PE2160/B: Introduce an energy strategy

Scottish Government written submission, 10 June 2025

Does the Scottish Government consider the specific ask[s] of the petition to be practical or achievable? If not, please explain why.

The <u>draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan</u> was published for consultation in January 2023 setting out a draft route map of actions to deliver a flourishing net zero energy system. An independent <u>analysis report</u> on the consultation was published in September 2023.

The issues in the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan are informed and influenced by recent and ongoing developments in the UK Government's energy policy. This includes publication of the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan in December 2024 and a suite of consultations on aspects of future reserved policy for North Sea oil and gas (over periods from December 2024 to May 2025), as well as court decisions. This is a rapidly changing landscape, and we are taking sufficient time to analyse and reflect on those developments and their impact on Scotland.

What, if any, action the Scottish Government is currently taking to address the issues raised by this petition, and is any further action being considered that will achieve the ask[s] of this petition?

The Scottish Government has been consistently clear on our renewable energy ambitions to 2030 and we remain committed to a net zero energy system.

Last year we published our Green Industrial Strategy, which sets out how Scotland can seize the economic opportunities of the global transition to net zero. As part of a just transition, we are also working with the energy sector to plan for a multi-skilled workforce and the Scottish Government is supporting the energy workforce with the powers available to us. For example, through the Just Transition Fund, we have invested £9.7 million on skills interventions, such as the Energy Skills Passport and the Energy Transition Skills Hub, which will open later this year.

We are providing further certainty to key sectors through publication this year of a Bioenergy Policy Statement, Solar Vision, Sectoral Marine Plan 2 and Offshore Wind Policy Statement.

Our draft Climate Change Plan will also be published for consultation later this year - outlining policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all parts of the economy up to 2040.

In addition, we continue to work collaboratively with other governments to accelerate progress towards Scotland's economic and emissions reduction targets - including through the development of a Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) for Great Britain, which the Scottish Government has co-commissioned.

The SSEP is being led by the National Energy System Operator (NESO) and is intended to bridge the gap between government energy policy and infrastructure development planning, and provide certainty for industry on what energy infrastructure is needed and where. In addition, NESO is adopting a new role as Regional Energy Strategic Planner (RESP) to coordinate energy infrastructure

across locations. This involves working with councils, energy providers and communities to forecast future energy needs.

Energy Strategy and Markets Unit