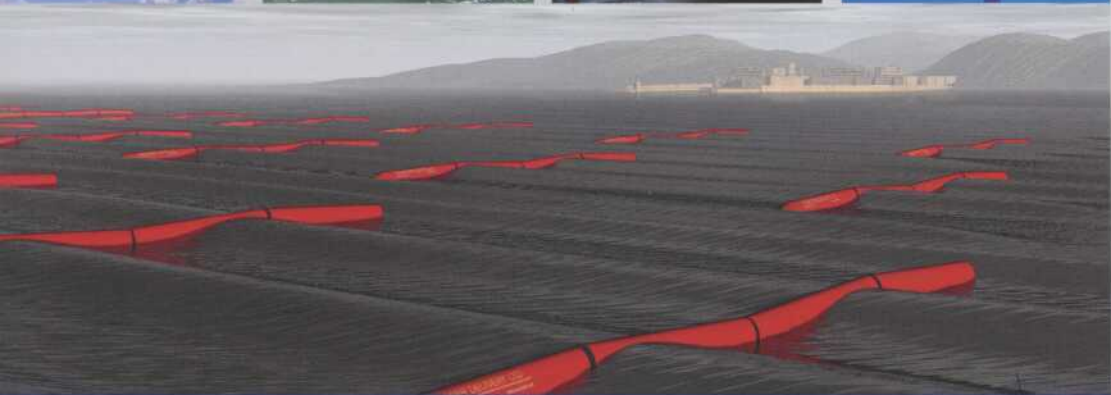


# Enterprise and Culture Committee Renewable Energy in Scotland



- **Key Recommendations**
- **What happens next**
- **How you can become involved**



The Scottish  
Parliament

**In the first half of 2004, the Scottish Parliament's Enterprise and Culture Committee held a major inquiry into renewable energy in Scotland. This leaflet sets out the Committee's key conclusions and recommendations, what happens next and how you can get involved.**



### **Background**

Scotland already has a relatively high level of electricity generated from renewables due to the historic role of hydro-electric power. Currently approximately 13% of Scottish energy generated in Scotland comes from renewable resources.



The Scottish Executive has set ambitious targets for increasing the percentage of electricity derived from renewable sources. The targets are 18% of electricity generated in Scotland to be from renewable sources by 2010, and an 'aspirational' target of 40% by 2020. Some commentators have questioned the achievability of these targets under current circumstances. As yet no targets have been set for non-electricity renewables.



The Committee examined the potential economic benefits associated with the development of the Scottish renewable energy market. As part of its inquiry the Committee considered whether current Scottish Executive policy on renewable energy (including the current targets) creates opportunities or barriers to development, both for local communities and the wider Scottish economy.

### **What is Renewable Energy?**

Renewable energy comes from sources that cannot be used up: sunshine, water flow, wind and biomass.

## Why is it important?

Fossil fuels (e.g. coal, natural gas, crude liquid petroleum and products made from these) are limited. They will eventually be used up and cannot be replaced. Also, when electricity is generated from these fuels, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is released into the atmosphere. Most scientists think that CO<sub>2</sub> contributes to climate change.



## What happens next?

The Scottish Executive has published a response to the Committee's recommendations. It is available from the Scottish Executive website: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

The Committee's report and the Executive's response will be debated in the Parliament in September or October 2004. Details of how you can get involved are on page 6 of this booklet.



## Who is on the Enterprise and Culture Committee?

### Alasdair Morgan MSP

(Convener)  
Scottish National Party  
South of Scotland

### Mike Watson MSP

(Deputy Convener)  
Scottish Labour Party  
Glasgow Cathcart

### Brian Adam MSP

Scottish National Party  
Aberdeen North

### Mr Richard Baker MSP

Scottish Labour Party  
North East Scotland

### Chris Ballance MSP

Scottish Green Party  
South of Scotland

### Susan Deacon MSP

Scottish Labour Party  
Edinburgh East and Musselburgh

### Murdo Fraser MSP

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party  
Mid Scotland and Fife

### Christine May MSP

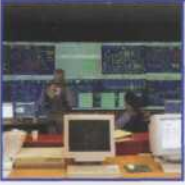
Scottish Labour Party  
Central Fife

### Mr Jamie Stone MSP

Scottish Liberal Democrats  
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross

# Main Findings

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## **Meeting the 2010 target**

It is clear from the evidence that the Committee has taken that the Executive will meet its short term target of 18% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010. However, this increase will come almost entirely from onshore wind generation, which raises a number of major issues in relation to the future of renewable energy in Scotland.



