

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



scottishrenewables

MONTHLY BRIEFING

JANUARY 2021

Dear member,

Welcome to the first Monthly Briefing of 2021.

We begin the year amidst continued uncertainty, but with scope for optimism and for opportunities to be seized. Of those, COP is the most obvious, and we are working hard to ensure that the contribution Scotland can make to the global net-zero journey is visible and recognised.

This work, through a [new campaign](#) which we'll share in coming weeks, affords us and our industry leaders the chance to tell our story and use our leadership capabilities to take the real issues to both governments.



As ever, we're pushing Ministers to understand both the barriers and the enabling activity required to fulfil the world leadership role we all want to take. To that end, the SR Board Elections are currently active. Please follow the instructions in the email we'll be sending you next week and make your voice heard by using your vote as a member on January 29 to help shape the delivery of that leadership.

Claire Mack
Chief Executive

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GENERAL



Update to the Climate Change Plan published

The Scottish Government published its [Update to the Climate Change Plan: Securing a Green Recovery on a Path to Net Zero](#) on December 16. This document updates existing proposals and actions to bring them in line with achieving the 2045 net-zero target.

Following SR input at the drafting stage we are pleased to see that this document reaffirms The Scottish Government's support for renewable energy and consolidates its position as key to achieving net-zero. This position was reflected in our [statement to media](#).

A [detailed briefing](#) on policy commitments made in the Update is available to members on our website.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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SR's 2019-20 Annual Review published

Our new [Annual Review](#) sets out the work we've carried out on behalf of members in the membership year which ended on September 30, 2020.

In particular it focuses on our work on NPF4 and the green economic recovery, and the numerous positive outcomes which have resulted from those large pieces of advocacy.

In her introduction, CEO Claire Mack writes: "Whatever challenges 2021 brings, be assured that Scottish Renewables has your back."



Meeting with Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands

Claire Mack met with Energy Minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP to provide an industry update on the key issues affecting our sector.

The meeting explored the opportunities presented by the Strategic Marine Plan and how the Government can support the development of supply chains. The Minister also highlighted his support for Scottish Renewables' contributions to the Heat Networks Bill, and our key priorities for Stage 2 of this Bill were presented to the Minister.

 FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT **BEN WALKER, PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER** email: bwalker@scottishrenewables.com

Scottish Parliament elections

Following on from the publication of our manifesto for the 2021 Scottish Parliament election, '[A brighter future - priorities for the next Scottish Government](#)', we have been meeting with key Parliamentarians and political party staff to discuss policy positions contained in the document.

We met with Mairi McAllan and Callum McCaig, Special Advisors to the First Minister of Scotland, who were supportive of our recommendations. A similar reception was received from Scottish Conservatives' Maurice Golden MSP, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, and Graham Simpson MSP, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity.



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New transport sector statistics

We have updated the [statistics page](#) of our website with new data from the transport sector in Scotland.

Scottish Renewables will now be monitoring national statistics to track the number of electric vehicle charging points in Scotland, as renewables will play an important role in supplying the increased electricity demand from electric vehicles.

In 2019, Scotland had 1,226 public charging points on the [ChargePlace Scotland network](#), up 524 from 2017.

Media reaction: Annual Energy Statement shows renewable power at 90.1%

The Scottish Government published its [Annual Energy Statement](#) on December 18, showing Scotland generated enough electricity from renewable sources last year to meet

the equivalent of 90.1% of the country's total electricity consumption.

[Responding](#), Morag Watson said: "The figures announced by Scottish Government today demonstrate without a shadow of a doubt that renewable energy is now mainstream."

Media reaction: Energy White Paper

The UK Government published its [Energy White Paper: Powering our net zero future](#) on December 14.

[Responding](#), Morag Watson said: "Scotland is already at the forefront of the energy transition, with the equivalent of 90 per cent of its electricity consumption generated by renewable energy resources. The next priority is to decarbonise heat and transport, and the White Paper provides the supporting context needed to ensure Scotland's abundant onshore and offshore wind resource is harnessed to address this."

