



Scottish Government Energy Strategy

12.45pm, Thursday 23 February 2017

Committee Room 2

The Scottish Parliament

Convenor: Mark Ruskell MSP

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 Gavin Donoghue (gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com)

2. Introduction by Chair and approval of minutes from the last meeting

Mark Ruskell MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed on apologies from Liam McArthur, Ben Macpherson, Claudia Beamish and Jackie Baillie who all had clashing parliamentary business, but hoped to attend the meeting at some stage.

Mark then made the group aware of an additional item on the agenda (included at the end of this note) regarding changes to the terms group members must sign up to when joining the group.

Mark then checked that the group was happy with the minutes of the previous meeting, which had been sent round members in advance. No one had suggested any corrections in advance and the minutes were then proposed by Stephen Young and seconded by Jeff Justice.

3. Presentation, A renewables perspective: Lindsay Roberts, Senior Policy Manager at Scottish Renewables.

Lindsay provided the renewable energy industry's view of the SG's draft Energy Strategy and draft Climate Change Plan. She talked about some of the issues around the use of the TIMES model as well as the challenging nature of the targets for electricity, heat and transport.

Lindsay welcomed the 50% all energy target in the Energy Strategy and called for more action from government in the areas of public procurement; securing a viable route to market for all renewables; becoming a centre of excellence in emerging renewable energy technologies and widening the benefits of renewables by developing a Green Energy Bond.

4. Presentation, An energy efficiency perspective: Professor Sean Smith from Edinburgh Napier University.

Professor Smith spoke mainly about the draft Climate Change Plan as he said this had more detail in it than the draft Energy Strategy. He mentioned the herculean effort required over the coming 5-8 years on energy efficiency and that innovation was going to be key to the delivery of these targets.

He then spoke about the need to accelerate retrofit of private rented and existing homes for sale and suggested aiming for minimum Band C (EPC), and perhaps incentivise through LBTT, as well as dealing with party cavity walls.

Professor Smith then discussed the benefits of real time displays in Smart Meters and behavioural change as well as re-using site infrastructure instead of new build, and the requirement for innovation in new build developments (such as those included within the proposed Edinburgh City Deal). Professor Smith finished by discussing where the current draft Climate Change Plan assumes previous and current RPP plans have got to in terms of carbon emissions.

5. Question and Answer Session

- **Stephen Young** asked about small-scale wind turbines on homes
 - **Professor Smith** raised the issue of potential noise and efficiency of these products
- **Mark Winskell** raised the issue of amount of heat reduction in the Energy Strategy with **Robin Parker** adding that needed to be 6% lower than forecast, with a pathway for skills.
 - **Professor Smith** stated that we don't have the numbers in the current Strategy and highlighted the skills gap in the construction industry.
 - **Lindsay Roberts** also highlighted the difficulty for stakeholders in understanding the constraints placed upon the TIMES model.
- **Teresa Bray** asked about engagement with home builders and made the point that behavioural change was more important than technological change.
 - **Lindsay Roberts** acknowledged that behavioural change and communication from government were vitally important
 - **Professor Smith** talked about the differences in the attitudes of younger people
- **Nigel Holmes** asked about the movement of 85% of population away from gas for their heating, and the potential role of hydrogen.
 - **Professor Smith** raised the issue of negative public perception of hydrogen.
 - **Lindsay Roberts** agreed that there was a lot of space for hydrogen in the Energy Strategy
- **Bill Rodgers** asked whether academia could have a like-for-like model used in the Energy Strategy.
 - **Professor Smith** agreed that it would be useful to know the assumptions model based on so can tell if there have been mistakes in modelling or deliberate choices.

6. Additional agenda item

The following agenda item was put forward by the Convenor for discussion, with hard copies handed out to group members on arrival.

Background

For administrative purposes, currently all non-MSP members of the group are registered as individuals rather than as representatives of organisations, except for the Secretariat who are registered as representatives of their host organisations (Energy Saving Trust and Scottish Renewables). When members first ask to join the group, they are also asked to sign up to the following:

- *By signing up to SPREEE, you are becoming a member of the group (details of which are published on the Scottish Parliament's website)*
- *Your contributions to group meetings may be recorded and made available online via the Scottish Parliament's website.*
- *Your details will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act, i.e. your details will not be passed on or used for any purpose other than notification of SPREEE meetings or notices*

For reasons of security, group meetings are not open to the public and anyone wishing to attend a group meeting must contact the Conveners or Secretariat in advance in order to attend.

A note of each meeting is taken at and a draft meeting note sent round group members in advance of the next meeting so that it can be signed off as an accurate recollection of the previous meeting's business. Once this meeting note is signed off it is sent to the clerks and published on the Parliament's website.

Proposal

The Conveners of the Group therefore propose asking all new and existing members to sign up to the following in order to make some of the items outlined, above, more clear to current and future members of the Group (changes shown in red):

- *By signing up to SPREEE, you are becoming **an individual** member of the group (details of which are published on the Scottish Parliament's website)*
- *Your contributions to group meetings may be recorded **in writing by the group** and made available online via the Scottish Parliament's website. **Any unofficial reports of group meetings should be signed off in advance by the Secretariat before publication, in order to ensure they are consistent with the group's own notes.***
- ***SPREEE meetings take place in the Scottish Parliament, a secure area, therefore you agree to follow the instructions of Scottish Parliament staff at all times.***
- *Your details will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act, i.e. your details will not be passed on or used for any purpose other than notification of SPREEE meetings or notices*

Deputy Convenor, Claudia Beamish MSP, spoke in support of this proposal, and it was not opposed by anyone else in the meeting, so it will now apply to group members going forward.

7. AOB

John Maclean raised the issue of the inadequate IT facilities for the presentations, and suggested potentially having the presentations sent round members in advance.

The Secretariat explained the restrictions on the use of IT facilities by Cross Party Groups in Parliament, but agreed to look into using a file-sharing website which would allow members to access and download presentations in advance of meetings.

8. Attendees

Members

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
Mark	Ruskell MSP
Claudia	Beamish MSP
Maree	Todd MSP
Patrick	Harvie MSP
Neil	Barnes
Aisling	Doyle
Katy	Dickson
Alasdair	Campbell
Paul	Gill
Jason	Ormiston
Nigel	Holmes
Karen	Freel
Jeff	Justice
John	Taylor
Tony	Brunton
Peter	Strachan
Will	Sutton
Mark	Winkel
Tariq	Muneer
Joan	Pisanek

Alan	Beal
John	Maclean
Ragne	Low
Pete	Roche
Stephen	Young
Sam	McMillan
Shemaiah	Weekes
Fiona	Riddoch
Andrew	Dempster
Siobhan	Jordan
Michelle	Cullis
Lynne	Bryceland
Stuart	Noble
Jim	Eadie
Pat	Boyle
James	Higgins
Aurelie	Tartaud
Andrew	Ramand
Sam	Gardner
Robin	Parker
David	Keddie
Jamie	Carruthers

Agnes	Holmes
Fraser	Stewart
Scott	Restrict
Faye	Wade
Teresa	Bray
Gavin	Donoghue
Lindsay	Roberts
Sean	Smith

Non-member guests

Ron	Peddie
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For suggestions of corrections for this note please contact the secretariat, Gavin Donoghue (gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com)