



SAFE ENERGY E-JOURNAL No.67

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This briefing does not deal with the UK Government's proposed new reactor programme. For an update on developments to do with new reactors see here:

<http://www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk/nuclearnews/NuClearNewsNo80.pdf>

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<http://www.microgenscotland.org.uk/news/>

1 Scottish Higher Activity Waste Policy Update

The consultation on implementing Scotland's Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Policy closed on 7th August. (1) The NFLA Response is available on the website. (2) One particular remark which was made by the NFLA was highlighted by the Scottish Government at the recent Scottish Sites¹ meeting:-

"...attracting interested stakeholders to consultation meetings can be difficult and when community representatives do attend they are greatly outnumbered by stakeholders from the nuclear industry."

Needles to say the Scottish Government didn't mention that this remark was made in support of the idea of *"...establishing a fund which can be used by community groups to appoint independent experts to help with their deliberations on waste management issues."*

There were only 24 responses to the Implementation Strategy Consultation. Respondents included NuLeaf, SCCORS, Highland, Stirling and North Ayrshire Councils and West Kilbride Community Council, as well as Copeland Borough Council in Cumbria. These are all available on the Scottish Government website. (3)

Copeland Council was keen to stress that it cannot be assumed that Sellafield will manage waste unsuitable for Scotland's near surface disposal site.

¹ A meeting of Nuclear Site Stakeholder Groups and Local Liaison Committees with the Scottish Government, NDA, ONR, SEPA, MoD, RRDL, and SCORRS to which the NFLA is now invited.



The Scottish Government hopes to publish the finalised implementation strategy before the end of 2015. It will then need to review the policy soon after 2017 (and before 2021) and report on progress to the European Commission. Plans for stakeholder and community engagement will need to be developed in conjunction with community experts; research into communication methodologies will have to be commissioned; national and international guidelines for community engagement will have to be reviewed.

Proposed Implementation Strategy

The current plan for decommissioning Scotland's nuclear reactors at Chapelcross, Hunterston and Torness is, after closure, to leave them in a safe quiescent state until at least 2070 to allow for some of the radioactivity to decay. This means that almost two thirds of the waste covered by this policy won't actually arise until after 2070. Hunterston A and Chapelcross, for instance are currently being prepared for a period of what is called Care and Maintenance (C&M).

Dounreay is currently expected to reach its proposed Interim End State in 2029/30 by which time all the waste is expected to be in two ILW stores on the site.

So from 2030 to 2070 all HAW will either be in safe and secure storage or still within the reactors on the power station sites. The Scottish Government says it wants suitable disposal facilities to be available by 2070 to avoid the need to build new stores to accommodate the waste which arises when reactor dismantling starts. (N.B. This timetable doesn't allow for the likely life extension for Torness to 2030).

Any near surface disposal facilities will need to comply with guidance produced by the UK Environmental Regulators. Most of the waste at Chapelcross, Hunterston and Torness should be suitable for disposal in a near-surface facility, but only 20% of the waste at Dounreay would be.

The word "disposal" usually means "*to get rid of something*". But the concern expressed by those opposed to deep geological disposal is that radioactive contamination could find its ways back to the surface environment relatively quickly. If this were to happen it could prove very difficult to retrieve waste from deep underground. In the Scottish Government's policy the word "disposal" is used simply to indicate there is no intention to retrieve the waste. But developers of a near-surface disposal facility will need to demonstrate how the facilities will be monitored and how waste packages could be retrieved if necessary.

The policy gives no definition of "near surface". And there is no definition of "*near to the site*", but the Strategy presumes "*that waste will be dealt with as close as is practicable to the site where it was produced, thus minimising the need to transport the waste over long distances*".

