

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

 scottishrenewables
MONTHLY BRIEFING
AUGUST 2021

Dear member,

Positive news to report this month on Scottish Renewables' ongoing campaign to create a route to market for long-duration storage, including, of course, pumped storage hydropower.

Following the publication of SR's report on realising the benefits of long-duration storage - [Filling the Flexibility Gap](#) - in March, alongside [media coverage](#) and social media activity, BEIS agreed to meet with us to discuss the issue.

I am pleased to report that they have responded positively to our request and launched a [Call for Evidence on large-scale, long duration storage](#). This Call for Evidence consults on the different financial models set out in our report. We will be working with our Pumped Storage Hydro Working Group to respond to the Call for Evidence but if any members have initial comments, please send them to Angeles Sandoval.

Pumped storage hydro and its future will be on the agenda at our [Hydro Conference](#), which will be held virtually on August 26. [Tickets](#) and the [programme](#) are now available through our website.





Angeles Sandoval

Policy Manager

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GENERAL



Meeting with Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth

Claire Mack and Morag Watson recently met with Tom Arthur MSP, Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth, to explore our industry's positions on the upcoming NPF4 reforms.

The Minister stressed that NPF4 will be based on meeting The Scottish Government's priority of achieving net-zero by 2045 and that he is very keen to work collaboratively with our industry to ensure planning supports increased renewable deployment.



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SENIOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER

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Holyrood engagement

We have been continuing to deliver our post-election engagement to advance our priorities with new and returning MSPs.

This month we have met with Ariane Burgess and Elena Whitham, the new Convener and Deputy Convener of the

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, to discuss our industry's vision for upcoming NPF4 reform. We also met with Scottish Green Co-Leader Lorna Slater, as well as Paul O'Kane, Foyso Choudhury, Michelle Thomson and Sharon Dowey.

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Westminster engagement

We have continued to raise industry concerns on the TNUoS transmission charging regime, and worked with Alan Brown MP ahead of his recent adjournment debate on [Electricity Network Grid Charges](#). We have also met with Alan to explore the upcoming CfD Auction Round 4.

Scottish Renewables has also [written to the Scottish Affairs Committee](#), following an appearance in June at which we explained the TNUoS issue. The letter sets out more information on the threat network charging poses, as well as rebutting Ofgem's suggestion, in later questioning, that it did not believe there was an issue with the charging regime.

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Blog: Through the eyes of COP26 - The Scottish Government's first six months

The [latest blog](#) in Scottish Renewables' Year of COP series hears from Partners and Supporters Deloitte, EDF Renewables, Kensa Contracting and MacArthur Green on what the new government can realistically achieve in its first six months before Scotland becomes a focal point for the world at COP26.

News release: UK's largest renewable energy awards will return to Edinburgh in December

We are proud to announce that [The Scottish Green Energy Awards](#), the most highly-anticipated event in the Scottish renewable energy industry's calendar, will return in-person at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre on December 2.

[Claire Mack said](#): "I am absolutely delighted that we will be celebrating Scotland's renewable energy industry in-person at this year's Scottish Green Energy Awards.

"In the year of COP26, the eyes of the world are on Scotland and The Scottish Green Energy Awards are another opportunity to showcase the critical role and impact the renewable energy industry is playing in our fight against climate change."

Nominations are now open, and a full list of the award categories can be found [on our website](#). Please [contact Rachel](#) to enquire about tickets, tables and sponsorship.



CBI meeting

Claire and Nick have met with CBI Scotland Senior Associate Director Vanessa O'Brien to discuss how the organisations can work more closely together.

Members of the Industry Resilience Forum will remember that SR worked with the CBI on behalf of our members during the height of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. We are now seeking ways to collaborate on other issues which affect both organisation's members.

 FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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Invitation: Year of COP networking reception

Scottish Renewables' [Year of COP](#) campaign continues, with the first [Renewable Energy Roadshow](#) event taking place in Dornoch on August 11. These events are a chance for industry to speak directly to the public about the benefits renewable energy brings to their area. They will be held alongside three networking receptions, the first of which, at Nigg on the Cromarty Firth on August 27, features an address from Scottish Government Minister Maree Todd and a tour of Global Energy Group's Port of Nigg facility. Free spaces are available, but are limited - [book now](#) to secure yours.

[Get in touch](#) to learn about how your organisation can get involved as we count down to the conference in Glasgow in November.



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Blog: How renewable energy is democratising access to Scotland's outdoors

"Some people say that renewable energy developments like wind farms spoil the view and will put off tourists who travel to Scotland for its landscapes. In my role at Scottish Renewables I know that the evidence just doesn't support that view."

Our [new blog](#) by Director of Communications Nick Sharpe explains why renewable energy projects are opening up the outdoors for all.

PLANNING & CONSENTS



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

Stephanie participated in the final meeting of The Scottish Government's NPF4 Securing Positive Effects for Biodiversity Working Group. The Scottish Government confirmed that it is not minded to take a metric-based approach to securing positive effects for biodiversity, and indicated that a more tailored approach may be necessary for more complex projects.

