



12.30-14.00 30 October 2013

Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament

AGM and “Where next for renewables and energy efficiency in a post-referendum Scotland?”

Convenor: Sarah Boyack MSP

AGM

1. Attendees

A provisional list of attendees is attached to the end of this note. If you attended and are not shown on the list, please email Elizabeth Leighton (Elizabeth.leighton@est.org.uk).

2. Introduction and approval of minutes from the last meeting

Sarah Boyack MSP welcomed everyone to the AGM, and confirmed the meeting was quorate with MSPs representing the Labour, SNP, Liberal Democrats and Green Party. She asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the meeting on 5 June 2014 which had been circulated to members. There were no suggestions or corrections.

Bill Rodger agreed and Patrick Harvie MSP seconded that the minutes represented an accurate description of the last meeting.

The minutes of the previous AGM had already been approved at a previous meeting.

3. AGM business

Election of Office Bearers

The nominations for the positions of Convenor (x2) and Deputy Convenor (x2) were circulated to the membership. No one else was nominated, and the nominations filled the required number of posts, so there was no need for an election.

- Sarah Boyack MSP was moved for co-convenor by Claudia Beamish, MSP and Liam McArthur MSP.
- Jim Eadie MSP was moved for co-convenor by Patrick Harvie MSP and Liam McArthur MSP.
- Liam McArthur MSP was moved for co-deputy convenor by Claudia Beamish MSP and seconded by Jim Eadie MSP.
- Patrick Harvie MSP was moved for co-deputy convenor by Jim Eadie MSP and seconded by Liam McArthur MSP.

- Gavin Donoghue of Scottish Renewables and Elizabeth Leighton of EST were moved for the secretariat positions by Liam McArthur MSP and seconded by Jim Eadie.

The convenor noted for the record the excellent service provided by the secretariat to the group, with particular reference to meeting the requirements of the cross party group code of conduct. Congratulations were also noted for Gavin Donoghue on the birth of his son.

Approval of Annual Return

The convenor asked if there were any corrections to the Annual Return which was emailed to group members setting out the group's activities over the previous year and the financial benefits received by the group from the Energy Saving Trust and Scottish Renewables. There were no suggestions or corrections.

Patrick Harvie MSP agreed and Claudia Beamish seconded that the Annual Return represented an accurate record of the group's activities for the previous year.

Data Protection Procedures

The convenor noted that member responses to the secretariat on agreeing with the data protection procedures and signing up to remain as a member resulted in moving from 407 members to 146. This now means the data we hold is accurate and represents members' wishes.

Discussion of future work programme

The convenor invited suggestions for SPREEE's future work programme for 2014/15. A number of suggestions were provided as set out below:

- Renewables:
 - Agri-renewables
 - Small-scale energy storage
 - Cost reductions – large scale onshore and offshore renewables
 - Renewable heat (targets, how government incentives are working)
 - Future energy scenarios – how will the power sector decarbonisation target be met (WWF report due in December)
- Transport:
 - Cars – behaviour and technologies
 - Modal shift more generally – eg bus
- Energy efficiency
 - Fuel poverty – reducing inequalities, meeting targets, fuel poverty and health, fuel poverty and rural properties
 - Property condition and energy efficiency
 - Market transformation – what motivates people and businesses to change behaviour

- Local energy economies

Future meeting dates for SPREEE are December 11, January 28 and March 12.

3. Presentations:

The convenor then introduced the presenters, who were asked to speak on the topic: *“Where next for renewables and energy efficiency in a post-referendum Scotland?”*

Dr Andy Kerr, Director of the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI)

Andy Kerr’s talk focused on how to make more progress on energy efficiency, particularly in times of constrained budgets. Andy suggested that we need to reframe the way we talk about energy efficiency in terms that are aspirational and resonate with people. He also noted that energy efficiency is usually framed in terms of saving money, ignoring the fact that people don’t make rational decisions based on ‘net present value’ and ‘maximum utility’. While some progress has been made, this has been with the easy stuff, and a step change is required to go the next stage. Andy suggests the new emphasis on local energy economies will be one way of engaging with people about energy efficient systems. In conclusion, Andy recommended:

- Stop focusing on “energy efficiency”: instead make it aspirational.
- Value it properly: include non-energy benefits like time saved or hassle reduced
- Measure it properly: include other productivity gains. For example the time saved by a smart phone app (e.g. for enabling better mobility within a city) is the benefit to people, not just saved energy costs.
- Build local energy systems that resonate at the scale of communities or cities.

In terms of additional powers, Andy believed the existing powers devolved to Scotland can be used for the first three. For the latter – tackling whole energy system inefficiencies – powers over some of the key energy demand measures, such as the Energy Company Obligation, would enable a nuanced response to specific challenges facing Scotland’s communities.