Waste Hierarchy

The Scottish Government says "*the waste hierarchy should always be considered in managing wastes to ensure that wastes are not unnecessarily created and that all other options are adequately considered before a decision to dispose is taken.*" The use of the "waste hierarchy" means that some types of waste could be transported to processing facilities possibly in other countries for treatment. This might involve, for instance, decontaminating metals so that they can be recycled. Whilst this is seen by some as making the most of valuable materials and reducing the amount of waste which

needs to be disposed of, others see it as running counter to the policy of rejecting unnecessary transport and, because processing generally results in the discharges of radioactive substances into the environment, counter to the rejection of “dilution and dispersal.”

1. Consultation on an Implementation Strategy for Scotland’s Policy on Higher Activity Radioactive Waste, Scottish Government May 2015 <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0046/00464771.pdf>
2. See http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/radwaste/Rad_Waste_Brfg_57_Scottish_HAW_consultation.pdf
3. <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/09/3192/downloads>

2 Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Draft Strategy 2016-21

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is required to review its overarching strategy every five years. The current strategy runs from 2011 to 2016. Under normal circumstances the NDA would have held a 12 week consultation on its new draft strategy before the end of 2015, but because further budget cuts are expected to be announced in the Comprehensive Spending review it is currently seeking comments on an early version of draft Strategy III (1), and will hold a formal six week public consultation on a revised draft beginning on 5 January 2016. A draft Business Plan will be published on the same date.

The Comprehensive Spending Review will shape NDA’s work programme over the coming years. Further budget cuts could impact negatively on the Magnox sites in particular, because resources must be focussed on addressing the high hazard facilities at Sellafield.

A further opportunity to discuss these issues will be available at a National Stakeholder Engagement Event which will take place during the consultation period.

NFLA Response

In its response to the Draft Strategy the NFLA expresses concern that a worrying picture is beginning to emerge of an evolving strategy for the NDA which is straying even further from environmental principles.

We have already seen increasing quantities of radioactive waste diluted and dispersed around the environment by diverting it to landfill, discharging it into our estuaries, seas and atmosphere using dissolution plants, metal recycling plants and incinerators – masquerading as the environmentally-friendly sounding ‘waste hierarchy’.

Now the NDA is proposing to step up a gear the use of these techniques by switching some intermediate-level waste to near surface dumps in England and Wales, rather than a Geological Disposal Facility, and vastly increasing the amount of waste being treated using these dilute and disperse methodologies by discussing the possibility of bringing forward the dismantling of decommissioned Magnox reactors. In Scotland the NFLA has supported near surface facilities for

HAW as an alternative to deep geological disposal on the basis that near surface “disposal” is defined as simply emplacement in a facility with no intention to retrieve but where **developers need to demonstrate how the facilities will be monitored and how waste packages, or waste could be retrieved.**

Whilst Magnox worker doses may not increase as previously expected under an early decommissioning scenario, because of advances in robotics and remote handling techniques, but doses to the public are likely to go up. Whilst the NFLA has no objection to re-visiting the timing of Magnox reactor dismantling in the light of recent advances in robotics, this should be through the prism of an agreed set of environmental principles, not because new opportunities for spreading waste across the country have arisen. The NFLA has told the NDA it will oppose this waste management on the cheap and continue to argue for techniques based on environmental principles particularly the principle that hazardous waste should be concentrated and contained in isolation from the environment.

In addition the NDA seems determined to continue transporting waste from Dounreay to Sellafield.

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1. NDA Draft Strategy, September 2015 <http://www.nda.gov.uk/publication/draft-strategy-early-version>

3 Office for Nuclear Regulation

Last year, non-economic regulators were handed guidance entitled “*Duty to have regard to growth*” by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills. Concern has been expressed that this means regulators are being forced to cosy up to the industry and sacrifice some of their safety responsibilities as a result of government changes to their role.

At a meeting in Manchester in October, executives from the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), told representatives from NGOs including NFLA that they now have to encourage the industry’s economic growth in addition to promoting safety.

