

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



Dear member,

The ongoing delay to ScotWind Leasing has rightly created considerable concern and uncertainty among our offshore and supply chain members.

The SR team has been working hard on a number of fronts to present your views and priorities to all concerned, right up to the First Minister herself. We all want to see Scotland forge ahead with a strong pipeline of offshore projects that can deliver huge environmental and economic benefits to the country.



We are pushing for as much clarity as possible in this vital pre-election period, so that potential project timelines are not disrupted, and we are very grateful for the excellent input that we've had from our wide range of members so far. Read more on this in the Offshore Renewables section of this email.

Ben Miller

Senior Policy Manager

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New staff member to focus on energy transition and supply chain

New recruit Emma Harrick, started with SR on March 1 in an exciting new role.

Emma is now our Energy Transition and Supply Chain Manager, and as such will be seeking to increase our presence and influence in these important areas.

With a background at supply chain companies - Babcock and A&P Group - she brings a fresh perspective to issues which have been growing in prominence for our industry in recent years.

If you'd like to chat to Emma, you can get her [on email](#) or her mobile: 07803 828390.

COP Conference and activity

Our [COP26 Conference](#) was held on February 25. Just under 400 delegates attended, joining the discussion and exploring the key role that Scotland's renewable energy businesses will play in global decarbonisation.

The sessions focussed on three areas: technology, people and nature. Speakers from SSE Renewables, NatureScot, SDI, RWE Renewables and more discussed how these three pillars working together are our areas of strength, where Scotland truly can lead the world and help speed up the race to net-zero.

Ahead of the conference, we spoke with our [Year of COP](#) Partners and Sponsors from Crown Estate Scotland, Kensa Contracting and Shepherd and Wedderburn on the issues that will be up for debate at the world's largest climate

change conference in November. Read what they had to say in [this blog](#).



Energy Hustings - Scottish Parliament Election 2021

Ahead of the upcoming 2021 Scottish Parliament elections we are jointly hosting a Hustings Energy event with Energy UK.

It will explore how each of Scotland's political parties will seek to ensure that our future energy system is low-carbon, as well as allowing them to set out their respective positions on energy consumer issues.

We will be joined by the following political party energy spokespeople: Paul Wheelhouse MSP – Scottish National Party; Alexander Burnett MSP – Scottish Conservatives; Sarah Boyack MSP - Scottish Labour Party; Mark Ruskell MSP – Scottish Green Party; Liam McArthur MSP – Scottish Liberal Democrats.

You can now register for this event [on our website](#).



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Engagement at Westminster

SR has been continuing to work with the SNP MP group to influence energy policy at Westminster.

We hosted a briefing on what renewable energy needs from the upcoming UK Budget with SNP MPs. We were joined by 18 MPs at this event, including Stuart McDonald, SNP Shadow Home Secretary; Alison Thewlis, SNP Shadow Chancellor, and Mhairi Black, SNP Shadow Scottish Secretary.

Morag Watson, our Director of Policy, was able to meet Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, at a separate event and ask him about the timetable for the consultation on the Strategy and Policy Statement for Ofgem. We are now advised this will be held in the autumn.

We have also met separately with Ian Blackford MP, Leader of the SNP Westminster Group, and Stephen Flynn, the newly appointed SNP Shadow Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Spokesperson, where we delivered an update on renewable energy in Scotland.



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LinkedIn advert - Into...?

You may have seen [our new LinkedIn advert](#) popping up in your stream over the past week.

It takes a rapid fly-through of just some of the topics we'll be covering at the [SR Annual Conference](#), which takes place online on March 23-24.



Tickets are now available, so view the programme, check out sponsorship and exhibition opportunities and [book your delegate tickets](#) on our website.



Media reaction: Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland

[Responding](#) to The Scottish Government's publication of its Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26, Morag Watson, Director of Policy at Scottish Renewables, said: "We welcome today's announcement which sets out the Scottish Government's vision for infrastructure to support and enable an inclusive net-zero economy."

Blog: Deployment levels in The Sixth Carbon Budget

The Climate Change Committee's Sixth Carbon Budget report outlines the deployment of high levels of renewable energy technology needed across the country by 2050 to phase out the current level of fossil fuels in the energy mix.

[Our latest blog](#) analyses the deployment levels of different renewable energy technologies needed and what this will mean in practice to meet this target.



Consultation response: Scotland's Fourth National Planning Framework Position Statement

Scottish Renewables has now submitted a [response](#) to the Scottish Government's consultation on Scotland's Fourth National Planning Framework Position Statement. Thank you to all members who contributed to this response.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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NPF4 Securing Positive Effects for Biodiversity Working Group

Stephanie Conesa participated in the first meeting of the NPF4 Securing Positive Effects for Biodiversity Working Group.

