

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

 scottishrenewables
MONTHLY BRIEFING
APRIL 2021

Dear member,

Following weeks of industry speculation and hard work by SR and all involved, Crown Estate Scotland published its revised position on ScotWind Leasing. You can read our public reaction [on our website](#).

With some clarity restored and a new deadline in July, our focus has returned to how we can maximise the impact of offshore wind in Scotland, and what more needs to be done to bring about a strong pipeline of projects. These will be the central themes of our [Offshore Wind Conference](#) later this month.

In the meantime please do get in touch to discuss any aspect of our work on offshore renewables.



Ben Miller
Senior Policy Manager
E: bmiller@scottishrenewables.com

GENERAL



**News release: New Scottish Renewables Chair
elected**

Last month we announced Adam Morrison, Project Director for Moray West Offshore Wind Farm at Ocean Winds, as the new Chair of Scottish Renewables.

Commenting on his new appointment, Adam said: "Scotland's potential as a renewable energy powerhouse is not in doubt and we have made enormous strides in recent years in demonstrating what we can deliver. That includes the deployment of projects that have led the way in cost reduction, as well as the development of a first-class service sector and exciting new technologies." Read the full [news release here](#).

Scottish Renewables' Annual Conference held

We held our Annual Conference online on February 23-24, with a Ministerial Address delivered by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.



The Conference's first day looked at the frameworks which shape development of the industry in Scotland and more widely. Day two focused on the specific policy issues which are restricting growth or providing opportunity.

To keep up to date with our events calendar - which includes upcoming conferences on offshore wind, onshore wind, marine and hydro, as well as the Young Professionals Green Energy Awards, [sign up to our no-spam events mailing list](#).

Meeting with Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Claire Mack met with Kwasi Kwarteng, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, at which he was

keen to hear the main issues affecting renewables in Scotland.

Claire raised the need for net-zero to be part of Ofgem's remit and how TNUoS charging is negatively-impacting renewables deployment in Scotland. The Secretary of State advised that BEIS will look into this further, and advised that positive news for Scotland should be coming in the upcoming CfD Auction Round 4.



News release: 97.4% of Scotland's electricity consumption met by renewables in 2020

The Scottish Government released new statistics which reveal that Scotland has not met its 2020 target of generating the equivalent of 100% of the nation's gross electricity demand from renewable sources.

[Responding](#), Claire Mack, Chief Executive of Scottish Renewables, said: "Scotland's ambitious climate change targets have been a tremendous motivator to the industry to increase deployment of renewable energy sources, and in the past 10 years alone we have more than tripled our renewable electricity output - enough to power the equivalent of more than seven million households."

COP26 Conference recordings and a Glasgow Council meeting

Our COP26 Conference took place in February, and you can now see recordings of all sessions from this free event [on our YouTube channel](#). Please press SUBSCRIBE while you're there to be kept up to date with our video content in future.

In March we also met with Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council, to discuss our plans for Scotland's Year

of COP and explore opportunities for collaboration with Glasgow as the event's host city.

Remember we're holding a year-long celebration of COP, including profiling opportunities at our rural Scotland Renewables Roadshow in the summer. [Drop Nick a line](#) if you'd like to get involved.



Meeting with Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands

Claire Mack met with Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, for their last meeting of this Parliament.

Claire raised the recent delay to the ScotWind Leasing process and set out key recommendations for a short review concluding ahead of the pre-election period. We also discussed our manifesto for the upcoming Scottish Parliamentary elections, which was welcomed by the Minister.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

BEN WALKER, PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER

email: bwalker@scottishrenewables.com

Roundtable with SNP Spokesperson for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

As part of our ongoing engagement at Westminster we hosted a roundtable with Stephen Flynn MP, the recently appointed SNP Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and some of our member companies.

Among the topics discussed were the need to ensure that Ofgem is reformed to include net-zero in its remit and the need to address the TNUoS transmission charging regime.

If you'd like to be involved in future events of this type please email [Ben Walker](#).



Special Advisor engagement

Nick Sharpe and Ben Walker met with Leanne Dobson, Special Advisor to the First Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform. We provided an update on the key issues facing the renewable energy industry, and discussed in detail our recommendations for the next Scottish Government.

New Scottish Enterprise model - first call mirrors SR priority

We recently took part in a roundtable call with Scottish Enterprise at which they outlined changes to their service, moving to a more flexible and transparent approach.