Some attendees warned that the ONR seemed to be getting “*too close*” to the industry. Dr David Lowry said “*Nuclear industry regulation is totally unsuitable to the Business Department’s misguided crusade to cut red tape in regulations. During the Manchester meeting, the ONR seemed to be dangerously edging towards the corporate financial interests of the nuclear industry rather than the public interests of ensuring national nuclear safety.*” (1)

Andrea Leadsom told Labour’s Paul Flynn, that “*safety and security in the civil nuclear industry are of paramount importance to the Government*”. But the Government is insisting on cutting the resources of the nuclear regulator, which is already struggling to find people with the right skills to become power plant inspectors. Minutes of a 13 October board meeting of the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), which is sponsored by the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), show this to be the case: “*DWP has been tasked with saving £590m by mid-2019, and this target will include the activities of ONR. The board set a very clear expectation that ONR would need to contribute to the*

efficiency savings and that we needed to be looking for efficiencies across all of ONR and not just the back office functions.”

The ONR may be able to charge the industry for the work it carries out whilst regulating the industry but cutting the budget at the ONR, when we are on the cusp of building a new generation of nuclear power plants, does not seem the cleverest way to ensure safety, let alone openness and transparency. (2)

Another area which rang alarm bells for some of the attendees at the Manchester meeting was ONR’s new regulatory strategy for Sellafield which was launched in April 2014 and is described as being based on a “*collaborative approach between key stakeholders to deliver agreed objectives*”. The ONR Board wanted a new strategy which could deliver accelerated hazard and risk reduction - not something a regulator would normally do.

Six stakeholder groups – DECC, Environment Agency, NDA, Sellafield Ltd, the Shareholder Executive and ONR – collectively known as the Engine Room – are working together to deliver accelerated hazard and risk reduction at Sellafield. (3) But no minutes are available of their meetings, so they are not open to Freedom of Information requests.

It may be no bad thing to accelerate hazard and risk reduction at Sellafield, but when viewed in the context of ONR’s duty to have regard to growth it could mean corner cutting and reduced levels of safety perhaps resulting in more accidents in the short-term remains to be seen.

At a recent Scottish Sites meeting at Victoria Quay (which ONR was unable to attend) Dounreay was asked if there were plans to implement a similar strategy at the site. A similar “Engine Room” process has been introduced, but at the moment it is focussed on dealing with the transfer of Exotic Fuels to Sellafield. Discussions about expanding it to the whole site are ongoing/

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1. Independent 2nd Nov 2015 <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/alarm-over-government-s-growth-mandate-for-nuclear-regulator-a6718841.html>
 2. Independent 7th Nov 2015 <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/comment/the-conservatives-nuclear-option-is-a-ticking-time-bomb-a6725096.html>
 3. Regulation Matters No.1 August 2015 <http://www.onr.org.uk/documents/2015/regulation-matters-issue-1.pdf>

4 Hunterston A Decommissioning

There is a new £25 million Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store at Hunterston A. ILW is currently stored in 5 bunkers at Hunterston A. These bunkers are deemed by ONR to be no longer fit for purpose. It was previously reported that Magnox Ltd. was struggling to transfer the waste to the new store. It is important that the safe transfer of this waste is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the local community before any further major decisions are taken about waste management.

The Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) facility was constructed to recover solid ILW from within 5 bunkers. This is achieved by using remotely operated vehicles (ROV's) to fill hoppers that are then tipped into RWM (Radioactive Waste Management Ltd) approved 3 metre cubed stainless steel containers.

The work started in March 2014 and the SAWBR facility completed active commissioning with the emptying of the first bunker (Bunker 5) in February 2015. Work started on Bunker 4 on 27 March 2015. As of mid-October 2015, over two hundred packages of solid ILW had been recovered and transferred to the site ILW Store. Throughput rates continue to improve.

To get these ILW packages into a "disposable" state they will need to be grouted. To this end a Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) facility is planned. Construction and inactive commissioning of SILWE is planned to be complete by the end of calendar year 2017. So when SILWE is completed the waste already placed in the store will need to be removed, grouted and then placed back in the store.