The group has been convened by The Scottish Government to inform the development of an updated planning policy that will secure positive effects for biodiversity as an outcome of NPF4. This is a developing area and we will keep members updated.



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Eskdalemuir Working Group

The Eskdalemuir Working Group met to discuss the proposal and funding for Phase 4 of the technical analysis undertaken by Xi Engineering, as well as the structure of the EWG.

Minutes from the meeting will be available on the Scottish Renewables website in due course.



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Planning for Great Places webinars 2021

NatureScot is delivering its second series of 'Planning for Great Places' webinars, covering various development and natural heritage related topics.

For any enquiries about the series, please contact [Alison Shand](#). Please note webinars will be recorded and may be broadcast in the future. Registering to attend the webinar will be considered as acknowledgement of the recording. Recordings of previous Planning for Great Places webinars are [available on the NatureScot website](#).

Scottish Government updates

The Scottish Government has published:

- A [joint statement](#) from the Key Agencies Group relating to the National Planning Framework 4.
- An [analysis of responses](#) to its consultation on proposed changes to pre-application consultation requirements in planning.
- [Guidance](#) on taking part in planning appeals and other cases.
- Minutes from the meetings of the Planning & Environmental Appeals Stakeholder Forum held in [July 2020](#).

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES



ScotWind Leasing delay

As detailed in the introduction to this email, the ScotWind Leasing delay is causing significant and justified concern among membership.

In reflection of that we're taking extraordinary action to both seek views from members and communicate those views to The Scottish Government and its agencies.

You should have received [an update email on actions taken to date](#). Since then, SR has also written to Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, and Kate Forbes MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, to set out why short-term gain should be balanced with long-term ambition.

We have also coordinated the SOWEC response, which has been sent to Ministers on March 4.

[Responding](#) to the announcement from Crown Estate Scotland, on February 11, that the ScotWind Leasing process would be delayed, SR Chief Executive Claire Mack said: "Developing an offshore wind farm does not begin and end with deploying turbines in the sea and our members have already invested many thousands of hours, and many millions of pounds, preparing to bid into the ScotWind Leasing process."



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News release: Bustling offshore wind sector boosts Scots SMEs

Scottish Renewables released a new edition of our ‘[Scotland’s Offshore Wind Sector: Supply Chain Impact](#)’ report last month, highlighting 21 companies working in the offshore wind sector’s thriving supply chain.

The number of case studies has increased from the publication’s previous, and first, iteration, which covered two years rather than one.

The document was supported by EDF Renewables and SSE Renewables and is expected that with the support of industry this can become an annual publication.

Read the press release [here](#).



Offshore Wind Conference 2021

Ambitions for offshore wind just keep increasing, and ScotWind has shot right to the top of industry’s agenda as the energy transition gathers pace. By the end of 2021 we should know the rough shape of Scotland’s offshore sector for the rest of this decade, and Scotland will have hosted a crucial global climate conference as well.

Our Offshore Wind Conference 2021 will take stock of our hard work to date and set out how industry can capitalise on the opportunities ahead. Virtual delegate passes, exhibition space and sponsorship opportunities are available for the event taking place on 21 - 22 April. To discuss please [contact Lisa Russell](#).



Scottish Marine Energy Industry Group

Alongside the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Claire Mack co-chaired a reconvened industry working group on the Scottish wave and tidal sector.

Scottish Renewables has agreed to set up a series of industry-led subgroups during 2021 to take forward priorities around routes to market, the project pipeline and marine energy's place in the wider energy system.

Do contact [Ben Miller](#) to discuss this work.

Call for papers open for Floating Offshore Wind

[Floating Offshore Wind 2021](#) conference and exhibition will return to Aberdeen on September 15-16 at the world-class P&J Live venue. Co-organised by Scottish Renewables and RenewableUK this new hybrid event programme will feature shorter, targeted, interactive sessions held in specially-designed, socially-distanced theatres.



A call for papers is now open ahead of the event, giving you an exciting opportunity to share your expertise and experience on any of the following:

Floating wind and the energy transition:

- Case studies
- Cost reduction technology
- Routes to market

[Submit your papers here by 5pm on March 19.](#)

ONSHORE RENEWABLES



Launch of LESSIN

The Local Energy Systems Scottish Industry Network (LESSIN), which aims to help the local energy systems sector in Scotland flourish through mutual support and collaboration, was officially launched on February 17.