A new model, based on funding calls, will also start in April 2021. The first funding call, in line with Scottish Renewables' recommendations to The Scottish Government through the COVID-19 crisis and our manifesto for May's Scottish Parliament election, will focus on the creation of green jobs.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
NICK SHARPE, DIRECTOR OF COMMS & STRATEGY

email: nsharpe@scottishrenewables.com

Energy Hustings - Scottish Parliament Election 2021

Our 2021 Scottish Parliament elections Hustings Energy event, to be held with Energy UK on April 20, will see us 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](#).



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
BEN WALKER, PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER

email: bwalker@scottishrenewables.com

VisitScotland support

We've been instrumental in supporting VisitScotland's business events team in recent years, helping to bring conferences and symposia to Scotland from across the globe.

In the organisation's latest Journey To Change campaign, Nick Sharpe explains SR's role. [Read all about it.](#)

Media reaction: North Sea transition deal announced

The UK Government has published a new Sector Deal to support energy transition in the North Sea. Commitments agreed include £3 billion for renewables to power platforms and the appointment of an Industry Supply Chain Champion to coordinate with sectors such as offshore wind.

[Responding](#), Claire Mack said: "This Deal underlines both the irreversible nature of the energy path we are on, and the key role that renewable companies have to play in leading a rapid transition in the North Sea.

"Further investment in floating offshore wind is welcome and will help secure the UK's leading position in this market."

Media reaction: UK Budget

Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced a range of support packages for the low-carbon economy in the UK Government Budget on March 3.

[Responding](#), Morag Watson said: "Scotland's renewable energy industry is already delivering economic, environmental and social benefits across the country. This Budget recognises the future potential of renewables to drive economic growth in a green recovery from the coronavirus pandemic."

Media reaction: Just Transition Commission's final report

The Just Transition Commission released its final report, which sets out key opportunities and challenges for Scotland and recommends practical steps to achieving a just transition.

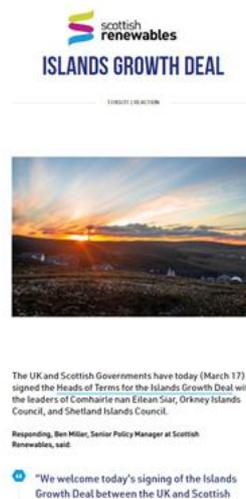
[Responding](#), Claire Mack said: "Renewable energy is at the very centre of the inclusive, net-zero economy Scotland needs

to tackle climate change.”

Media reaction: Islands Growth Deal

The UK and Scottish Governments signed the Heads of Terms for the Islands Growth Deal with the leaders of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands Council, and Shetland Islands Council.

[Responding](#), Ben Miller said: “We know that Scotland's rural communities are best placed to harness our country's abundant renewable energy resources and all three of these remote island groups have already demonstrated ground-breaking low-carbon innovation.”



PLANNING & CONSENTS



National Planning Framework 4: Securing Positive Effects for Biodiversity Working Group

Stephanie Conesa participated in the second meeting of the National Planning Framework 4 Securing Positive Effects for Biodiversity Working Group.

The next working group meeting will be in the summer, with the Scottish Government to present its thinking on draft planning policy that meets its statutory obligations under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 in securing positive effects for biodiversity as an outcome of the upcoming NPF4.

While the Scottish Government will lead on writing revised policy, all stakeholders will be invited to contribute their views in response to the formal consultation on the draft NPF4,

which will also be subject to parliamentary scrutiny, this autumn.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
STEPHANIE CONESA, POLICY MANAGER

email: sconesa@scottishrenewables.com

Chief Planner letter: stakeholder update

The Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, Kevin Stewart, and Chief Planner John McNairney have written a [letter to stakeholders](#) providing a further update on temporary legislation and guidance for the planning system while The Scottish Government continues to work through the pandemic.

The letter also updates on progress on planning reform, including on NPF4, digital transformation, and implementation of the 2019 Planning Act.



Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan update

The Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan has now been issued to Scottish Ministers for Examination.

Scottish Renewables' response to the council's recent consultation on its 2020 proposed LDP is available on our website in three parts:

- [General observations](#)
- [Sections 7, 10, 11 and 12](#)
- [Section 13](#)

Digital Planning: Transformation programme launch

The Scottish Government has launched its digital transformation programme. This launch signals the start of the work to design and deliver new systems and services based on the missions outlined in Scotland's Digital Strategy for Planning.

For more information, visit the [Transforming Planning Scotland](#) website.