Also being commissioned is the Wet ILW Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP). This plants purpose is to retrieve ILW sludges from underground storage tanks, condition the sludge at a certain density and then encapsulate the sludge to a homogenous monolith within a Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) approved, stainless steel 3 m³ package. The facility also retrieves ILW acid waste and encapsulates in the same packages. It is anticipated that the facility will commence active commissioning in 2016.

5 Hunterston B

A worker at Hunterston B was allegedly caught studying bomb-making websites. The staff member was marched off the premises after a colleague raised the alarm. Police are now investigating the worker accessing "inappropriate material" while working at the nuclear facility. The man, believed to have moved recently from England, has only worked at the North Ayrshire facility for around four weeks. He was spotted by a fellow colleague on Monday, who reported his concerns to management. (1) EDF wrote to Site Stakeholder Group members after these reports appeared in the Press, saying that they were not entirely accurate, but said it would not be appropriate to comment further because there was an ongoing Police Scotland investigation.

Meanwhile, more cracks have been discovered in three graphite bricks in the core of one of the reactors at Hunterston B during routine maintenance. This is the other reactor to the one discovered with cracks last year. EDF insists there are no safety implications and the finding had no impact on the operation of the reactor. (2)

Last year John Large, described EDF's statements on cracks as "*overly reassuring*". He said the reasons for the cracking and any associated risk remain unknown. Serious distortion of the graphite core due to cracking could prevent the insertion of control rods, which are essential for safety and are used to shut down the reactor in an emergency. (3)

1. Mirror 27th Oct 2015 <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/nuclear-power-plant-worker-escorted-6716845> and Daily Record 27th Oct 2015 <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-nuclear-power-plant-worker-6716601>
2. BBC 19th November 2015 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-34867312>
3. See Safe Energy journal October 2014
http://www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk/documents/SAFE_ENERGY_No63.pdf

6 Chapelcross

Now that all the spent nuclear fuel has been removed from the Chapelcross site - the last flask load was dispatched to Sellafield on 26th February 2013 (1) - the Hazard Identification and Risk Evaluation (HIRE) has been revised and this has enabled ONR to remove the requirement for an off-site emergency planning area under Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations - REPIR). A revised emergency plan has now been approved by ONR and implemented.

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1. Magnox Sites 26th Feb 2013 <https://magnoxsites.com/2013/02/chapelcross-dispatch-last-flask-of-fuel>

7 Dounreay

Honey contaminated with “elevated” levels of nuclear waste has been found near Dounreay. The honey was found to contain caesium-137 at a level 14 times higher than average. The finding has prompted calls for an investigation into whether the reading is a sign of wider contamination from the plant.

John Large, an independent nuclear energy consultant, said: *“Bees are key indicators of what is happening in the environment. They forage in a three-mile radius around the hive and anything in the soil is drawn up into plants and into the nectar they collect. This reading is within the limit for human consumption, but caesium-137 should not be turning up in honey at all.”*

A spokesman for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency played down the findings, stating: *“The concentration identified is low and is not a cause of concern for the public or the environment.”*

The concentration of Cs-137 in the honey found was around 30-60 Becquerels per kilogram (Bq/kg), but samples measured the previous year were found to be uncontaminated. To keep annual exposure levels below the recommended 0.3mSv, the maximum recommended concentration for Cs-137 in food eaten by babies should be below 8 Bq/kg (2)

So the response from SEPA was rather surprising.