Policy Manager Cara Dalziel attended the launch event which is available to [watch online](#). If you are interested in joining LESSIN, then you can do so through this [registration form](#).



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Survey: Onshore Wind Decommissioning

Zero Waste Scotland is working on a market research project to provide an objective assessment to forecast the potential volumes of decommissioned wind turbines and to identify circular economy opportunities to enable cost effective and sustainable development of the Scottish onshore wind market.

Please [follow this link to complete the short survey](#).

ECONOMICS & MARKETS



Outcome of RO mutualisation consultation

Following a consultation, BEIS has [confirmed](#) that the mutualisation threshold will be linked to the annual cost of the RO scheme. You can read Scottish Renewables' response to the consultation on [our website](#).

A response to the call for evidence on a revised approach to calculating the mutualisation amount which ran alongside the consultation will be published separately. BEIS will also publish a consultation on the matter of supplier payment default, which has led to the payment shortfalls seen in recent years, within the next few months.



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GRID & SYSTEMS



Media reaction: New report finds investing in pumped hydro storage could save up to £690m a year on pathway to net-zero

Independent researchers at Imperial College London released a [new report](#) which found that just 4.5GW of new long-duration pumped hydro storage could save up to £690m per year in energy system costs by 2050.

[Responding](#), Cara Dalziel, Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables, said: "This report is a welcome analysis of the benefits of pumped storage hydropower – a technology which already allows us to store enormous amounts of renewable electricity and has the potential to do so much more."

Media reaction: Electricity network charging report

SSEN Transmission published a discussion paper calling for views on the current Transmission Network Use of System (TNUoS) charging regime, which results in Scottish renewable generators paying significantly higher costs to connect their electricity to the grid than those in other parts of Great Britain.

[Responding](#), Morag Watson, Director of Policy, said: "The way the electricity network is paid for has a direct bearing on the UK's ability to meet its net-zero targets and this new assessment from SSEN clearly sets out why reform is so badly needed."

Webinar: SSEN Transmission Electricity network charging report

Following the recent publication of SSEN Transmission's [discussion paper on TNUoS charging](#), mentioned above, we will be jointly hosting a webinar with SSEN to discuss its key findings and seek feedback from members on the case, and options, for reform

The webinar will be held on March 16 from 9-10am. As numbers are limited, pre-registration is required. To sign up and join the TNUoS discussion [please click here](#).



Media reaction: SSEN Transmission publish updated North of Scotland Future Energy Scenarios report

SSEN Transmission has published an updated [North of Scotland Future Energy Scenarios report](#) outlining potential electricity generation and demand necessary to meet UK and Scottish net-zero emissions targets.

[Responding](#), Morag Watson, Director of Policy, said: "This report shows the potential for that contribution to increase in future, bringing with it the economic and environmental benefits Scotland will need if it is to meet its net-zero target."

Introduction to Code Change webinar

National Grid ESO will be running an 'Introduction to Code Change' webinar which will provide an overview of the code change process and how you can get involved. The event will be taking place at 1-2pm on March 18. If you are new to code change or in need of a refresher, you can [register via the ESO's website](#).

LOW-CARBON HEAT



Heat Networks Bill Stage 3

SR continued to work with MSPs to ensure that our heat members' views were represented in the development of the Heat Networks Bill. We engaged with Mark Ruskell MSP, Scottish Green Energy and Environment Spokesperson, and Maurice Golden MSP, Scottish Conservative Economy, Fair Work and Culture Spokesperson, to table amendments. We

also issued an all members briefing encouraging members to vote for the Bill.

The Bill was passed unanimously with 119 votes in favour to 0 against.



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Scottish Budget consequentials for heat decarbonisation

In a statement to the Scottish Parliament Kate Forbes, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, has [outlined](#) additional spend in the 2021-22 Scottish Budget following confirmation of a further £1.1 billion of consequential funding arising from UK Government COVID-19 support.

This includes £45 million for heat decarbonisation, energy efficiency and fuel poverty and follows Scottish Renewables' representations to The Scottish Government ahead of the Budget.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