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES



SOWEC Barriers to Deployment group leads HRA workshops

More than 50 stakeholders from across Scotland and England attended two workshops to discuss draft reports presented by project contractors MacArthur Green and legal firm CMS on aspects of HRA policy, which were commissioned last year by the SOWEC Barriers to Deployment group.

The final reports will be available soon.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
BEN MILLER, SENIOR POLICY MANAGER

email: bmiller@scottishrenewables.com

Meeting with Callum McCaig

Nick Sharpe and Ben Walker met with Callum McCaig, Special Advisor to the First Minister, to discuss the delay to the ScotWind Leasing process.

Callum advised that while The Scottish Government had to balance the environmental and economic opportunities, the views of the offshore wind industry had been heard loudly.

The result of the review, as discussed in the introduction to this email, reflected advice received at that meeting and SR's asks of the process.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
BEN WALKER, PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER

email: bwalker@scottishrenewables.com

National Marine Plan review

Marine Scotland has [published a review](#) of the 2015 National Marine Plan and is seeking feedback by the end of May. SR and RUK are working together on a response and are seeking initial views from members to be sent to [Ben Miller](#) by April 28.

Media reaction: New OWIC job figures published

SR reacted to new research by the Offshore Wind Industry Council suggesting that 30% of the UK's offshore wind workforce is currently based in Scotland, and that the sector is set for huge expansion in the coming years. You can read our comment and the full report [via our website](#).

Offshore Wind Conference 2021

Our Offshore Wind Conference 2021 will take stock of the hard work done in this sector 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 the latter, please [contact Lisa Russell](#).



Industry announcements

- Two of Scotland's largest projects, Berwick Bank and Marr Bank, will be in the spotlight at a supply chain event from SSE, which is open to businesses of all sizes. [Find out more about this event](#), which will be on April 16.
- Members may be interested in registering for [this workshop](#) from Supergen/HSE on May 11. It aims to identify the challenges and gaps in health and safety research, with the outputs of the workshop forming the basis of developing a roadmap for research challenges in offshore renewables health and safety.
- BEIS has announced the second phase of its [innovation competition](#), offering £3.6 million in funding to support the coexistence of offshore wind farms with UK defence radar systems. The competition will run from April 20 to June 15.

"The potential of Scotland's offshore wind sector is vast"

If you missed Claire Mack's column in the Herald at the start of April you can catch up with it [through this link](#).



Environmental Audit Committee urges UK Government to seize tidal power potential.

In a [letter to BEIS Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng](#), the EAC pointed out the evidence received by the Technological Innovations and Climate Change inquiry, issued in December 2020. The letter reflects the substantial socio-economic potential of tidal stream and urges government support.

ONSHORE RENEWABLES



Snap-happy young Scots make social media stars of country's turbines

A major new study of young people's attitudes to onshore wind launched with a [Scottish Renewables media release](#) on April 7. In it we said:

More than a quarter of a million young Scots have taken a picture of a wind turbine while out and about in the Scottish countryside.

Almost half (45%) of 16-24-year-olds questioned said they had snapped a picture of a turbine - and three quarters of those (75%) say they did so because they like the way it looked.

[Read the whole thing, and two great case studies, on our website.](#)



ECONOMICS & MARKETS



Enabling a high renewable, net zero electricity system

Scottish Renewables has [responded](#) to a call for evidence from BEIS on enabling a high renewable, net zero electricity system.

The call for evidence sought input on a range of issues, including how renewables will be deployed beyond the fourth Contracts for Difference allocation round and what this may mean for support mechanisms in the future, as well as future market design.



 FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
CARA DALZIEL, POLICY MANAGER

email: cdalziel@scottishrenewables.com

Net Zero Market Design and DSO Market webinars

Cara Dalziel attended webinars on Net Zero Market Design and DSO Markets hosted by the Electricity System Operators on March 25.

The webinars formed part of a series of online events hosted by the ESO to provide a view of electricity market change as we progress towards a zero-carbon network. Slides and recordings for all events in the series are available through the [ESO's website](#).

Horizon Europe low-carbon innovation funding

The European Commission will be launching a number of low-carbon innovation funding calls in April through the Horizon Europe programme. UK organisations remain eligible to apply.

The Scottish European Green Energy will be [hosting a webinar](#) on April 13 from 10-11am to provide an overview and offer guidance on support that is available throughout the application process. Scottish Enterprise is also organising a workshop on April 15 for any businesses in Scotland that have an interest in the heat/energy efficiency calls. Contact conall.mcginley@scotent.co.uk to register your interest.