However, Dounreay was named & shamed as one of Scotland's 300 dirtiest companies by SEPA after leaks of radioactive tritium gas from waste stacks in breach of authorised limits. It also exceeded its allowance for the amount of water it could extract from radioactive waste vaults six times. (3)



1. Times 2nd Nov 2015 <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4602246.ece>
2. Foodwatch Report 2011 IPPNW study
https://www.foodwatch.org/uploads/tx_abdownloads/files/foodwatch_report_kalkulierterStrahlentod_20110920.pdf
3. Herald 8th Nov 2015
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/13952455.Named_and_shamed__the_dirtiest_companies_in_Scotland/

8 Rosyth and Submarine Dismantling

Rosyth Royal Dockyard Ltd. (RRDL) has two kinds of Intermediate Level Waste in the shape of resin slurry and some filters. The resins total 23m³ and are stored in 33 purpose built tanks within the Active Waste Accumulation Facility (AWAF). The Low Level Waste Repository Ltd will not accept Rosyth resins due to the level of complexing agents present in the waste. Following an advert placed in the Official Journal of European Union requesting expressions of interest from potential suppliers to undertake resin disposal trials a number of companies responded. The MOD has assessed the responses to its Pre-Qualification Questionnaire and identified six separate technologies proposals from five different companies to take forward to the trialling phase.

Radium contaminated waste from the Dalgety Bay foreshore is also stored in the AWAF. Currently there is no disposal route for this waste.

Submarine Dismantling Project. (SDP)

RRDL applied to SEPA on 24th December 2013 for a new authorisation under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 to accept solid, liquid and gaseous low level radioactive waste from the MoD arising from the first stage of initial submarine dismantling at Rosyth and to dispose of this low level waste. As the MoD own the waste an agreement also has to be reached between the MoD and SEPA on how the waste will be managed. Both the RRDL and MoD applications are going through a parallel approval process. Public consultation on these applications finished on 9th October 2015 and the outcome is awaited.

The next stage of SDP will lead to the demonstration of the dismantling process, on one of the defuelled submarines at Rosyth Dockyard. The demonstration will be completed in stages; stage 1 Low Level radioactive Waste removal, Stage 2 ILW removal. Once the submarine is radiologically clean, and cleared on safety and security grounds it will be sent to a UK ship recycler.

It should be noted no radioactive waste will be removed without a disposal or storage solution being agreed.

A public consultation on which of five potential sites to use for the interim storage of the Reactor Pressure Vessels ran from 14 November 2014 to 20 February 2015. The post Public Consultation report was published on 15th July 2015, outlining the differing views expressed. (1)

The recommended location from the five shortlisted sites is due to be announced by Ministers in the Summer of 2016, alongside the report into MOD's response to public consultation views expressed and how they were used to assist with the decision.

Progress has also been made on developing the transport container which is required to move the RPV from the initial dismantling dockyard to the interim store. Further design work will continue on the transport container during 2016.

The initial dismantling project is currently in a period of commercial assessment, agreeing the detail of stage 1 - the removal of LLW from the first submarine. SEPA are assessing the applications made by MOD and Babcock Marine to commence Radwaste removal from the demonstrator submarine at Rosyth. SEPA's determination is expected to complete Autumn 2016, and it is planned to commence LLW removal at the end of 2016. Part of SEPA's assessment included a Statutory Public Consultation which recently concluded.

Once removed LLW will be dispatched to the Low Level Waste Repository in Cumbria, or the radioactive metal recycling plant operated by Studsvik in Sweden.

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1. Post Consultation Report on the Site for Interim Storage of Waste, MoD, 15th July 2015
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445071/20150713_PSE2_Post-Consultation-FINAL.pdf

9 Electricity Supplies

The Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee has reported on its inquiry into 'ensuring Scotland's energy supply' (1) The inquiry found no credence in the more excitable media coverage about an energy security crisis in Scotland. It is important of course that a strategic approach is taken and the Committee welcomes National Grid's commitment to bring to the Scottish Parliament an annual capacity assessment for review.

The Committee called for a much more joined-up approach to our energy system given that half of Scotland's energy use and climate emissions come from heating. The Committee called on Scottish Ministers to prioritise energy efficiency and produce a demand reduction strategy for the country.

