



AGM

7.10pm Tuesday 22 June 2021

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Chair: Sarah Boyack MSP

1. Introduction by Chair

Sarah Boyack MSP welcomed attendees to the first meeting of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Cross Party Group for this new session of parliament, and raised the business for today's meeting.

2. Re-establishment of group:

Ben Walker of Scottish Renewables oversaw the Election of Office Bearers. The following Office Bearers were elected.

The following Convenors were elected:

- Paul McLennan MSP for East Lothian
- Brian Whittle MSP for South Scotland

Joe FitzPatrick MSP nominated both appointments, which were seconded by Liam McArthur MSP

The following Deputy Convenors were elected:

- Sarah Boyack MSP for Lothian
- Jenni Minto MSP for Argyll & Bute

Liam McArthur MSP nominated both appointments, which were seconded by Beatrice Wishart MSP

Sarah Boyack oversaw the Election of the Secretariat. The following Secretariat was elected.

- Ben Walker, Scottish Renewables
- Elaine Waterson, Energy Saving Trust

Lorna Slater MSP nominated both appointments, which were seconded by Brian Whittle MSP

3. Future work programme (for 2021/22)

Elaine Waterson raised that the CPG will meet three times a year with each meeting focusing on a different theme. Elaine also raised the future work programme, and whilst it has been proposed that the first meeting of the group which focus on transmission charging, members are invited to share their ideas for future work by email the secretariat.

4. Presentation from Sam Peacock, Director of Public Affairs, SSE on COP26

Sam Peacock explored the role which SSE will play as a partner for the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow this year, and what legacy points SSE can provide for the Scottish Renewable Energy Industry.

5. Q and A and discussion

Sarah Boyack MSP chaired a lively Q and A on the COP26 presentation delivered by Sam Peacock.

6. AOB

No AOB was noted.

MSPs attending:

- Sarah Boyack MSP
- Paul McLennan MSP
- Joe FitzPatrick MSP
- Beatrice Wishart MSP
- Liam McArthur MSP
- Brian Whittle MSP
- Michelle Thomson MSP
- Jackie Dunbar MSP
- Tess White MSP
- Audrey Nicoll MSP
- Sharon Dowey MSP
- Jenni Minto MSP
- Lorna Slater MSP

Other members attending:

John Barclay

Alice Barrs

Elaine Benzies

John Birchmore

Janice Connelly
Chris Cook
David Cowdrey
Brian Davison
Linda Forbes
Karen Freel
Russell Gibb
Paul Gill
Agnes Holmes
Nigel Holmes
Jenny Langskog
Kirsty Leiper
John McKinney
Kate Morrision
Paul Moseley
Holly O'Donnell
Sam Peacock
Simon Peltenberg
Paige Phelps
Colin Pritchard
Marcus Saul
Daphne Vlastari
Ben Walker
Elaine Waterson
Laura Webb
Paul Wedgwood
Mark Winskel
Paul O'Brien
Annie Breaden

Zoom Chat:

From Lorna Slater (she/her) to Everyone: 07:22 PM

Apologies for being late

I'd like some time to think about it please

for the other topics

topics

From Tess White to Everyone: 07:22 PM

agree with Lorna - can we think about it and send in a list of topics that we then vote on?

From Linda Forbes to Everyone: 07:22 PM

SAP update

From Me to Everyone: 07:23 PM

yes, just email me at bwalker@scottishrenewables.com if you have thoughts later.

From Kate Morrison to Everyone: 07:23 PM

Consumer protection as we move towards net zero

From Colin Pritchard to Everyone: 07:23 PM

Other topics: decarbonising home heating effectively

From Jeff Justice to Everyone: 07:23 PM

I can speak from direct experience, unfortunately, on the Texas winter storm electricity grid problem and lessons Scotland and others can learn about what not to do.

From David Cowdrey, MCS Foundation to Everyone: 07:23 PM

VAT removal from energy efficiency measures and domestic renewables - Happy to speak

From Brian Whittle MSP to Everyone: 07:24 PM

I would like to look at innovation vs restriction as a way to net zero

From Jenni Minto to Everyone: 07:24 PM

engaging with communities.

net zero islands

From Alice Barrs RWE to Everyone: 07:24 PM

Offshore wind in Scotland - how Offshore wind can deliver growth and jobs in Scotland.