Andy Kerr wrote a blog based on his presentation which can be found here:

<http://edinburghcentreb企业blog.org/2014/11/07/where-next-for-energy-efficiency-after-the-scottish-referendum/>

Niall Stuart, Chief Executive, Scottish Renewables

Niall Stuart’s presentation reviewed progress with renewable energy to date and future issues and the need for any additional powers. In his view, the renewables sector is doing exactly what the government’s support had hoped – targets for electricity generation are being met (and over 11,000 jobs have been created. But this has been the easy part. The hard part will be offshore installations, renewable heat, and large-scale storage.

In the debate about the referendum, and follow that, on additional powers, the renewables industry has agreed two main requirements: 1) a single energy market, and 2) integration with the European energy market.

Beyond that, there has been discussion on how additional powers could help address particularly Scottish issues. Already the Scottish Government has cleverly used its existing powers to promote investment. Outstanding issues remain with large and small scale hydro, grid connections, community ownership, accountability of Ofgem to Scottish Parliament, and the possibility of setting its own price (but this threatens the integrity of the single energy market).

The results of the UK general election will provide some indication of the direction of travel post-2020. For example, how will the European target be translated to a UK target; what about the decarbonisation target for the power sector; what will be the future for onshore wind? And more.

Whatever happens a more joined up approach to the renewables industry will be needed and the Scottish Government will have to play a strong role, making the most of the powers it has.

6. Questions

A range of questions were directed at the panel; please note that the intention of this meeting note is not to record a verbatim account of the meeting. Questions posed to the panel included:

Chris Cooke highlighted the initiative in Linlithgow which is aiming to achieve energy independence for the community.

Steve Young suggested that UK changes to RHI and FITS was having a disproportionate effect on Scotland and should be devolved to Scotland.

Simon Holden suggested there should be a change in emphasis from government towards energy efficiency and less on renewables.

Andy Kerr noted that the industry needs stability and certainty of the incentives, though it is hard to match the incentive with a rapidly changing cost of the technology. Andy also noted that Scotland has been spectacularly successful on renewables, and less so on energy efficiency. Perverse incentives, eg VAT, do not help.

Niall Stuart cautioned on devolving FITS because Scotland gets more than its pro-rata share and could lose out.

Teresa Bray noted that Scottish Government is responsible for energy efficiency but does not have the powers and because of this we are failing to respond to Scottish issues.

In terms of targets, Andy was frustrated that there is too much time lag (18 months) in emissions reporting so it is difficult to address problems and correct plans at an early stage.

Niall Stuart noted that if the policy is devolved, then is the regulatory role and budget devolved as well? Would the costs outweigh the benefits?

The convenor concluded the discussion by noted that small changes matter – such as the draughtproofing and shutters in her own home, or using the Lothian Transport app to make it easier to use the buses.

The convenor also encouraged members to lobby politicians based on what they heard – on energy efficiency, fuel poverty, renewables and extra powers - MPs, MSPs and councillors.

7. Date and Topic of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 11 December 2014 between 12.30pm and 2.00pm. The meeting will focus on Scotland's decarbonisation target for the energy sector and what will be required to meet it.

For suggestions for correction of this note and to request copies of presentations, please contact the secretariat, Elizabeth Leighton (Elizabeth.leighton@est.org.uk).

9. Attendees

SPREEE Meeting 30 October 2014		Actual Attendance
Blair	Armstrong	Mathie McIntyre
Neil	Barnes	
Claudia	Beamish MSP	Scottish Parliament
Charlie	Blair	
Joss	Blamire	Mathie McIntyre
Sarah	Boyack MSP	Scottish Parliament
Raemonnd	Bradford	SHREWS
Teresa	Bray	Changeworks
Paolo	Buoni	EU Energy Centre
John	Conway	Edison Energy
Chris	Cook	Nordic Enterprise
Jim	Eadie MSP	Scottish Parliament
John	Evans	Skills Development Scotland
Gina	Hanrahan	WWF Scotland
Patrick	Harvie MSP	Scottish Parliament
Simon	Holden	LR Senergy
Nigel	Holmes	Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association
Andy	Kerr	ECCI
Elizabeth	Leighton	Energy Saving Trust
Liam	McArthur MSP	Scottish Parliament
John	Mckinney	NFRC Scotland
John	Maclean	
John	McKinney	NFRC Scotland
Helen	Melone	Energy Action Scotland
Alan	Motion	Met Office
Scott	Oakley	EU Energy Centre
Neil	Philips	Positive Solutions
Pete	Roche	
Bill	Rodger	
Niall	Stuart	Scottish Renewables
John	Taylor	National Grid
Stephen	Young	ECA and OWN Energy

