

# RENEWABLE ENERGY: DELIVERING FOR SOUTH SCOTLAND



Across South Scotland, Scotland's renewable energy industry is working to harness our world-leading natural resources to generate the clean energy we need to run our lives while tackling climate change.

This factsheet shines a spotlight on just some of the renewable energy projects in South Scotland which are building healthier communities, creating green jobs and investment and making vital progress in tackling the climate emergency.

## Renewable energy facts: South Scotland

1. 87% of the region's renewable energy capacity is onshore wind, followed by offshore wind at 4.1%.<sup>1</sup>
2. Scotland has 11.9GW of renewable electricity generation capacity – 4.2GW are in South Scotland.<sup>2</sup>
3. Every year onshore wind farms in the region contribute £9,906,249 of community benefit funding money which would not otherwise be available for good causes.<sup>3</sup>

## Onshore wind in South Scotland

Across South Scotland windfarms from developer EDF Renewables are capturing our abundant wind resources to generate electricity for local communities. This includes the Longpark windfarm near Stow and Fallago Rig wind at the Lammermuir Hills in Berwickshire, which can generate 182MW and power up to 108,000 homes. Together they are investing £296,000 a year in the community which can be spent on local priorities.<sup>4,5</sup>

Research for Scottish Renewables by Fraser of Allander Institute has shown that across Scotland onshore wind supports a total of 8,780 jobs, helping to create the green skills we need for our net-zero future. The onshore wind industry also

provides Scotland with an economic output of £2.4 billion.

Scottish Renewables is calling for a low-carbon assessment to be introduced into Scotland's planning system to ensure that more renewable developments can go ahead.

1. Scottish Energy Statistic Hub. Renewable electricity capacity by local authority (2019)
2. Scottish Energy Statistic Hub. Displaced emissions (2019) and renewable energy electricity generation by local authority (2019).
3. Local Energy Scotland
4. <https://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/longpark>
5. <https://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/fallago-rig>



## Renewable Heat at Floors Castle

Floors Castle, the largest inhabited castle in Scotland near Kelso in the Scottish Borders, is at the forefront of renewable heat innovation. A 720kw biomass boiler was installed in farm buildings in 2008 and has since been supplying heating for this large rural business. The boiler uses approximately 500 tonnes of woodchips from low-grade timber, harvested locally on the Roxburghe Estates.

Replacing an oil heating system, which consumed approximately 100,000 litres a year, the woodfuel boiler has resulted in a saving of 500,000kg of carbon dioxide per year, the equivalent of heating

10,000 houses for a day.<sup>6</sup> In 2013 a second phase of the biomass boiler programme was completed, which included the installation of heating systems in 16 cottages at Floors Home Farm and the Estate Office, expanding the benefits of clean heat through the area.

Scottish Renewables is calling for the introduction of a Rural Heat Decarbonisation Fund by The Scottish Government to support more communities across South Scotland to transition to low-carbon heating.



## Community energy in the Scottish Borders

At Hoprigshiels in the Scottish Borders the Fishermen Three windfarm, a partnership between Community Energy Scotland (CES) and Berwickshire Housing Association (BHA), is creating benefits for residents across the region. The three-turbine scheme has an installed capacity of 7.5MW and can power around 5,900 households, saving 12,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year.<sup>7</sup>

Over the next 25 years this windfarm will create around £20 million for BHA – enough to allow them to build 500 new homes over that period for residents in the Borders. In addition, CES's £10 million share of the revenue will support communities to develop renewable energy projects and play a crucial part in building a greener energy system. An annual community benefit payment of £37,500 is also made to the communities closest to the wind farm site, to be spent on whatever they identify as their priorities.

To encourage new and existing community energy schemes Scottish Renewables is calling for The Scottish Government to provide non-domestic tax relief and streamline all funding and support into the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme.

6. Biomass Boiler - <https://www.floorscastle.com/estate/conservation-and-renewables/biomass-boiler/>
7. <https://www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk/projects-innovations/the-fishermen-three/>



Fisherman Three wind farm

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