

Mission Statement

Introduction

Energy is a crucial element of Scotland's current economy and will become an increasingly important part of the future economy, as well as having a profound economic, social and environmental impact on businesses and individuals. As many of the most important aspects of energy policy in Scotland are matters currently 'reserved' to Westminster under the Scotland Act (1998), energy is also at the very heart of the debate around Scotland's constitutional future.

The importance of embracing the energy 'quadrilemma' has been rehearsed so often, it does not need to be restated here. There is however a sense of frustration within Scotland, where there is enormous appetite and potential for progressing the decarbonisation agenda, as this is being held back by UK Government strategy (or lack thereof). Large scale energy producers, project developers, technology developers and trade bodies all now widely agree that energy is a vital element of Scotland's short and long term economic growth, and that renewable energy is the largest economic opportunity currently available to the country. Current analysis shows that the number of energy sector jobs has increased in recent years, and recent research shows that the annual output from the Scottish renewable energy industry (and its supply chain) is of considerable value to the economy. Any doubt about the importance of the energy sector to the economy can be dispelled by the latest Scottish GDP figures which show that output in the energy growth sector increased by 5.0% in the most recent quarter, whereas output across the economy as a whole increased by only 0.4%.

Similarly encouraging data can be seen in the employment figures, as well as energy export and total sector turnover. Taken alone, these figures clearly demonstrate the

economic opportunity available to Scotland. However there is still some considerable way to go to ensure that all of the vast natural and human potential that Scotland has to offer is being utilised to maximum environmental, social and economic benefit. For example, although the energy sector in Scotland has enormous potential to further growth, in March 2023 only 2% of registered companies in Scotland were active in the energy industry, and the vast majority of those were small to medium-sized enterprises.

Notwithstanding, there continues to be a thriving, diverse and growing population of 'players' within the energy space based in Scotland who are keen to ensure that the country's impressive but underused technical and commercial expertise, as well as huge natural resources, are managed in a meaningful and socially-equitable way, and in line with the desire for a Just Transition to sustainable energy provision for all.

Our Mission

Energy Scotland seeks to bring together representatives covering the breadth of the energy sector (including project developers, customer-facing energy suppliers, energy generators, system operators, academics and technology solutions providers).

Energy Scotland's aim is to utilise the vast expertise encompassed by these representatives of the Scottish Energy sector to inform policy and decision making, in order that Scotland can optimise and reshape the ways in which it generates, distributes and consumes energy.

The group aims to disseminate informed, experience-based, expert opinion and to support and facilitate decision making in order to:

- Stimulate informed policy creation and revision, in line with current domestic and international environmental targets;
- Create a commercially sustainable energy sector which is on a clear and achievable path to a net increase in employment;
- Provide and disseminate experience-based technical, commercial and regulatory advice in order to allow a Just Transition to a sustainable energy future for Scotland.
- Work to facilitate an environmentally and commercially sustainable energy sector in which Scotland's energy resources and expertise are best used to provide the people of Scotland with reliable energy at affordable prices.

Our Work

Energy Scotland works with a diverse range of Scottish energy businesses, academic, governmental, and non-governmental organisations to broaden our knowledge and develop a vision of what our future energy sector will look like, setting this in the context of the key requirements of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

In this context, being Sustainable entails:

- Ensuring that all energy policy decisions work in line with the need for energy supply to be derived from resources which can be maintained in order to provide Scotland with long term, secure energy supply, without negatively affecting the energy needs or the climate of the future.
- Providing good-quality energy sector jobs in Scotland which provide continuous, long-term employment, and working to maximise the proportion of these jobs which contribute to meeting (or accelerating) both Scotland's 2045 Net Zero target, and the shorter-term, interim goals.
- Supporting and promoting the Renewable/decarbonisation agenda in line with meeting our international commitments relating to reducing the use of fossil fuels in energy supply, and helping to facilitate an acceleration of the transition to carbon neutrality.

Energy Scotland is formed of a group of representatives covering the breadth of the energy sector. We continue to seek out like minded individuals and groups that are working in this area.

Short term aims include:

- The development of a stakeholder map.
- The creation of a discussion forum for insight and constructive debate drawing on the range of expertise within the group (executives, technologists, academics, operators).
- The creation of a Scoring Matrix for assessing competing technologies / infrastructure solutions.
- Development of a clear, communicable, long term vision for stakeholder engagement.
- Communication to stakeholders to influence policy and advocate for change.

In the medium term, Energy Scotland aims to:

Develop a “Think Tank” that:

- Generate periodic public reports on our views on the energy sector in Scotland.
 - Act as a source of high quality advice on the sector to our group members, key stakeholders, policy makers and the media, in order to support knowledgeable decision making and promote an understanding across all of these stakeholders of the steps necessary for the development of an environmentally and commercially sustainable energy sector in Scotland.
 - Provide evidence and insight to promote the development of proportionate and predictable policy and regulatory interventions.
 - Coordinate messaging across Scottish energy policy areas to ensure an effective approach to communications and campaigns.
 - Collaborate with other associations and groups where feasible, desirable, and appropriate.
 - Seek continued cooperation between Scotland, UK and European energy players in their efforts to achieve Net Zero targets.
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Our vision

An environmentally and commercially sustainable energy sector in which Scotland's energy resources and expertise are best used to provide the people of Scotland with reliable energy at affordable prices.