From Russell Gibb to Everyone: 07:24 PM

I deal with heat pumps - widely considered to be the low carbon heat source of the future. What concerns me most is the cheapness of mains gas relative to the cost of electricity. I think a healthy debate on how we can transition to electric heating be the preferred choice for the cost-sensitive consumer. Thanks. Russell

From Michelle Thomson MSP to Everyone: 07:25 PM

financial considerations/ecosystem to reach net zero

From Kate Morrison to Everyone: 07:27 PM

RE, EE & impact on energy prices - reality for consumer bills in line with just transition

From Nigel Holmes, SHFCA to Everyone: 07:28 PM

Topic 1 suggestion: Green Ports as Energy Transition Hubs with three suggested speakers: Joanne Allday, POCF Cromarty; Martin McCormack, Aberdeen ETZ; Adele Lidderdale, Orkney Islands Council.

From Linda Forbes to Everyone: 07:29 PM

Incentivising behaviour change

Modern Methods of Construction / Advanced Manufacturing in Construction to scale up retrofit

From John to Everyone: 07:29 PM

The issue of waste to energy is becoming a political subject again, especially with the new Minister. The thermal treatment of waste is a valuable tool in diverting non recyclable wastes from landfill. But having said this mass burn in large incinerators is not the answer. Other countries are moving to small scale combined heat and power from waste projects. This model is applicable to Scotland and could happen in Scotland with appropriate Government action.

From David Cowdrey, MCS Foundation to Everyone: 07:30 PM

Sam is it worth going down the green hydrogen route with all that renewable energy offshore?

From Paul Gill to Everyone: 07:33 PM

Sam, you are referring to the Red John Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme I think?

Red John Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme <https://www.redjohnpsh.co.uk>

consented on 7th June by SG

From Lorna Slater (she/her) to Everyone: 07:34 PM

Where is transmission charging decided?

Is it EU or UK?

From Kate Morrison to Everyone: 07:35 PM

Ofgem

From Nigel Holmes, SHFCA to Everyone: 07:37 PM

Topic 2 suggestion 'Local supply chains for the Just Transition' with three possible speakers: Paul O'Brien of DeepWind cluster; Prof Karen Turner, Strathclyde, and Dr Michael Warner on local content.

From Colin Pritchard to Everyone: 07:38 PM

Even with Coire Glas & Cruachan upgrade, pumped storage can't cover a 2-week period of low windspeeds .. what other storage possibilities would be economic??

From John.Barclay to Everyone: 07:39 PM

Hydrogen should not be used for space heating in my opinion. There are plenty other better uses for hydrogen.

From Lorna Slater (she/her) to Everyone: 07:41 PM

It seems mad to invest in carbon capture rather than export cables

If we're building infrastructure and capital projects let's build ones that allow a full transition

I agree with Tess on identifying the barriers to optimising our renewable resource development

From Chris Cook to Everyone: 07:41 PM

It seems to Marcus Saul and I at Island Power that distributed energy requires distributed mutual funding <https://www.island-power.net/capital-partner>

From Me to Sarah Boyack: (Direct Message) 07:42 PM

We have a question from Brian Whittle too, he has his hand raised just now!

From John McKinney to Everyone: 07:42 PM

What would be the embodied carbon of the materials, including transportation to site, required for development of a pump storage facility?

From Lorna Slater (she/her) to Everyone: 07:42 PM

I'm with John on hydrogen - green hydrogen has great potential for things like inter island ferries, but I'm not convinced about integrating it into domestic heating etc. I think that's a pitch the oil and gas industry have lobbied on to try and keep their industry going, when we should be moving it away

From David Cowdrey, MCS Foundation to Everyone: 07:43 PM

I agree with John that Green Hydrogen is an expensive and scarce resource and should be used strategically in the hard to decarbonise sectors first so heavy industry, aviation, shipping and transport.

From Lorna Slater (she/her) to Everyone: 07:43 PM

That's when you use tidal....

From Chris Cook to Everyone: 07:43 PM

Essentially energy as a service supplied at least carbon fuel cost. ie energy economics..not £ economics. But the more ex carbon fuel gets the more £ profit in saving it

From Nigel Holmes, SHFCA to Everyone: 07:44 PM

Suggested Topic 3 (for Burns night?) on decarbonising Scottish industry for Net Zero using Scotch Whisky sector example, with suggested speakers including Peter Clark of SWA, Peter Nelson of Glenmorangie, and Tim Dumenil of Pale Blue Dot.