GRID & SYSTEMS



ENERGY STORAGE REFORM NEEDED TO MEET NET-ZERO: NEW REPORT

24/03/21 | NEWS RELEASE



Vital electricity storage capacity needed to help the UK meet its net-zero target should be supported by an innovative funding mechanism, new research has found.

Long-duration storage means electricity produced by renewables such as wind farms can be stored for use when it is needed by consumers.

It will increasingly be needed as the UK transitions to a low-carbon energy system based on renewable power rather than burning fossil fuels.

A new study by Scottish Renewables, the British Hydropower Association and five leading hydropower developers recommends introducing a 'price floor' to allow more long-duration storage projects, including pumped-storage hydropower, to be built.

Cara Dalziel, Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables, said:

“Phasing out fossil fuel electricity generation is essential if we are to have any chance of tackling climate change. It is no secret that

News release: Energy storage reform needed to meet net-zero: new report

On day one of our Annual Conference we released a [new study](#) which shows that vital electricity storage capacity needed to help the UK meet its net-zero target should be supported by an innovative funding mechanism.

Cara Dalziel, Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables, said: “It is no secret that wind turbines only generate power when the wind is blowing and that solar only works in daylight, so new types of flexibility are going to be required as we increase the amount of variable renewable electricity generation on the grid.”

The report was funded by Scottish Renewables, the British Hydropower Association, Buccleuch, CCSQ, Drax Group, Intelligent Land Investments Group and SSE Renewables.

[Read it here.](#)

Blog: Transmission charging and its impact on renewable energy development

“There is no doubt that the infrastructure and systems that we are going to rely upon will need to change – be that by growing or working more efficiently – to enable our path to net-zero.”

Scottish Renewables Chief Executive Claire Mack considers the issue of transmission charging in [this blog](#).



**Event Partners: Aker Solutions, Equinor, Ocean Winds, ORE
Catapult, RWE and Shell.**

Principles for Scottish network development

The Scottish Government, Scotland’s energy networks, National Grid ESO and Ofgem have [published a set of agreed principles](#) which set out how Scottish energy policy should be taken into account in plans and decisions about investment in network infrastructure.

The document contains a number of principles, including that Ofgem and network companies should consider Scottish Government policies and targets when reaching determinations on network funding.

Flexibility tender figures published

Open Networks Project has [published the latest flexibility figures](#) to show the volumes of flexibility services each DNO is tendering during 2021. These tenders are for services to be delivered in 2021-2027. The figures are collected each year to provide visibility and confidence to the market, encouraging investment in flexibility services.



Consultation Response: New Build Heat Standard scoping consultation

SR submitted a [response](#) to the Scottish Government's [scoping consultation](#) on a New Build Heat Standard, setting out our concerns about the cut-off date of 2024.

We recently also held a Policy Advisory Group to discuss the 2021 review of energy standards in building regulations. If you'd like to get involved with our work on this topic in future, do contact Helen.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

HELEN MELONE, SENIOR POLICY MANAGER

email: hmelone@scottishrenewables.com

Draft Heat in Buildings Strategy

Two Policy Advisory Group meetings have recently been held on the draft Scottish Government [Heat in Buildings Strategy](#), and the outputs of these meeting are being used to produce a draft response. The draft response will send it out to members of the Low-Carbon Heat Forum for further comment. The closing date for [the consultation](#) is April 30.

There are two accompanying consultations, one on [skills](#) and one on [a successor programme to the LCITP](#). We will be drafting responses to both of these and seeking member comments later in April.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

HELEN MELONE, SENIOR POLICY MANAGER

email: hmelone@scottishrenewables.com

Heat Pump Sector Deal

A paper is currently being written on the deployment process within the Heat Pump Sector Deal, as this is an issue members have raised at recent Policy Advisory Group meetings. This paper will be shared with members of the Low-Carbon Heat Forum for further member input.

The [Heat Pump Sector Deal expert advisory group](#) is currently working on an interim report which should be published in April.



SSEN Heat Strategy Proposal

SSEN has launched a consultation on its [Heat Strategy Proposal](#) to empower stakeholders to shape its approach to heat decarbonisation. The consultation will remain open until April 30. If members have any comment to make on this, please [email Helen Melone](#).

HYDROGEN



Second draft Green Hydrogen position paper

The second draft of SR's [Hydrogen Policy Position Paper](#) has been sent to members of the Hydrogen Forum for comment.

If you are not a member of that Forum, please [tick that option when accessing your account on our website](#). Please make any comments by COP Wednesday April 14 using tracked changes and send on to [Helen Melone](#).

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)