

2020-21 IN REVIEW

Measuring up

We commissioned new work to understand the scale of our sector: how many people work in renewables in Scotland, and the value of our contribution to the economy as a whole.

Setting the tone

Our manifesto for 2021's Scottish Parliament elections set the tone, outlining action which the next Scottish Government should take on energy and climate change. Our recommendations were adopted across parties.

Cabinet boost for energy

Our election manifesto set out the benefits of a Cabinet post focussing on energy and net-zero – an appointment which was confirmed by the First Minister. We're now working to build relationships with a new ministerial team and new MSPs on behalf our members.

Almost at 100%

We learned in March that renewables now produce the equivalent of 97.4% of Scotland's electricity consumption – narrowly missing out on the target which shaped deployment over the past decade. Our members deliver that power, and Scottish Renewables is here to ensure you can continue to do so.

Planning for the future

Exclusive Scottish Renewables research shone a light on the crisis in Scotland's planning system, showing the number of local authority planning department staff had fallen 20% in a decade – even as the country gears up to meet net-zero.

Speaking up for sustainability

We acted quickly and decisively over plans to remove the presumption in favour of "development that contributes to sustainable development" from Scottish Planning Policy. Our work, with civil servants, ministers and in the media, resulted in the presumption being retained – an important win for our industry.

Storage success

Many years of work to create a route to market for long-duration storage, including, of course, pumped storage hydropower, came to fruition in 2021, with a report commissioned alongside members and meetings with senior BEIS officials resulting in a call for evidence on the issue.

Charging ahead

Work to simplify TNUoS - a growing challenge faced by our industry - paid dividends, with a Westminster committee appearance by CEO Claire Mack sparking headlines. MPs, briefed by Scottish Renewables on the TNUoS burden faced by Scottish developers, also took up the sector's cause and are campaigning for change.

scottishrenewables YEAR OF COP

Our Year of COP campaign is delivering tangible benefits for our members as governments gear up for November's event. Our Renewable Energy Roadshow is speaking to the public about renewables, while a blog series and our upgraded member Directory explain the issues that matter and create a global shop window for members.

Keeping ScotWind moving

When unprecedented market shifts halted the ScotWind Leasing process, Scottish Renewables' Policy and Communications teams worked hard to keep a challenging review process on track, collating industry feedback and managing relationships. Our work for and with the sector paid off, with the delay minimised and leasing back on track.