The Sixth Carbon Budget - media reaction and blog

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) published [The Sixth Carbon Budget: The UK's Path to Net Zero](#) report on December 9, setting out for the first time the actions that the UK will need to take to achieve net-zero by 2050.

[Responding](#), Morag Watson said: "We welcome the CCC's Sixth Carbon Budget, which contains advice to Government to move faster to reach net-zero and recognition that renewable technologies are key to delivering the cheap, low-carbon energy we need to achieve this."

In addition, [this blog](#) summarises the key points from the Sixth Carbon Budget, and what it means for Scotland.

PLANNING & CONSENTS



Chief Planner letter: stakeholder update - December 2020

The Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, Kevin Stewart, and Chief Planner John McNairney have

written to stakeholders about progress and next steps for major planning workstreams including NPF4, Scottish Planning Policy, Scotland's Digital Strategy for Planning, Permitted Development Rights and implementation of the 2019 Planning Act.

The letter, which is available on The Scottish Government's [website](#), also updates guidance on relaxing planning controls, where appropriate, during the pandemic.



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Scottish Planning Policy - Finalised Amendments

The Scottish Government has published its [response](#), with finalised amendments, to proposed changes to Scottish Planning Policy, which included removing the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Following consultation, the Government has decided to retain but reword the presumption in favour of development to make it clear that the policy is to support *development that is sustainable development* rather than *development that contributes to sustainable development*.

SPP will now state that there is “a presumption in favour of sustainable development.”



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Eskdalemuir Working Group meeting

Stephanie Conesa participated in a meeting of the Eskdalemuir Working Group where Xi Engineering provided an update of its technical report. Minutes of the meeting will be published on Scottish Renewables' website in due course.

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Scottish Borders proposed LDP consultation response

Scottish Renewables has prepared a [response](#) to Scottish Borders Council’s [consultation](#) on its proposed local development plan.

This response reflects policy positions established through our NPF4 consultation process and also addresses legal aspects of the proposed LDP.

We would encourage members to use this as the basis of their own representations to the Council, whose consultation closes on January 25.

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Offshore Wind Conference 2021 goes virtual

After listening to feedback from our members and in response to updated Round 4 and ScotWind Leasing timings, our Offshore Wind Conference will now take place on April 21-22 on a fully-virtual platform.

Join us to discuss these important deadlines, receive updates on policy and politics and to find out how your business can get involved as we consider how Scotland can build out a new industry in its seas. [Virtual delegate passes, exhibition booths and sponsorship opportunities are available now.](#)



Tidal power consultation response

Scottish Renewables has submitted a [response](#) to the House of Commons' Environmental Audit Committee inquiry into Technological Innovations and Climate Change: Tidal Power.

It states that support for tidal stream technologies must be part of wider UK Government action to diversify the mix of low-carbon generation that can support a green recovery and a just transition, while also helping open up routes to decarbonisation for other ocean nations.



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Offshore wind research funding

A number of opportunities are currently open for project funding. The Supergen Programme has partnered with the Floating Wind Centre of Excellence, which is offering up to £50,000 additional match funding to the scheme. [The deadline for expressions of interest is January 11.](#)

Separately, the ORJIP programme, managed by The Carbon Trust, is looking for project ideas on consenting risk for the

coming year. The deadline is January 29 - contact [Liam Leahy](#) for more information.

Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund seeks further partners

Scottish Renewables has been coordinating industry engagement with the new SMEEF model that is currently being developed for marine environment projects. A number of offshore wind members have generously contributed to support this initial stage, and a formal launch is planned for later in 2021.

[The Fund](#) accepts voluntary donations from all users of the marine environment, from renewable energy to shipping, aquaculture, fisheries and oil and gas. For donations and enquiries, do email new Fund Manager [Sarah Brown](#).