Workshop meeting notes are now available on the [Transforming Planning website](#), and The Scottish Government will consult on this through the NPF4 consultation expected this autumn.

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Planning Performance and Fees Consultation – Analysis of Responses

The Scottish Government has published an [analysis of responses](#) to its consultation on planning fees and the performance of planning authorities.

DPEA Annual Review 2020/21

The Scottish Government has published its [annual review](#) of the Planning & Environmental Appeals Division for the period April 2020 to March 2021. If you would like a hard copy, please [contact the DPEA](#).

DPEA Core Documents Library Update

The DPEA is currently updating its [core documents library](#), which contains core documents for use in planning and environmental appeals. It intends to create a dedicated section for documents often relevant to Section 36 Electricity Act 1989 cases and make these available for those involved in these cases to refer to when making submissions to DPEA.

Please send any relevant documents in PDF format to dpeaitfinance@gov.scot.



Call to help pollinators on wind farm sites

Our wild pollinators are in trouble and facing pressures such as habitat loss and fragmentation, changes in land use, disease, pesticides and climate change - they need our help.

Specific guidance has now been produced in Ireland to offer advice on [pollinator-friendly management of wind farms](#). In Scotland, similar action can be undertaken in line with the [Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017-2027](#), and the accompanying Implementation Plan, which were created to set out how we can make Scotland a place where pollinators can thrive.

For more information, contact Kenny.Taylor@nature.scot, and if you have any detail of pollinator-friendly action already taken

on your sites in Scotland, please email Nick.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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OFFSHORE RENEWABLES



NEW: Scottish Renewables Supply Chain Forum

We have created a new Supply Chain Forum. Members are asked to please tell supply chain companies with whom they work about this new initiative, which is being led by [Emma Harrick](#), our Energy Transition and Supply Chain Manager.

Read more about this in the Supply Chain section of this email, below.



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Offshore Transmission Network Review published

Ofgem has [published a consultation](#) on several of the OTNR workstreams, including 'Early Opportunities' (projects in progress) and 'Pathways to 2030' (late 2020s and ScotWind projects).

SR held an initial Policy Advisory Group to discuss the Scotland-specific implications of proposals in this consultation. Further input to the Scottish Renewables' draft response would be welcome from members to [Ben Miller](#) by August 16.



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Media reaction: Closing date for ScotWind Leasing

Applications for ScotWind Leasing, the first round of offshore wind leasing in Scottish waters for a decade, closed on July 16.

[Responding](#), Ben Miller, Senior Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables, said: “Offshore wind developers from across the world have recognised Scotland’s renewables potential, and have worked incredibly hard in challenging times to be able to submit their project bids today.”

Forum discussion with fisheries sector

As part of our SOWEC work on Barriers to Deployment, Scottish Renewables organised a forum in collaboration with the Scottish Fishermen’s Federation. Around 30 people from across fisheries representatives, offshore developers and different stakeholders attended and heard presentations on the challenges facing both sectors working in the marine environment.



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New report on Scottish-French opportunities

The Scottish Government has [published a report](#), authored by EMEC and partners, into floating wind and hydrogen collaboration opportunities between Scotland and France. Separately, The Crown Estate confirmed the [300MW of floating projects](#) that are being taken forward in its Celtic Sea test and demonstration leasing round.

ECONOMICS & MARKETS



Feed-in Tariff (FiT) scheme - consultation on replacement generating equipment

Scottish Renewables submitted a [response](#) to the consultation from Ofgem on replacement generating equipment under the FIT scheme.

If you would like to discuss further, please get in touch.



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GRID & SYSTEMS



Transitioning to a net zero energy system: Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan 2021

BEIS and Ofgem have released the [Smart System and Flexibility Plan 2021](#). The plan sets out a vision, analysis and suite of policies for delivering a smart and flexible electricity system to drive a net-zero energy system focused on four areas: supporting flexibility from consumers, removing barriers to flexibility on the grid, reforming markets to reward flexibility and monitoring flexibility across the system.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss.



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Ofgem's Full Chain Flexibility Forum

Scottish Renewables attended Ofgem's Full Chain Flexibility Forum this month. The Forum, which aims to discuss how to efficiently deliver full chain flexibility, addressed key issues about data, digitalisation and technology; system planning and operations; signals and markets; and consumers and behaviours.

We will keep members up to date on any developments from the Forum as work progresses. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss, drop Angeles an email.



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Scottish Renewables' response to the House of Lords Industry and Regulators Committee

inquiry into Ofgem and net-zero

Scottish Renewables submitted a [response](#) to the call for evidence from the Lords Industry and Regulators Committee on Ofgem and net-zero.

If you would like to discuss further please [contact Angeles](#).

Access and Forward-looking Charges Significant Code Review minded-to decision Policy Advisory Group

Scottish Renewables held a Policy Advisory Group in collaboration with RUK on July 13. The meeting focussed on initial discussion about TNUoS charges for small distribution generators (SDG), new changes to the connection boundary and access rights.



