



## **AGM**

**6.45pm, Tuesday 8 December 2020**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom**

**Chair: Claudia Beamish MSP**

### **1. Attendees and Presentations**

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 Ben Walker (bwalker@scottishrenewables.com).

MSPs attending:

- Claudia Beamish MSP
- Liam McArthur MSP

Apologies were noted from Mark Ruskell MSP.

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

Claudia Beamish MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14 October 2020, had been sent round group members in advance and the secretariat received no requests for additions or corrections. The group agreed that these provided an accurate account of the meeting.

### **3. Discussion of future work programme (for 2020/21)**

Claudia Beamish MSP noted there would be one more meeting of the cross-party group between now and May 2021.

Ben Walker then ran through a number of suggestions for meeting topics that had been received from members in previous meetings. These were as follows:

- Zero carbon localities/the role of local authorities/how can net zero be made a reality for Scotland's local authorities
- Marine energy research, and how this can contribute towards the goal of net zero by 2045?
- Offshore wind-hydrogen – Scaling up green Hydrogen.
- Low Carbon Heat – tackling hard to treat housing.
- Responsible Energy Islands – Orkney.
- Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition

New topics which were recommended at this session included:

- International perspective on decarbonisation from Danish Government
- Impact of energy transition on fuel poverty and inequality

- Complimentary finance and funding from SNIB
- Green Hydrogen
- Retrofitting homes for renewable heat

Claudia Beamish MSP drew the discussion to a close by suggesting the group's secretaries and conveners meet to discuss the suggestions for the future meetings based on the suggestions discussed. She also invited everyone to forward suggestions for speakers to Elaine Waterson and Ben Walker.

## **5. Presentations**

Claudia Beamish introduced the subject of skills for net-zero, and the speakers at today's session.

### **Just Transition Commission perspective on the skills for net-zero, Colette Cohen**

Colette introduced the role which the Just Transition Commission (JTC) is conducting on ensuring that Scotland has the skills for net-zero. JTC has been visiting regions impacted by the previous energy transition to understand community needs. JTC has been asked by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform to prepare ideas on a green recovery and address the skills needed for the energy transition. JTC has found that there are age based issues relating to retraining and this becomes harder with age. JTC will be looking to understand inequalities in the labour market.

### **OPITO perspective on skills for net-zero as an industry body, John McDonald & Alex Spencer**

John and Alex introduced the role which OPITO is doing in building the skills and workforce for net-zero. An exploration of how technology and workforce is changing in the North Sea region was provided. John gave an overview of the work which OPITO are leading on the Energy Skills Alliance. Alex also explored how in collaboration with industry, OPITO are developing new products for the renewables sector, helping companies deliver the energy transition.

Claudia Beamish thanked our speakers for their presentations and then opened the session up to Q&A.

Questions were taken on the following topics:

- How to build jobs in supply chain.
- How to build jobs in renewable heat
- The future of skills in the north sea region
- The importance of state aid and manufacturing
- How to manage salary expectations in the transition
- Whether new skills bodies are needed for renewable energy
- How to address skills gaps

## **6. Dates of future meetings**

Ben Walker advised that there will one further meetings of the group in 2021 before the next Scottish Parliament election. This will take place via zoom and in the evening.

## **7. AOB**

No AOB was raised.

## **8. Attendees**

- Claudia Beamish MSP
- Liam McArthur MSP
- Elaine Waterson
- Ben Walker
- Colette Cohen
- John McDonald
- Alex Spencer
- Colin Pritchard
- Alan Beal
- Peter Roche
- John Conway
- Rebecca Groundwater
- Will Sutton
- Alice Barrs
- John Birchmore
- Keith Baker
- Russell Gibb
- Nigel Holmes
- Chris Cook
- Mary Scott
- Andrew McCallum
- Derek Young
- Kyle Parker
- Fergus Boden
- Paul Moseley
- Jenny Langskog
- Mark Winskel
- Rebecca King
- Aoife Deery
- Rebecca Bell
- Daphne Vlastari
- Pilar Rodriguez
- Paull Gill

## **9. Copy of text from Zoom chat box**

Note: any chat relating to the election of office bearers and relating to when people left the meeting has been removed in order to keep the text as easy to follow as possible.

- From Nigel Holmes (SHFCA) to Everyone: 06:58 PM  
Dan Jorgensen would be a great speaker to hear at a future SPREEE meeting.
- From Keith Baker to Everyone: 07:00 PM  
Our new website here: <https://100percentrenewableuk.org/> with links to the petition and the recording of our webinar held last week which attracted participants from across the UK, Europe and the USA
- From Nigel Holmes (SHFCA) to Everyone: 07:04 PM  
+1 for a SPREEE session on Green Hydrogen, and the Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association would be happy to help with any speaker arrangements for this session. Another

very interesting angle here is the growing interest from some areas of Scottish industry for use of green H2 to help decarbonise hard to treat process heat.