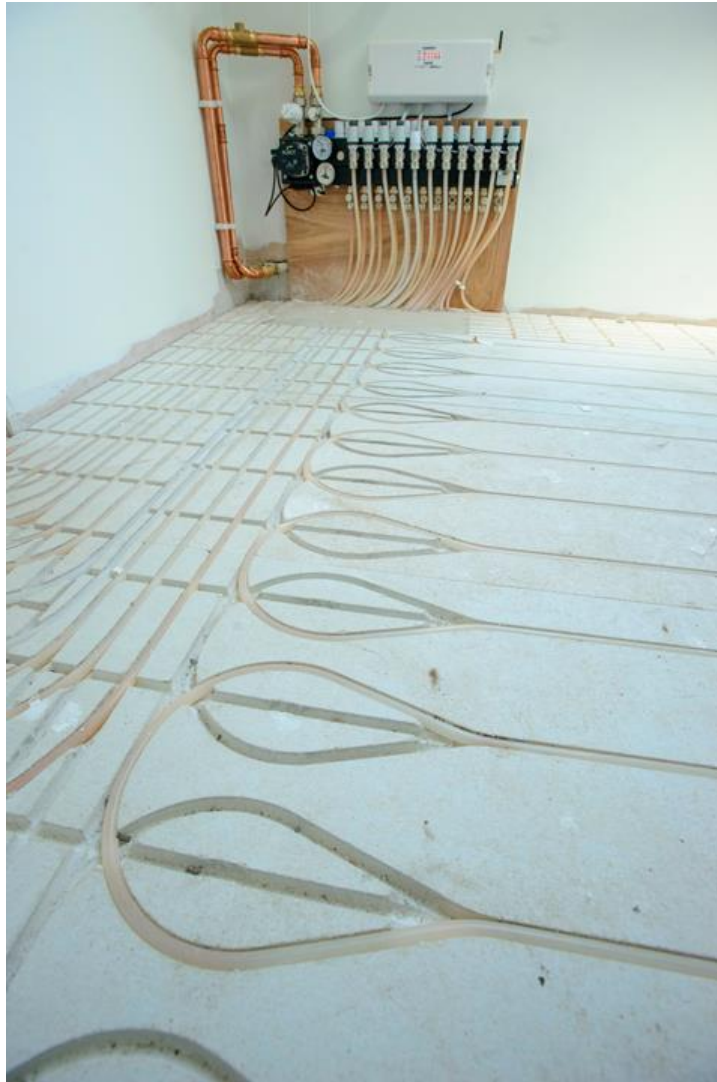
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Building Standards: Energy Review

SR sits on the review group for the Energy Standards Review of the Scottish Building Regulations. The review is considering an uplift to the emissions and energy abatement measures of the current standards and, for new buildings, will be based upon calculated energy performance and continued use of the UK SAP & SBEM methodologies.

We will be scheduling a Policy Advisory Group at the end of March to discuss these issues. If any SR member would like to be involved with this, please [email Helen](#).



Draft Heat in Buildings Strategy published

The Scottish Government published its draft Heat in Buildings Strategy on February 5.

We will be holding a number of Policy Advisory Groups on the draft Strategy in March. [Please get in touch with Helen](#) if you would like to be involved.

[Responding](#) to the launch of the draft Strategy, Helen said: “While we are pleased that The Scottish Government has published its draft Heat in Buildings Strategy, setting out how it is going to reduce emissions from heating and buildings, help to end Scotland's contribution to climate change and support up to 24,000 jobs each year, the sums which it commits to the process fall far short of those required for the task.”

The Scottish Government is now holding [a series of workshops](#) discussing the various chapters in the Strategy.

Energy Saving Trust webinars on the Heat in Buildings Strategy skills consultation

Alongside the [draft Heat in Buildings strategy](#), The Scottish Government has also published a [consultation on the Scottish skills requirements](#) for energy efficiency, zero emissions and low-carbon heating systems, microgeneration, and heat networks.

The Energy Saving Trust, on behalf of the Scottish Government, is holding webinars on March 11 and 15 which will cover the key proposals highlighted by this consultation and what they mean to your business.

- Webinar 1: Thursday March 11 at 3:30pm - [Register here](#)
- Webinar 2 Monday March 15 at 3:30pm - [Register here](#)

HYDROGEN



Media reaction: Scottish Government Hydrogen Statement

The Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Paul Wheelhouse MSP, gave a statement on developing Scotland's hydrogen economy.

[Responding](#), Helen Melone, Senior Policy Manager, said: "We welcome The Scottish Government's ministerial statement on how the hydrogen economy is progressing in Scotland.

"Green hydrogen will be a critical part of the just energy transition we must make to tackle climate change. With 25% of Europe's wind resource, Scotland's renewable energy industry has the potential become a global leader in green hydrogen and maximise the economic and environmental benefits it can deliver, including a projection of 310,000 jobs and £25 billion of GVA by 2045."



Hydrogen projects in Scotland

Helen Melone, Senior Policy Manager for Heat and Hydrogen, is gathering information on hydrogen projects in Scotland.

Please [get in touch with her](#) if you are involved in a hydrogen project.

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