Provided there is enough transmission capacity to import electricity, it is not essential to have thermal electricity production located in Scotland, and Scotland is part of a GB-wide system, and GB is itself becoming increasingly part of the European market. Peak demand both in Scotland and the UK has dropped over the last seven or eight years, mainly due to energy efficiency. It is unlikely that demand will change much in the short term, until more transport or heat demand start to convert to electricity. In the interim we should look at the energy system much more holistically. Electricity amounts to just 19% of energy demand and —enormous problems are in store if we consider the bigger picture. To address that means, amongst other things, introducing more combined heat and power plants.

The Committee concluded that security of supply is a term that no longer quite fits the present day electricity market, ignoring, for example, the demand side of the equation. The reality of the energy system in Scotland is that we are intrinsically part of a GB system that is itself connected with and increasingly dependent on a wider European system. We live in an increasingly interconnected world.

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1. Plugged-in Switched-on Charged-up: Ensuring Scotland's Energy Security, 8th Report, 2015 (Session 4) Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee, Scottish Parliament 26th October 2015
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EconomyEnergyandTourismCommittee/Reports/EETS042015R08.pdf

10 Fuel Poverty and Scottish Climate Change Targets

All five leaders of Scotland's main political parties have signed a Climate Leaders' Agreement committing them to set out in their manifestos for the May 2016 elections detailed plans to deliver the ambitions of Scotland's Climate Change Act.

The Stop Climate Chaos Scotland coalition has set out what it thinks the key priorities should be. These include making energy efficiency of Scotland's homes a National Infrastructure Project and committing to and delivering a Warm Homes Act. (1)

Official statistics show that 4,060 more people died during last winter, compared to the average for the rest of the year. An alliance of over 50 civic organisations has called on the Scottish Government to end cold homes in Scotland by 2025, by improving the energy efficiency of homes. The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) called it "*...indefensible that cold, hard-to-heat homes continue to leave the most vulnerable in our society at the mercy of cold weather each winter.*"

WWF Scotland director Lang Banks says improving the energy efficiency of Scotland's homes would make a significant contribution to reducing the number of vulnerable people who die each winter from the effects of cold homes. In addition to improving public health, insulating all homes to a 'C' standard would also create up to 9,000 jobs a year, cut fuel bills and help tackle climate emissions. (2)

The Existing Homes Alliance Scotland has joined with a range of other groups including the Church of Scotland and the Federation of Master Builders to persuade the government to aim to bring all homes in Scotland up to at least an Energy Performance Certificate band 'C' by 2025. (3)

Although the Scottish Government has declared warm homes to be a national infrastructure priority to tackle both fuel poverty and meet greenhouse gas commitments, the new group wants to see concrete proposals and clear goals from the Scottish Government to make this happen. (4) This should involve upgrading the insulation and energy-efficiency ratings of 127,000 homes a year for 10 years. (5)



Unfortunately, a planned consultation on minimum energy efficiency standards in private homes has been deferred until after the 2016 election. The Scottish Government blamed uncertainty caused by UK Government policies. (6)

Over 50 per cent of our carbon emissions and energy use comes from heating our buildings and water yet we're still only delivering around 4 per cent of that heat from renewables. Stop Climate Chaos wants all the political parties to commit to introducing a Warm Homes Act which would establish a regulatory framework designed to support market growth in renewable and low-carbon heat and increase investor and consumer confidence. (7)

The Scottish Government has set a target for 11% of non-electrical heat demand to come from renewable sources by 2020, but it will struggle to meet that target. Research by Ricardo AEA for WWF, Friends of the Earth Scotland and RSPB indicates that Scotland will have to deliver 40% renewable heat by 2030, in addition to significant efficiency improvements, to fulfil targets under the Scottish Climate Change Act. Given the statistics above, a step change in approach is clearly required. (8)

