

## **Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee**

### **Inquiry into the Scottish Government's Renewable Energy Targets**

#### **Remit, Terms of reference and Call for Written Evidence**

##### *Remit*

"An inquiry into the achievability of the Scottish Government's 2020 renewable energy targets, the merits of the targets and what the risks and barriers are to realising them."

##### *Terms of Reference*

##### Targets

- Are the 2020 renewables targets (for electricity and heat) achievable? If not, why not?
- What contribution will achievement of the 2020 renewables targets make to meeting Scotland's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions targets (a reduction of at least 42% by 2020 and an 80% reduction target for 2050) under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009?
- will increase in demand from electric heat and transport be offset by efficiencies elsewhere?
- Has the Scottish Government made any estimation of the overall costs of achieving the targets, and identified which parties will bear them?

##### Challenges

###### (a) Technology

- Is the technology to meet these targets available and affordable? If not, what needs to be done?
- Are electricity generating or heat producing technologies compatible with the need for security of energy supplies?
- Are our universities and research institutes fully geared up to the need for technological development, innovation and commercialisation?

###### (b) Supply chain and infrastructure

- Is the supply chain in Scotland in place to meet the targets?
- What further improvements are needed to the grid infrastructure or heat supply networks both at a national and a local level? Additionally, are we confident that the necessary infrastructure can be developed and financed so that Scotland can export any excess electricity generated to the rest of the UK and/or the EU? What is the role for the Scottish Government here?

(c) Planning and consents

- Is the planning system adequately resourced and fit for purpose?
- How can national priorities be reconciled with local interests?

(d) Access to finance

- Will sufficient funds be available to allow investment in both the installation and the development of relevant technologies? What can the Scottish Government do to influence this?
- What will the impacts be on consumers and their bills?

(e) Skills and workforce development

- Will Scotland have sufficient home-grown skills to attract inward investment? Are current policies producing the desired move towards Science Technology Engineering and Maths subjects at schools and universities? Is the skills transfer from the oil and gas sectors being realised?

(f) Energy market reform and the subsidy regime

- Are the reforms of the energy markets and subsidy regimes at both UK and EU level sufficient to meet the challenge of the Scottish Government's renewable targets?

### **How to submit written evidence**

Please use the specific questions as the basis for your submission. You may wish to respond to any or all of the specific questions. Evidence should be reasonably brief and typewritten (normally no more than 4-6 sides of A4 in total).

The deadline for receipt of written submissions is **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012**. Owing to the timescale normally required for the processing and analysis of evidence, late submissions will only be accepted with the advance agreement of the clerk.

The Committee prefers to receive written submissions electronically. These should be sent to:

[renewablesinquiry@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:renewablesinquiry@scottish.parliament.uk)

You may also send a hard copy of written submissions to:

Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Holyrood

Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

We welcome written evidence in any language.

### **Policy for Handling Written Evidence**

Before you submit your written evidence, please ensure that you have read our [policy on treatment of written evidence](#). Written submissions will be handled in accordance with this policy.

### **Contact**

For details about the Committee's work on the renewables inquiry please contact Joanna Hardy, Senior Assistant Clerk, 0131 348 5230.