emission targets, the research considers the period to 2030 and 2045. It reviews current practice and experience, and current expectations for further developments. If you would like to discuss this please contact [Stephanie Conesa](#).

### **Pumped Storage Hydro group**

Scottish Renewables' Pumped Storage Hydro group met on October 23. The group discussed progress that had been made in the sector since our last meeting, as well as potential next steps for unlocking investment in long-duration storage through a market mechanism.

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

## ECONOMICS & MARKETS



### **Carbon in Flexibility Markets workshop**

Policy Manager Cara Dalziel attended a Carbon in Flexibility Markets workshop hosted by BEIS on October 14. The workshop covered the impact of existing carbon signals on flexibility and how signals could be improved, as well as a discussion on developing an approach to carbon monitoring and reporting in electricity markets.

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



## GRID & SYSTEMS



### **RIIO-2 open hearings**

Policy Manager Cara Dalziel attended a series of open hearings across October to discuss network companies' responses to the RIIO-2 Draft Determinations. In each hearing presentations were made by the network company in question, the Customer User Group and Ofgem's Challenge Group before moving on to questions from Ofgem and stakeholders.

Full transcriptions and recordings of the hearings will be made available on [Ofgem's website](#) shortly. If you would like to discuss, please contact [Cara Dalziel](#).

### **Flexible connections webinar, November 18**

SSEN will be holding a Flexible Connections webinar on November 18 between 10-11am. The webinar will be hosted by the Flexible Connections Team who will be giving updates on flexible projects that are underway, as well as highlighting case studies from projects that have already been delivered. If you would like to attend, registration is open via [SSEN's website](#).

### **Media comment: Interconnector impact**

In line with our role to provide accurate and balanced media comment on behalf of industry, SR's Communications team

spoke up on behalf of generators when the Mail on Sunday asked us about interconnectors and renewable energy .

The [published article](#) was the result of a lengthy conversation between SR and the journalist and sought to provide a positive picture of the benefits and challenges which this technology represents.

If you'd like to talk about any aspect of our media work, or how we can help you achieve coverage, [contact Nick Sharpe](#).

## March of Scots wind farms is keeping the lights on – in Norway!

By **Gareth Rose and Bill Caven**

SCOTLAND'S growing collection of wind farms are set to cash in – by keeping the lights on in Norway.

The number of turbines off our coasts and across the landscape has exploded in recent years to help meet ambitious targets for generating green energy.

But this will now be used to power homes and businesses abroad.

To allow the energy transfer, an enormous underwater cable is being laid across the North Sea.

Energy firms are set to make millions of pounds from exporting power from renewables. It comes despite Scotland still struggling to hit its own targets for cutting harmful emissions from fossil fuels.

The North Sea Link, which is expected to be complete next year, will allow the UK and Norway to both import and export energy.

Norway will benefit from Scottish wind power, and when the wind



**MONEY SPINNER:** Wind turbines

does not blow, the UK will be able to source hydropower from Norwegian dams. Supporters believe it will give both countries access to cheaper and greener energy.

But critics fear it is evidence that the soaring numbers of turbines, covering many rural parts of the country, are being erected for

profit – not to protect the environment. Graham Lang, of Scotland Against Spin, said: 'The basis for this appears to be commercial profit rather than what is most effective for the environment of either country.'

'Our iconic landscape and precious and ever-declining wildlife are given little consideration and the situation can only deteriorate if more wind farms are built.'

Last year, Scotland exported a record £745 million of energy – enough to power every home in the country for 21 months – and so far 2020 looks set to be even higher.

Scottish Renewables, which represents the sector, believes it is vital to take advantage of Scotland's wind power.

The organisation's Cara Dalziel said: 'Exporting energy brings economic benefits – jobs and investment – to Scotland, and interconnection to Europe is one way of reaching a market for the enormous amounts of clean electricity

Scotland is producing, and will increasingly be able to produce.'

The National Grid stressed the most important issue is getting a good deal for consumers. A spokesman said: 'The flow of electricity over interconnectors depends on the market price in the countries at each end. When it is the best-value option for British consumers, electricity is traded in the market and imported to meet demand.'

Scotland is only expected to hit emissions reduction targets this year because of the effect of the coronavirus lockdown – having missed them in 2018.

The Scottish Government said: 'In 2019, Scotland, as a result of strong policy leadership and partnership with the sector, met the equivalent of 90.1 per cent of electricity demand from renewable electricity supplies alone, which is far ahead of the UK average. But Scotland requires generation from a range of technologies to meet demand and keep the network operating.'

### RIIO-2 open letter to Ofgem

Scottish Renewables published an open letter, signed by 17 businesses and organisations, calling on Ofgem to ensure that the delivery of net-zero is at the heart of the RIIO-2 Final Determinations that are due in December.

A [press release](#) was also issued, with [coverage](#) achieved in trade media. In it, Claire Mack said: "With Ofgem set to publish its final determinations for electricity transmission and gas in December it is paramount that the regulatory framework has the flexibility and agility required to unlock the ambition and investment required to deliver, not delay, net-zero."

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

## Final BSUoS Taskforce Report

The Second Balancing Services Use of System (BSUoS) Task Force has published its [final report](#) following a short consultation that took place earlier this year. Alongside the previous recommendations of how BSUoS charges are recovered, the final report recommends that two years' notice is given to industry from the point of Ofgem's decision and sets out a list of areas of further work.

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

## Shaping our Energy Future workshop

Policy Manager Cara Dalziel attended SSEN Distribution's Shaping our Energy Future Stakeholder Workshop on October 1. The workshop focused on seeking stakeholder views on shaping priorities in both the short-term and looking ahead to the future, in particular looking at key areas such as network resilience and sustainability.

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

## LOW-CARBON HEAT



## Renewable Heat Target and Action 2020

The Scottish Government published its Renewable Heat Target update on October 28. The figures released show that Scotland is a long way from meeting our target of 11% of heat being delivered by renewables by 2020, having achieved just 6.4%. The full update can be seen [here](#).

Launched at the same time was a £4 million cashback grant scheme to encourage small and medium-sized businesses to improve energy efficiency and install renewable heating. More information on the SME loan, including how to apply, is available on the [Zero Waste Scotland website](#). Scottish Renewables' comment is available [on our website](#).

## Heat Pump Sector Deal Scoping Group

The first meeting of the Scottish Government's Heat Pump Sector Deal Scoping Group took place on October 29. Scottish Renewables sits on this group alongside a number of members.

The Scoping Group has six months to pull together a final report with recommendations to the Scottish Government and we will update our Low-Carbon Heat Forum members as this work develops. If you would like to discuss this, please contact [Helen Melone](#)

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