

>>> Why Wind Power?

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN SCOTLAND

Renewable and low carbon energy will provide the foundation of our future energy system, offering Scotland a huge opportunity for economic and industrial growth. Onshore wind remains one of the most cost-effective ways for us to move towards a low carbon future. Scotland is already coal-free in its energy mix and ageing electricity generating facilities will continue to be decommissioned over the coming years. To maintain the current level of electricity supply and keep up with increasing demand, a significant amount of new generating capacity is required to protect Scotland's energy security.



The turbines shown in this image are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to represent the proposed turbines

SUBSIDY - FREE

Over the last few years, the onshore wind sector has experienced substantial change and evolved towards a subsidy free marketplace.

The Scottish Government Onshore Wind Policy Statement (2017) in addition to the forthcoming National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) recognises that developments which maximise better wind resource are more likely to achieve cost-effectiveness and support continued contribution to renewable energy policy targets.

The Scottish Government are considering the following priority policy changes to support and guide future development strategy in Scotland. This includes:

- Supporting renewable energy developments;
- Making provision for zero carbon energy generation;
- Strengthening the support for re-powering and expanding existing wind farms; and
- Updating the current spatial framework for onshore wind to continue to protect National Scenic Areas and National Parks whilst allowing development outwith these areas where they are demonstrated to be acceptable

As an established developer, Energiekontor is committed to developing cohesive projects which balance commercial, planning, and environmental constraints. Our projects present an opportunity to realise benefits for the local and national economy, as well as make a substantial contribution to help meet renewable energy targets.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Following on from the declaration of a climate emergency by the UK and Scottish Government in 2019, policies at both local and national levels have begun to shift in recognition of the growing climate crisis.

A key piece of strategy aligned with tackling climate change relates to Scotland's Climate Change Plan (Third Report on Policies and Proposals 2018- 2032) which was recently updated in December 2020.

The report set out the path to achieve a 75% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030 and target date for net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045. However, this emissions reduction target for 2030 is unlikely to be met even under the most optimistic scenario. A key objective for policymakers is to accelerate the deployment of clean energy generation throughout the 2020s to meet an electricity demand which is predicted to double by 2050.

The Plan promises continued support for large scale onshore wind. As one of the leading and mature renewable energy technologies, onshore wind has a vital role to play in our country's shift to net zero emissions by 2045.

To support these targets the Scottish Energy Strategy (2017) commits to providing equivalent of 50% of the energy for Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2030. As Scotland transitions to net-zero, a growing and increasingly decarbonised electricity sector is fundamental in enabling other parts of Scotland's economy, such as transport, homes and industry to move towards low to zero emissions.

LARGEST UK RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE

In 2020, renewable energy provided a record 43% of the UK's electricity, up from 37% in 2019.

Wind alone provided a record 24.1% of the UK's electricity last year, with 13% coming from offshore wind and 11.1% from onshore wind.

Scotland made up 23.7% of the UK's renewable energy generation in 2020. Onshore wind energy accounted for 23,200Gwh, with 3,500Gwh created offshore as a comparison.

This figure contributed towards the Scottish Government target of 100% of Scotland's own energy demand from renewable sources by 2020, from which it fell just short. There is still some way to go to meet and exceed targets.

Scotland currently has 11.9GW of installed renewable energy capacity currently operational as of December 2020. This has levelled off in the post-subsidy world.

Onshore wind has made and will continue to make a significant contribution to carbon reduction targets. In 2018 the UK government estimated that renewable generation has enabled the nation to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 25 million tonnes annually by switching away from fossil fuels.