



scottish
renewables

5 ACTIONS FOR GB ENERGY

1. A GLOBAL VOICE FOR THE UK'S
RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY
2. ACCELERATING DEPLOYMENT
3. DRIVING HEAT DECARBONISATION
4. INVESTING IN RENEWABLE
INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
5. SCALING-UP SUPPLY CHAIN

Scottish Renewables is the voice of Scotland's renewable energy industry. We work to grow Scotland's £5.6 billion renewable energy industry, which supports more than 27,000 jobs, and sustain its position at the forefront of the global clean energy industry.

The sectors we represent deliver fresh investment, high-quality, green jobs and social benefits to local communities whilst crucially tackling the climate emergency. The next UK Government must commit to accelerating our clean energy transition so that we can unlock the enormous socioeconomic opportunities of net-zero for Scotland and the entire UK.

Scottish Renewables has identified the following five priorities for The Labour Party's commitment in The Green Prosperity Plan to establish GB Energy, a publicly-owned clean energy generation company that will be headquartered in Scotland.

1 A GLOBAL VOICE FOR THE UK'S RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY

A future Labour Government should seek to combine their mission to make the UK a clean energy superpower with our global standing as a soft power by putting the UK's acceleration of renewable energy at the front and centre of our image to the rest of the world.

The GREAT Britain campaign by VisitBritain has incentivized the UK as a place to work, live and study. We need a global voice to promote the UK as a place to invest and do business in clean energy, helping to attract international investment and the best talent in the world.

Working in partnership with The Scottish Government and other devolved administrations, GB Energy should design a marketing campaign as part of our response to international competition, including the USA's Inflation Reduction Act and the EU's Fit for 55. The campaign should seek to promote the world-leading actions of Scotland's renewable energy industry, including in marine energy and offshore wind.

GB Energy should create and run an international marketing campaign in coordination with The Scottish Government to attract clean energy investment and talent to the UK.

2 ACCELERATING DEPLOYMENT

Deploying cheap, renewable energy at scale is the best way to reduce energy bills for consumers, increase energy security and cut carbon emissions from our energy sector — all while delivering significant socioeconomic benefits to local communities.

Too many renewable energy projects which could be generating clean power are unable to do so because of planning delays, a lack of grid infrastructure, crippling charges levied to use the electricity network and a host of other reasons.

Labour's Green Prosperity Plan has committed to rewiring Britain by removing the obstacles to the UK's major net-zero projects. We support the ambition to empower a Future Systems Operator and provide certainty to transmission operators.

From day one GB Energy should facilitate cooperation between industry and government on how to remove and ease barriers to deployment, bringing forward all renewable technologies and delivering more of the community benefits which they offer from Cornwall to the islands of Scotland.

GB Energy should work with governments and local authorities across the UK, in partnership with industry, to remove barriers to the deployment of the renewable energy projects which the UK needs to meet its net-zero targets.

3 DRIVING HEAT DECARBONISATION

At present, the UK has the worst insulated homes in all of Europe and heating from buildings accounts for 17% of the UK's total carbon emissions — comparable to the contribution of all petrol and diesel cars¹. Labour's Green Prosperity Plan² has committed to upgrading 19 million homes through a Warm Homes Plan, including up to 1.4 million homes in Scotland.

We welcome this ambition and believe GB Energy should have a dedicated taskforce for heat decarbonization, tasked with driving cooperation between all layers of devolved government, supply chains and installers so that regulation is synchronized with industry backing. We also believe GB Energy should explicitly prioritise the rollout of heat pumps, heat networks and energy efficiency measures, providing targeted funding to the most fuel-poor households and communities.

GB Energy should drive cooperation on heat decarbonisation which simplifies the renewable heat journey and targets funding where it's most needed: at fuel-poor homes and communities.

¹ Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee, Decarbonising Heat in Homes (February 2022)

² A Guide to Decarbonisation of Heat, Catapult (2023)

4 INVESTING IN RENEWABLE INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Labour's Green Prosperity Plan has committed that GB Energy will provide additional investment alongside the private sector in both established and leading-edge renewable technologies. We believe that GB Energy should also prioritise unlocking and de-risking private investments in the 'anchor' components of the UK's clean energy transition, in particular our ports and grid network.

For example, the Floating Offshore Wind Taskforce³ has recommended that £4 billion is needed to develop ports as soon as possible across the UK to ensure they are ready for mass floating wind

deployment by the end of this decade. Meanwhile, reaching the UK's target of 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 alone will require an average of £17 billion of private investment into the UK each year⁴.

Working in partnership with The Scottish Government and other devolved administrations, GB Energy should support ports to become renewables-ready more quickly and give international investors the confidence to invest in infrastructure and innovation across UK through stable policy and regulation.

GB Energy should recognise ports as the lynchpin to growing our domestic supply chain and establish an investment action plan which identifies funding gaps in our clean energy infrastructure and innovative technologies.

5 SCALING-UP SUPPLY CHAIN

A thriving domestic supply chain of renewable energy businesses, both SME and larger, will be the backbone to the UK's net-zero ambitions. Scottish Renewables' Supply Chain Impact Statement 2022/23 found that of the organisations featured 89% believe renewable energy is Scotland's biggest economic opportunity.

Labour's Green Prosperity Plan has committed to nurturing partnerships with SMEs and large

local employers. However, SME suppliers require additional targeted support to scale-up and enhance their capabilities, competitiveness and capacity.

Alongside ensuring a steady stream of clean energy projects, GB Energy should leverage private investment to establish a supply chain SME support mechanism for near-term net-zero projects, boosting local jobs and expertise.

GB Energy should leverage bodies such as the Scottish National Investment Bank to support the immediate growth of local clean energy suppliers by working on near-term net-zero projects, backed by targeted SME funding.

³ Industry Roadmap 2040: Building UK Port Infrastructure to Unlock the Floating Wind Opportunity, RenewableUK (2023)

⁴ Offshore Wind Industry Council Skills Report (2022)