Research by Scottish Enterprise shows there are currently 9,886 properties connected to district heating schemes. The Scottish Government has a target to connect 40,000 homes by 2020. This affords a major opportunity for Scottish businesses and investors. These range from companies that dig up the roads and build the infrastructure to firms in the supply chain, including technology providers. This commercial prospect is in addition to the environmental and financial benefits district heating is said to bring, as systems can be based on renewable technology such as biomass boilers. (9)

Meanwhile, Scottish Energy Minister Fergus Ewing has called on the UK Government to provide greater certainty on the future of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) which provides financial incentives to increase the uptake of renewable heat. At the moment no-one is sure whether the RHI will continue after March 2016. Glasgow based heat pump manufacturer Star Renewable Energy, for instance, says it has already seen some schemes delay decisions about capital investment until there is further certainty on the future of the RHI. (10) The Scottish Government launched a £2.3 million challenge fund to jump-start water source heat-pump schemes in September to support the development of large scale projects which need assistance to attract further investment. (11)

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1. Stop Climate Chaos 16th October 2015 <http://stopclimatechaos.org/sites/default/files/Manifesto-final-web.pdf>
 2. WWF Scotland 20th October 2015 http://www.wwf.org.uk/about_wwf/press_centre/scottish_press_centre/?7703/Scottish-excess-winter-deaths---worst-figures-in-more-than-a-decade-prompt-warm-homes-call
 3. Joint Statement 13th Oct 2015 http://existinghomesalliancescotland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/EXHAS_jointstatement_Oct15.pdf
 4. Herald 13th Oct 2015 http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/13842563.Powerful_new_alliance_calls_for_firm_SNP_targets_to_make_Scotland_s_home_energy_efficient/



5. Scottish Energy News 13th Oct 2015 <http://www.scottishenergynews.com/construction-industry-coalition-and-fuel-poverty-charities-call-for-10bn-housing-energy-efficiency-improvement-programme-in-scotland/>
6. Scottish Green MSPs 18th Sept 2015 <http://greenmsps.org/?p=702>
7. WWF Scotland 13th Nov 2015 http://www.wwf.org.uk/about_wwf/press_centre/scottish_press_centre/?7718/Greater-certainty-needed-on-renewable-heat-incentive--WWF-Scotland-comment
8. Stop Climate Chaos 16th October 2015 <http://stopclimatechaos.org/sites/default/files/Manifesto-final-web.pdf>
9. Herald 5th Sept 2015 http://www.heraldscotland.com/business/13647820.Business_can_benefit_from_district_heating_roll_out/
10. Scottish Government press release 13th Nov 2015 <http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Pressing-the-case-for-renewable-heat-1f3f.aspx>
11. Scottish Energy News 17th Sept 2015 <http://www.scottishenergynews.com/scot-govt-fund-set-up-to-kick-start-new-national-water-source-heat-pump-industry/>

11 Scotland's Renewable Targets

A new report from the trade body, Scottish Renewables, suggests that Scotland is in danger of missing its 100% renewable electricity target without further investment in onshore and offshore wind. (1) The study shows Scotland is on course to generate the equivalent of 87% of its annual demand for power from renewables by 2020, and highlights the need for further support from the UK Government if the target is to be met.

Its release comes amid press reports of a leaked letter from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change stating that the UK will miss its 2020 renewables targets. (2) Amber Rudd has admitted the UK does not have the right policies in place to meet its EU target of sourcing 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020. (3)

There are more than enough renewables projects in the pipeline to hit Scotland's 2020 target if funding is secured. The industry had expected an auction round for contracts this autumn, under the new Contract for Difference system, but UK ministers postponed that, and it is still unclear when and if that will go ahead which is inevitably impacting on investor confidence across the industry. If the process doesn't start soon projects in the Western Isles and Shetland could be fatally undermined and it will be too late for offshore wind projects to meet the 2020 deadline. (4)