## **The Bias towards Wind Power**

The Renewables Obligation Scotland (ROS) scheme has been successful, but in a single direction - that of promoting onshore wind power. It has led to the invigoration of the market for wind power by energy companies, but without developing other sectors.

Whilst this may be welcome in terms of meeting targets, it has raised concerns over the merits of wind power and has not stimulated other renewables generating technologies to a significant degree. By focussing power companies' attention on wind, it may even have hindered the commercialisation of other renewable technologies.

The Executive's current renewables policy is unintentionally working against the development of renewable energy sources other than onshore.



## **Green Jobs**

Scotland is in a unique position to be able to create significant numbers of green jobs through encouraging and investing in leading edge renewables technologies.

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## Wind Farms and the Planning System

All those affected - developers, local authorities, objectors - believe that there are major weaknesses in the current planning system for wind farms and a lack of clear guidance from the Executive.



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## Meeting the 2020 Target?

As things stand, if the Executive's 40% renewables target for 2020 is to be met, it will be almost entirely through onshore wind power. This is neither sustainable nor sensible.



## Main Recommendations

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### Recommendation

The Executive's 40% renewables target for 2020 must not be met entirely from large onshore wind farms - this would put at risk security of supply and is not good energy policy.



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### Recommendation

The Executive should create a comprehensive Scottish energy policy, which would take account of the UK context and the areas in which it operates in co-operation with Westminster. The policy should:

- identify the most appropriate and balanced mix of energy supply technologies as well as comprehensive energy efficiency and demand reduction measures
- shift the focus from large onshore wind farms to other forms of renewable power
- seek to refine the ROS into a more sophisticated policy tool that allows other types of renewable energy to be incentivised, not just onshore wind





- ensure that there is significant investment in other renewables by the Executive - it should be treated as a priority sector by the enterprise networks and the full range of business support mechanisms should be brought to bear on its development
- include a comprehensive policy on energy conservation and demand reduction, including targets for conservation
- include a view on the future of the national grid in Scotland
- consider ways of incorporating sustainable energy in all public procurement.



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### **Recommendation**

The Committee firmly supports the Executive's commitment to increase renewable electricity generation and believes that onshore wind farms must form an important part of that increased capacity. To achieve this there will need to be more onshore wind farms.

The Executive must take an active lead and develop a national strategic framework for wind farm applications, and engage with local authorities on how to deliver this within their areas. This could include:

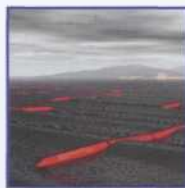
- arriving at agreements with local authorities as to their contribution to meeting the energy targets
- extending guidance to local authorities on wind farm applications
- developing specialist training for staff in local authorities who deal with wind farm applications
- allowing local authorities to retain planning fees for wind farm applications.

**The current review of the planning process provides an ideal opportunity to achieve this.**

## How can I get involved?

The Parliament will debate the Committee's report, and the Executive's response, in September or October 2004. You can let Members of the Scottish Parliament know what you think of the report and what the government intends to do about it. You could contact:

- your local constituency MSP and/or one or more of your regional MSPs. To find your local MSPs, contact our Public Information Service (details below)
- a member of the Enterprise and Culture Committee (see list on page 2)
- the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Jim Wallace MSP or his deputy Lewis Macdonald MSP, Deputy Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning.



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**email contact:** [firstname.lastname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:firstname.lastname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)

[DeputyFirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DeputyFirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

[DeputyMinisterforEnterpriseandLifelongLearning@Scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DeputyMinisterforEnterpriseandLifelongLearning@Scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

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**Public Information Service:** [sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk)

Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0845 278 1999  
(RNID Typetalk calls welcome)

Textphone: 08452700152

Fax: 0131 3485601

Write a letter to: Public Information Service  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

## Where can I find out more?

The full report, including all the written evidence and transcripts of all the oral evidence sessions, is available on the Committee's website at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/enterprise/reports/elr04-06-01.htm>

For information in languages other than English or in alternative formats (for example in Braille, large print, tape or various computer formats) please send your inquiry to:

Public Information Service  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

You can also contact us by telephone, fax or email as detailed on page 6  
We welcome correspondence in any language.

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## Feedback

We aim to make the work of the Scottish Parliament as open and accessible as possible. Let us know what you think of this leaflet by contacting the Enterprise Committee direct. Email us at [enterprise@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:enterprise@scottish.parliament.uk) or telephone 0131 348 5403 (RNID Textphone calls welcome)