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Proposals for a Future System Operator role consultation PAG

Scottish Renewables held a Policy Advisory Group on July 30. The meeting focused on initial discussions to assess the benefits that a new Future System Operator will bring to the energy system and the key features that this new entity should have.



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National Grid ESO Future Energy Scenarios 2021

National Grid ESO released the [Future Energy Scenarios \(FES\) 2021](#) on July 15. The report outlines four different pathways for the future of the energy system between now and 2050.

The scenarios are consistent with those from FES 2020, but the details are new for 2021. All the scenarios have lower emissions by 2030 and three of them achieve net-zero by 2050.

RIIO-ED2 business plan

SSEN Distribution and SPEN released their RIIO-ED2 draft business plan ([SSEN plan](#), [SPEN plan](#)) on July 1. If you have any feedback about these documents, you can email SSEN and SPEN directly: ED2Plan@sse.com and RIIO_ED2@spenergynetworks.co.uk.

LOW-CARBON HEAT



Heat Networks (Scotland) Act stakeholder meeting

Scottish Renewables attended a Scottish Government stakeholder meeting on the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act. Expected shortly is a Heat Networks Delivery Plan which must be published by April 2022. This is being developed and will be consulted on soon.

This plan will be looking at demand assurance, storage, waste heat including energy from waste, decarbonising existing heat networks, skills and investment, consumer protection and fuel poverty.

We will reconvene the Heat Networks PAG soon to discuss the Heat Networks Delivery Plan. Please get in touch with Helen Melone if you would like to be part of that PAG or would like to discuss any of the above.



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Energy Standards consultations

The Scottish Government is reviewing [section 6 of the building standards on energy](#). These new proposals seek to deliver further improvement to the energy efficiency of new buildings and new building work, in line with wider net-zero ambitions. If members have any comment to make on this consultation, please [get in touch with Helen](#) by August 13.

In addition, The Scottish Government is consulting on reform to domestic Energy Performance Certificates (EPC). If members have any comments they wish to make regarding this consultation, please [get in touch with Helen](#) by August 13.



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Media reaction: Renewable heat funding announced

The Scottish Government [announced](#) that a programme to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency will receive an extra £9 million of funding this year to support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and help fuel-poor households save money on their heating bills.

[Responding](#), Morag Watson, Director of Policy at Scottish Renewables, said: "Heat makes up more than half of the energy used in Scotland. Focussing on its decarbonisation is crucial if we are to meet our climate change targets, which include the ambitious goal of producing 50% of all energy from renewable sources by 2030."



Heat Networks Act update

The Scottish Government will begin working on the different sets of regulations which make up the Heat Networks Act in the near future.

Scottish Renewables is planning to hold a Heat Networks Policy Advisory Group meeting in the next few months. Please [get in touch with Helen](#) if you would like to take part.

Heat funding gaps

We are researching heat funding and the different schemes which do and do not apply in Scotland. We would like to find

out from members if they are having any issues accessing funding - please get in touch if this is an issue you're facing.

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Renewable heat case study projects

We are continuously looking for renewable heat projects in Scotland at which we can work with members to arrange visits by politicians and Ministers from both governments, raising the profile of the sector and its challenges.

If you have a potential case study, please [get in touch with Helen](#).

CARES funding

The latest round of funding from the Scottish Government's [Community and Renewable Energy Scheme \(CARES\)](#) is now open.

Funding is available to help communities decarbonise their community buildings by installing low carbon or renewable energy systems, such as heat pumps or solar panels. Expressions of interest are invited in the first instance, before closing to new applications on September 30.

HYDROGEN



Scotland's Hydrogen Accelerator

Scottish Renewables regularly meets with staff from the Hydrogen Accelerator. It runs a monthly [Industry Club](#) which is an opportunity for companies involved in energy-related activity to work closely with the University of St Andrews, to have access to the latest research and developments.

 FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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SR Position Paper on Green Hydrogen

We would like to thank all the members who contributed via the PAGs and the Hydrogen Forum to the position paper we are developing on green hydrogen. This paper is being signed off and we will be able to send it out shortly.

SUPPLY CHAIN



Launching Scottish Renewables Supply Chain Forum

We have created a new Supply Chain Forum to notify members of industry updates and our ongoing work to ensure renewable energy is at the heart of the energy transition.

To join the Supply Chain Forum, or amend your member Forum preferences, see [our website](#) and make sure you are receiving relevant updates and invites to virtual meetings.

If you have any questions, please contact [Emma](#).



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Energy Transition Documentary

Ahead of COP26 [Silverback productions](#) have been commissioned by YouTube to create a 12-episode series on climate change to be broadcast worldwide online.

Providing insight to the energy-transition-focused episode, Emma met with the documentary researchers to discuss themes including a just transition, the supply chain and the transferable skills of oil and gas employees.

If you would like further information please contact [Emma](#).

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