- From David Cowdrey to Everyone: 07:05 PM  
MCS have a report launch event tomorrow on 'Energising Advice' for retrofitting homes authored by Dr Catrin Maby OBE Wednesday 9th December at 10:30am to register <https://www.mcscharitablefoundation.org/news/2020/11/24/energising-advice-report-launch>
- From Enrique Troncoso to Everyone: 07:16 PM  
With a bit of delay, just to support Alice's suggestion about a session on green hydrogen, very timely, and Scotland's potential is unparalleled!
- From Nigel Holmes (SHFCA) to Everyone: 07:20 PM  
The Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult has estimated Scotland's offshore wind potential as being at least 735GW. Plenty for everybody, will just take awhile to build out. To put this in context, yesterday Chris Stark estimated that we would need 300GW of offshore wind to decarbonise all of UK's domestic heating by replacing natural gas with green hydrogen.
- From Will Sutton to Everyone: 07:21 PM  
But will there be any manufacturing jobs or even offshore construction jobs created in Scotland? At present the track record has been woeful
- From Mary Scott to Everyone: 07:22 PM  
Yes manufacturing jobs in Scotland vital
- From John Birchmore to Everyone: 07:40 PM  
Clearly skills is important but not mentioned anywhere tonight are the market and regulatory barriers to the development of renewable energy projects. In our business developing small scale combined heat and power from waste projects planning in Scotland is a major disincentive and the complexity of getting a power purchase agreement. So we invest entirely overseas in Europe and entirely funded by private sector. Procurement rules, excluding small companies also mitigate against developing here in Scotland.
- From Russell Gibb to Everyone: 07:46 PM  
Speaking purely about heat pumps (the subject I know most about and where my passion rests), the skills needed to design & install an efficient, low-running-cost heat pump system are remarkably diverse, ranging from building heat loss calculations, understanding building behaviour, electrical skills, building fabric, plumbing, commissioning, customer care (not always an engineer's best skill!) and post-installation support. With commercial installations I can see how skills are more easily transferred from O&G.
- From Chris Cook to Everyone: 07:46 PM  
We are proposing blended finance funding solutions & legal designs which transcend the state aid issue
- From Will Sutton to Everyone: 07:46 PM  
Thank you John and Colette for emphasising how vital it is for Governments both UK and Scottish to deliver much higher local content for our supply chain. Without new jobs the whole Just Transition concept fails.
- From Russell Gibb to Everyone: 07:47 PM  
The other issue we have with domestic installations is how many are performed by the self-employed.
- From Colette Cohen to Everyone: 07:49 PM  
you can contact the JTC direct on this: [JustTransitionCommission@gov.scot](mailto:JustTransitionCommission@gov.scot)
- From Colin Pritchard to Everyone: 07:49 PM  
Collette, thanks! I too was very impressed by your Aberdeen young professionals' enthusiasm for transition. BUT new jobs look to be high-paid, high-skilled: how does this contribute to reducing inequalities?

- From Chris Cook to Everyone: 07:52 PM  
Forgot to mention the need to increase participation of women in engineering.  
A 'Future Engineers' event in Newcastle aimed at youngsters got great interest from girls who are waking up to engineering as a career
- From Colette Cohen to Everyone: 07:55 PM  
Chris - totally agree we need to ensure that as we create these new roles that we also ensure that they embrace diversity more than our current energy sector  
thank you all for your interest
- From Chris Cook to Everyone: 07:55 PM  
Absolutely Colette. By comparison with other countries we seem well behind
- From Russell Gibb to Everyone: 07:56 PM  
We need to get more kids excited about renewables :D
- From Keith Baker to Everyone: 07:56 PM  
Sorry for not contributing but I have building work going on here. Re tying it all together, please see our proposals (backed by the SGP and SNP conference) for a Scottish Energy Development Agency: [http://energypovertyresearch.blogspot.com/p/blog-page\\_15.html](http://energypovertyresearch.blogspot.com/p/blog-page_15.html)
- From Pete Roche for Nuclear Free Local Authorities to Everyone: 07:58 PM  
In England consumers eligible for Green Homes Grant finding they can't find a contractor in time to get the grant
- From John to Everyone: 07:58 PM  
Thank you everyone. If you wish further contact, please email [alex.spencer@opito.com](mailto:alex.spencer@opito.com)
- From Russell Gibb to Everyone: 07:58 PM  
Climbing onto my soapbox again, the huge gap in price between mains gas and electricity needs to be addressed to support the transition to low carbon electricity for the provision of heat. Electricity is simply too expensive, even on dynamic tariffs. Ta

For suggestions of corrections for this note please contact the secretariat, Ben Walker ([bwalker@scottishrenewables.com](mailto:bwalker@scottishrenewables.com)).