



**Annual General Meeting
12.30-14.00 25 October 2012
Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament
Chair: Sarah Boyack 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

Sarah Boyack MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the group's annual return and the results of the electronic election of group officers which was held on 4 October.

The results of the elections were compiled by the secretariat and the following officers were duly elected:

- Sarah Boyack MSP (Co-convener)
- Jim Eadie MSP (Co-convener)
- Liam McArthur MSP (Deputy convener)
- Jamie McGrigor MSP (Deputy convener)

No objections were raised to the Energy Savings Trust and Scottish Renewables continuing as co-secretariat of the group.

3. Discussion of points from last AGM

Sarah Boyack MSP noted the key points made at the last AGM and invited the group's secretariat to provide the group an update on their progress towards them.

Key point: At the last AGM it was agreed to trial an inquiry-style process of asking members for contributions both within and outwith meetings and for a summary report to be published/subject of future meeting at which a Minister would be invited to respond/comment. It was noted that there was the potential for a student or intern to be engaged to provide administrative and drafting support for such a report.

Secretariat action: After the last AGM both organisations who provide the secretariat for the group (Scottish Renewables and the Energy Saving Trust) looked at this option in more detail, and concluded that they were unable to put in the additional resource that would be needed for an inquiry-style process.

Both organisations concluded that even if a student or intern was to be engaged they would still need to be managed and this would take up resource which neither organisation currently has available.

Discussion: Patrick Harvie MSP noted that Third Sector Internships Scotland (TSIS) may shortly be launching a parliamentary scheme. The secretariat agreed to look into this option further.

Key point: Secretaries were to draft a letter for the Convener to send to the Standards Committee to request that webcasting be included as a potential paid-for service which CPGs could tap into.

Secretariat action: The Secretariat included this request in the response sent to the Review of Cross-Party Groups undertaken by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee in April 2012.

Key point: Secretaries were asked to draft options for a business case for a membership fee to support the work of the CPG.

Secretariat action: The secretariat undertook a small piece of research to look at what other groups charged as a membership fee and how the charging and administering of this worked in practice. Each organisation that provides the secretariat then discussed, internally, the possibility of administering a membership fee.

Both organisations concluded that – due to the sheer number of SPREEE members (>400) - the costs associated with administering so many payments would be likely to be greater than the respective organisations simply paying for refreshments at meetings. It was also noted that there would be issues with refusing group members access to events for non-payment of the membership fee.

Discussion: It was agreed that Scottish Renewables and the Energy Saving Trust would continue to pay for the cost of refreshments for the meetings of the group.

4. Discussion of Group's future work plan

The following subject areas were suggested for discussion at future meetings of the group:

Energy Storage

Nigel Don MSP wanted a meeting to look at what is being done around the storage of renewable energy in light of a recent report from the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

Nigel Holmes, Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association agreed and said he would be happy to help find relevant speakers.

Bill Rodger, stated that Strathclyde University were doing work around this issue.

Bill Walker MSP noted that he would like to see what practical systems were being looked at for energy storage

Alex Hill, Met Office, noted an idea to convert wind energy into ammonia for burning as fuel and also that EMEC are doing work around energy storage.

Community Benefit

Douglas Prentice, Napier University and Geocapita, would like to see a session exploring community benefit.

Elaine Waterson, Secretariat, said the group would be discussing this at the next meeting on 15 November.

Claudia Beamish MSP, wanted to explore how communities can set up their own renewable energy projects and partnerships with multi-national companies

Local Authorities

Patrick Harvie MSP asked for the group to look into Local Authorities setting up their own energy service companies and working on energy efficiency measures

Sarah Boyack MSP suggested that the group could get an update from English Local Authorities that have appeared before about their progress on energy efficiency measures and ask what progress the City of Edinburgh Council is making with its co-operative renewable energy proposals.

Effects of Scottish Independence

Dr Mark Winskel, UK Energy Research Centre, suggested a meeting looking into the implications of possible Scottish independence on the renewable energy sector.

Patrick Harvie MSP, suggested the forthcoming Economy, Energy and Tourism report may have something to say on constitutional matters

Elizabeth Leighton, WWF Scotland, suggested the group look at energy efficiency standards in the domestic sector.

Michelle Cullis, Pinsent Masons, suggested the group look at renewable heat in urban areas

Stefan Buettner, David Torrance MSP, suggested the group look at 'energy productivity' – a term widely used in the USA.

William Ross said he would like to see a session on the talent and skills required to meet renewable energy targets

Sarah Boyack MSP suggested looking at Scottish companies working internationally, especially in developing countries.

It was agreed that the Group Officers and Secretariat would take on board the ideas expressed and formulate a programme of meetings reflecting the issues raised.

5. Presentation: Catherine Birkbeck, Scottish Renewables

Catherine Birkbeck, Senior Policy Manager for Grid & Markets at Scottish Renewables, gave a presentation on the UK Government's Energy Bill and the opportunities and challenges for the renewable energy industry contained within Electricity Market Reform (EMR).

The presentation is available on request by emailing Gavin Donoghue at gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com.

6. Questions

Ms Birkbeck answered a number of questions related to her presentation on:

- Marine energy concerns about the EMR auctioning process
- Relation of EMR to transmission charging
- Perception of Contracts for Difference (CfDs) as a hidden subsidy
- Windfarm decommissioning in mid-2020s
- Why liquidity in the market is important

7. AOB

Sarah Boyack MSP thanked the secretariat for their work and requested they make available Ms Birkbeck's presentation and provided a web link to the WWF report '[**On Picking Winners: the need for targeted support for renewable energy**](#)'.

For suggestions for correction of this note and to request copies of presentations, please contact Gavin Donoghue (gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com)

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Alan Kyle	MWH global
Alex Hill	Met Office
Andrew Watson	ScottishPower
Ariane Loening	
Barry Truswell	Scott-Moncrieff
Bill Rodger	
Bill Walker MSP	
Blair Armstrong	Mathie McIntyre
Catherine Birkbeck	Scottish Renewables
Claudia Beamish MSP	
Craig Bradshaw	Pinsent Masons
David Torrance MSP	
Dennis Robertson MSP	
Doug Prentice	Geocapita
Dr Mark Winskel	UK Energy Research Centre
Elaine Waterson	Energy Savings Trust
Elizabeth Leighton	WWF Scotland
Emma Wheeler	Miascape
Gavin Donoghue	Scottish Renewables
Graeme Mair	Liddell Thomson
Jim Eadie MSP	
Liam McArthur MSP	
Michelle Cullis	Pinsent Masons
Nigel Don MSP	
Nigel Holmes	Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association
Patrick Harvie MSP	
Paul Phare	Energy4All Scotland
Paul Wedgwood	Carbon Trust Scotland
Daniel Borisewitz	SLR Consulting
Ragne Low	ClimateXChange
Rhoda Grant MSP	
Richard Leslie	Tods Muray
Richard Stewart	Engineering Construction Industry Training Board
Robin Cathcart	UK Carbon Capture & Storage Community Flexitricity Limited
Ron Ramage	
Sarah Boyack MSP	
Tony Brunton	
Tracey Exton	application recruitment
Veronica Noone	Scottish Enterprise
William Ross	