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ONSHORE RENEWABLES



Local Energy Policy Statement

The Scottish Government published its [Local Energy Policy Statement](#) on January 6. The document sets out the key principles and outcomes it wishes to see adopted in the development of local energy projects.

An accompanying Delivery Framework will be taken forward by the Scottish Government and others to support the implementation of the statement. Scottish Renewables' response to the original consultation on the policy statement is [available](#) to read on our website.



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Teaching a LESSIN on energy systems

Cara Dalziel attended the Local Energy Systems Stakeholder Group meeting on December 15. The meeting was a soft launch for the Local Energy Systems Scottish Industry Network (LESSIN), which will aim to help the local energy

systems sector in Scotland flourish through mutual support and collaboration.

You can register your interest for the full launch of LESSIN in February 2021 by contacting the [LESSIN Collaboration Coordinator](#).

ECONOMICS & MARKETS



Call for Evidence

BEIS has published a [Call for Evidence on Enabling a High Renewable, Net Zero Energy System](#). The call, which is open until February 22, seeks evidence on how renewables will be deployed beyond the fourth Contracts for Difference allocation round and what this may mean for support mechanisms for renewable technologies in the future.

If you are interested in inputting into our response to the call for evidence, please contact [Cara Dalziel](#) by January 13.

EnergiDigit

Scottish Enterprise is a partner in a new project that will provide funding for transnational, collaborative R&D projects on the digitalisation of energy systems. Around £2 million of grant funding is available for partners in the Scottish Enterprise area.

All the call information can be found on the [call webpage](#) and Smart Energy Systems ERA-NET will be holding a [webinar](#) on January 13 to explain the call and application procedures.

Please contact [Karen Fraser](#) at Scottish Enterprise for more information.

GRID & SYSTEMS



Ofgem's Forward Work Programme 2021/22

Ofgem has launched its [Forward Work Programme for 2021/22](#), outlining its strategic goals for the year. These include enabling investment in low carbon infrastructure, delivering on full chain flexibility and ensuring energy system

governance arrangements (including Ofgem's role) are fit for the future.

The work programme is open for consultation until February 19. If you have any comments, please send these to [Cara Dalziel](#) by January 25.



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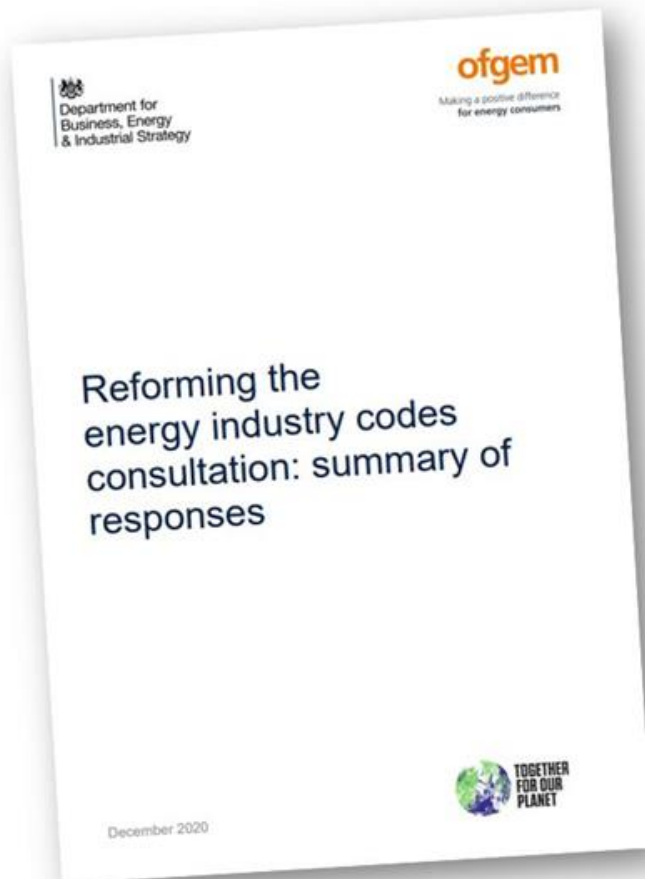
RIIO-2 Final Determinations

Following a [consultation](#) on the Draft Determinations earlier in the year, Ofgem published its [Final Determinations](#) for RIIO-2 on December 8.