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1. The Scottish Renewables Briefing – Update on Scotland's 2020 Renewable Energy Targets is available on our website https://www.scottishrenewables.com/media/filer_public/97/53/9753d54b-72ac-4867-a474-347c636b94b0/sr_briefing_-_update_on_scotlands_2020_renewables_targets.pdf
 2. A letter from Energy Secretary Amber Rudd leaked to The Ecologist shows that the UK is on track to miss its legally binding obligation to achieve EU targets on renewable energy.

http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2986190/leaked_letter_rudd_admits_25_green_energy_undershoot_misled_parliament.html

3. Guardian 10th Nov 2015 <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/nov/10/rudd-issues-transport-challenge-to-meet-uk-renewables-target>
4. Scottish Energy News 11th Nov 2015 <http://www.scottishenergynews.com/scotland-set-to-miss-salmonds-target-of-100-renewable-electricity-generation-by-2020/>

12 Renewable Notes

Community Energy Under Attack

The government is cutting tax relief for community energy schemes from 30th November unexpectedly. It means that investors in community energy projects will not be able to benefit from the so-called Enterprise Investment Schemes, the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme or the Social Investment Tax Relief, making such investments much less attractive. It comes on top of plans to cut subsidy cuts feed-in tariffs by up to 87% in January 2016. (1)

In Scotland the Edinburgh Solar Co-op; the Rumbling Bridge Hydro Scheme near Kinross; Fetlar Wind in Shetland and the Applecross Community Hydro Scheme have all been rushing to sell shares before the tax relief ends.

Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative was half way towards its target of £1.4 million by 17th November. The Co-op hopes to install solar panels on 25 public buildings – leisure centres and schools - across the capital and generate up to 1.5MW. If fully subscribed, the scheme will offer an index-linked 5% return to investors. (2)

Apple Juice (Applecross) Limited is a Community Benefit Society which has been formed by local people to fundraise, construct and operate our 90kw community hydro scheme. The hydro scheme will generate clean, low carbon electricity from Allt Breugach, a burn which flows from the hills behind Shore Street into Applecross Bay. Surplus income from the scheme will go to Applecross Community Company to be spent on projects identified through consultation with the community. (3) The share offer aims to raise £780,000 project, and by 17th November it had raised over £500,000. (4)

Anaerobic Digestion

Scotland's anaerobic digestion (AD) industry – which turns rotting food and farm waste into electricity – has mushroomed by more than two thirds in a year. Twenty seven AD projects are up and running in Scotland, up 69% (from 16) in 12 months ago, while a further 43 have planning approval. (5) The Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Association (ADBA) says Scotland is leading the way on AD, which can deliver baseload energy that is cheaper than new nuclear. (6)

Tidal Power

Atlantis – a global leader in the tidal power sector – has announced that the European Commission's Climate Change Committee has approved the transfer of €17 million of funding from the Kyle Rhea

project to Atlantis's MeyGen project, the world's largest planned tidal stream energy project. The funding is for MeyGen Phase 1B ("Project Stroma") and will accelerate the development of the MeyGen tidal turbine marine energy development in the Pentland Firth, with this second phase targeted to reach financial close and commence construction during 2016. (7)

Renewables - floating turbines

The world's largest floating offshore wind farm is set to be installed off the coast of Scotland after the Norwegian energy firm Statoil was granted a marine licence for the pilot project. The Hywind Scotland project will see five floating 6MW turbines anchored about 25km off the coast of Peterhead. The project will have a generating capacity of 135GWh of electricity every year - enough to power 19,900 homes. (8) The Carbon Trust believe that floating wind concepts have the potential to reduce generating costs to below £100/MWh in commercial deployments, with the leading concepts such as Hywind, with even lower costs of £85-£95MWh. (9)

Solar Power

Councils have not been put off investing in solar despite the recent subsidy cuts, according to public sector energy consultant Stephen Cirrell. He says local authorities are adjusting the timeline of projects with many opting to wait it out for two years. Very few however, are walking away from a commitment to pursue solar energy. Storage, private wires and falling costs of PV panels will help to make solar economic for local authorities in a couple of years time. (10)

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