From Simon Peltenburg to Everyone: 07:44 PM

my view is that you should use electric for everything possible and hydrogen for what can't be electrified - as the conversion losses are much higher for hydrogen than electric.

From Paul Gill to Everyone: 07:44 PM

I suggest/would back 3 topics: 1) Local supply chain in offshore wind is a good topic but storage is also a great 1st choice; 2) Russell's heat pump suggestion, the cheapness of mains gas relative to the cost of electricity, and how to transition to electric heating be the preferred choice for the cost-sensitive consumer; and 3) the appropriate roles for green hydrogen (steel, cement, shipping, LGV, backup flexible power, but NOT CCS), NOR blue hydrogen into the power system as this will simply encourage CCS and continued unnecessary fossil fuel use.

From Lorna Slater (she/her) to Everyone: 07:44 PM

Something structural we need to look at is energy not being supplied only by big capitalist corporations but increasing community projects and local projects - a distributed system - there are some good models in Europe

Energy cooperatives and so on.

From Me to Everyone: 07:46 PM

Thank you all for attending this evening, and remember you can make suggestions on our future work programme by emailing me at bwalker@scottishrenewables.com

From Jenni Minto to Everyone: 07:46 PM

Agree @Nigel Holmes - think Islay distilleries too!

From Linda Forbes to Everyone: 07:46 PM

Urgent need to reduce energy demand; all energy infra is highly carbon and resource intensive, and we're experiencing shortages of construction materials such as building sand now. How efficient is the wind to hydrogen cycle?

From David Cowdrey, MCS Foundation to Everyone: 07:49 PM

Energy Efficiency measures in homes and new heat pumps and using other domestic renewables like Solar PV and Solar Thermal will reduce the burden on the grid and provide warm comfortable homes. With older homes which are more challenging this technology will also work. We need smart homes which are cheaper and more sustainable and will build more resilience in to the energy system.

From Lorna Slater (she/her) to Everyone: 07:50 PM

There is some research in using hydrogen to produce steel - this is a good use for hydrogen. Steel manufacture uses a lot of coal.

From Nigel Holmes, SHFCA to Everyone: 07:50 PM

@Jenni Minto, agree Islay should feature in the suggested whisky line-up. In a recent event Ardbeg was voted the whisky that participants most wanted to have available in a Net Zero edition. This will make Peter Nelson happy!

From David Cowdrey, MCS Foundation to Everyone: 07:52 PM

Great point Chris Cook and Orkney is a great example to look at.

From Nigel Holmes, SHFCA to Everyone: 07:52 PM

@Lorna Slater - the HyBRIT project in Sweden is a fascinating example of how to use hydrogen for zero-carbon steel production, and move the production close to the source of renewable energy.

From Colin Pritchard to Everyone: 07:53 PM

Agreed with Chris Cook: Green Energy Mull is also considering how to become less dependent on grid imports.

From Beatrice Wishart to Everyone: 07:53 PM

@JeffJustice - agree.

From Chris Cook to Everyone: 07:54 PM

Heat has been neglected

But has among the greatest potential in terms of low hanging fruit

From Linda Forbes to Everyone: 07:55 PM

Is our purpose in exploring how the system will respond to accelerating climate change by adopting energy efficiency and renewable energy?

From Lorna Slater (she/her) to Everyone: 07:56 PM

@Nigel - certainly a project on what uses of hydrogen are 'worth it' i.e. what can only be done with hydrogen and what is better done by direct electricity or other storage mechanisms

From Lorna Slater (she/her) to Everyone: 07:57 PM

thank you for chairing Sarah!

From David Cowdrey, MCS Foundation to Everyone: 07:57 PM

Renewables are the future and domestic renewables provide a brilliant solution to home grown energy that is vital as we move forward. New homes need to have domestic renewables as a requirement built in to new planning regulations.

Brilliant chairing Sarah

From Karen Freel to Everyone: 07:57 PM

I would like to ensure that there is a discussion on Hydrogen and how it can be practically used in Scotland, any examples of projects please

From Colin Pritchard to Everyone: 07:57 PM

Great to have so much MSP participation this session!Thanks . .

Brilliant chairing Sarah

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