Key decisions include an increase of £5 billion in baseline funding, at least £10 billion of funding available through the net-zero re-opener, and the introduction of greater flexibility into the uncertainty mechanisms to ensure timelines are better aligned to deliver net-zero.



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Reforming Energy Codes

BEIS has published a [summary](#) of stakeholder responses to its Reforming Energy Codes consultation from Autumn 2019. The Government is intending to publish a second consultation in 2021 following further policy development, taking into account the responses from the 2019 consultation.

Scottish Renewables' response to the original consultation is available to read on [our website](#).

RIIO-ED2 Sector Specific Methodology decision

Ofgem published its decision on the [RIIO-ED2 Sector Specific Methodology](#) on December 17. This is the framework for DNOs to build their business plans due to be submitted in 2021 for the 2023-28 price control period.

SR will be analysing this decision in more detail and would welcome member feedback.

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LOW-CARBON HEAT



Heat Networks Bill

Stage 2 of the Heat Networks (Scotland) Bill is to be completed by February 12. Scottish Renewables is briefing members of the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee over the next few weeks.

We intend to restart the Heat Networks Bill Policy Advisory Group in the next few days and will keep members of our Low-Carbon Heat Forum involved. Members can change their Forum preferences in [the My Account section of our website](#)



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Decarbonising Heat in Homes inquiry

SR submitted a response to the House of Commons' Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee inquiry on decarbonising heat. [Scottish Renewables' written evidence](#) focuses on the importance of renewable heat for delivering net-zero.



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New Build Heat Standard: Scoping Consultation

The Scottish Government published a [New Build Heat Standard: scoping consultation](#) in December with a closing date of March 3.

SR will be holding a Policy Advisory Group meeting in the coming weeks to inform our consultation response. Members who are interested in being part of that should contact [Helen Melone](#) to discuss.

If you are interested in inputting in to our response to the consultation, please send any comments to [Helen](#) by January 15.

Decarbonising Gas Networks in Scotland stakeholder engagement

Helen Melone attended an Arup workshop on decarbonising Scotland's gas networks.

Arup has been engaged by SGN, Scottish Government, National Grid and the Energy Networks Association to evaluate the pathways for doing so. This work is investigating how gas networks can help support Scotland's 2030 and 2045 decarbonisation targets and examining the regulations, policies and investments that are needed to make this happen.



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Heat in Buildings Strategy

Following a Parliamentary [question](#), Paul Wheelhouse confirmed the Heat in Buildings Strategy will now be published in January 2021. The draft strategy will follow the update to the Climate Change Plan, setting out the Government's plan to reduce emissions from heating homes and buildings, and how it will remove poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty.

Further details are available in this [letter](#) from Paul Wheelhouse to the convenor of the Economy, Energy & Fair Work Committee.

New renewable heat and energy efficiency incentive for homeowners

A new Scottish Government incentive for homeowners offers interest-free loans and cashback for the purchase of renewable systems and energy efficiency measures. The scheme will operate on a first-come, first-served basis until the end of financial year 2020/21.

More information can be found on the [Home Energy Scotland](#) website.

HYDROGEN



Media reaction: Hydrogen Policy Statement published

The Scottish Government published its [Hydrogen Policy Statement](#) on December 21.

[Responding](#), Helen Melone, Senior Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables, said: "We welcome the publication of the Scottish Government's Hydrogen Assessment and Hydrogen Policy Statement and their recognition that green hydrogen produced from renewable energy is the future."

Hydrogen Forum - join now

SR's Hydrogen Forum now has more than 100 members. If you're interested in the future of H2, sign up by changing your Forum preferences in [the My Account section of our website](#).



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