

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee  
Wednesday 24 September 2025  
14th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

## PE2160: Introduce an energy strategy

### Introduction

**Petitioner** Tina Dawn Marshall

**Petition summary** Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to publish its Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan to address the environment, infrastructure, and land use.

**Webpage** <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2160>

1. This is a new petition that was lodged on 8 May 2025.
2. A full summary of this petition and its aims can be found at **Annexe A**.
3. A SPICe briefing has been prepared to inform the Committee's consideration of the petition and can be found at **Annexe B**.
4. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 23 signatures have been received on this petition.
5. The Committee seeks views from the Scottish Government on all new petitions before they are formally considered.
6. The Committee has received submissions from the Scottish Government and the petitioner, which are set out in **Annexe C** of this paper.

### Action

7. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take.

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**September 2025**

## **Annexe A: Summary of petition**

### **PE2160: Introduce an energy strategy**

#### **Petitioner**

Tina Dawn Marshall

#### **Date Lodged**

8 May 2025

#### **Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to publish its Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan to address the environment, infrastructure, and land use.

#### **Background information**

As windfarms march across Scotland, sending the energy south, we seem to think that wind is the only answer. We have started to look at other technologies such as solar, but again this is problematic as the solar farms in England take up precious agricultural land.

## **Annexe B: SPICe briefing on PE2160**

### **Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on petition PE2160: Introduce an energy strategy, lodged by Tina Dawn Marshall**

#### **Brief overview of issues raised by the petition**

The petition calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to publish its Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan to address the environment, infrastructure, and land use.

The [Scottish Government's first Energy Strategy](#) was published in December 2017. A new [Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan](#) (ESJTP) was published for consultation in January 2023, with a [Consultation Analysis](#) published in September 2023. A finalised ESJTP has not yet been published.

Scottish Government advisers, the Just Transition Commission, have recently published a briefing paper on a [Just Transition for Aberdeen and the North East](#) (May 2025), as well as a report [Assessing the low carbon transition at Grangemouth](#) (March 2025).

The Scottish Government published [Securing Grangemouth's just transition](#) in June 2025.

On [3 April 2025](#), [Douglas Lumsden MSP asked the Scottish Government](#) “whether it will provide an update on when it will publish its energy strategy and just transition plan”. The Acting Minister for Climate Action (Alasdair Allan) replied:

“The judgments and issues in the energy strategy and just transition plan are informed and influenced by a range of recent developments in the United Kingdom Government’s energy policy and, indeed, by court decisions. Therefore, there remains a rapidly changing landscape—for example, the UK Government’s consultation on future oil and gas policy will be open for stakeholder input over the coming months. We are taking time to reflect on those on-going developments before drawing any conclusions and publishing any final strategy.”

An exchange then took place relating to offshore oil and gas licensing, emissions reduction obligations and energy security. The [Scottish Government's written submission in relation to this petition](#) highlights further work in this area.

**Alasdair Reid**

**Senior Researcher**

18 June 2025

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a brief overview of issues raised by the petition. SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition

briefings with petitioners or other members of the public. However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at [spice@parliament.scot](mailto:spice@parliament.scot)

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in petition briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

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## **Annexe C: Written submissions**

### **Petitioner written submission, 22 May 2025**

#### **PE2160/A: Introduce an energy strategy**

Some people do not understand that Scotland has its own processes and procedures which may not align with those of the UK Government. These are matters for the Scottish Government to address with the UK Government, and the UK Government must take them on board.

People are aware that energy is being distributed to the south and do not know how to prevent it happening.

Below I provide some examples of other work that is happening that is relevant to the petition:

- Climate Emergency UK is launching Council Climate Action Scorecards, an assessment on all UK councils on the actions they've taken towards net zero. As a volunteer, I have had a big input to them over the last two years. The Highland Council is the biggest Council in Scotland, and has a poor record in the climate change arena. This is partly due to the geographical spread but also they focus on different aspects in the scorecards than the developer. Heating for homes and retrofit is a priority for the Highland Council on the scorecards, but not for other Councils.
- There are gaps in provision between Climate Emergency UK, the community action hubs and what the Highland Council are actually carrying out. More research is required to see if this is evident over all of Scotland. For example, there is a "gap" in provision for the Climate Action Hubs which are voluntary sector and based on communities, they are not scientifically measured. The scorecards fill this "gap". Another "gap" is that SEPA are not fully engaged due to lack of resources.
- ClimateX in Edinburgh provide specifications for projects which are not always "doable" due to collaborative work necessary. Research has shown that academics do not always want to collaborate, and to carry out much of the work one requires to be attached to a university, and / or already have a PhD, regardless of experience and other qualifications.

The information above has been obtained via Freedom of Information requests from the Highland Council, the Adaptation Scotland team and other entities.

Tina Marshall BSc (Hons) PgDip Para Legal

### **Scottish Government written submission, 10 June 2025**

#### **PE2160/B: Introduce an energy strategy**

**Does the Scottish Government consider the specific ask[s] of the petition to be practical or achievable? If not, please explain why.**

The [draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan](#) was published for consultation in January 2023 setting out a draft route map of actions to deliver a flourishing net zero energy system. An independent [analysis report](#) on the consultation was published in September 2023.

The issues in the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan are informed and influenced by recent and ongoing developments in the UK Government's energy policy. This includes publication of the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan in December 2024 and a suite of consultations on aspects of future reserved policy for North Sea oil and gas (over periods from December 2024 to May 2025), as well as court decisions. This is a rapidly changing landscape, and we are taking sufficient time to analyse and reflect on those developments and their impact on Scotland.

**What, if any, action the Scottish Government is currently taking to address the issues raised by this petition, and is any further action being considered that will achieve the ask[s] of this petition?**

The Scottish Government has been consistently clear on our renewable energy ambitions to 2030 and we remain committed to a net zero energy system.

Last year we published our Green Industrial Strategy, which sets out how Scotland can seize the economic opportunities of the global transition to net zero. As part of a just transition, we are also working with the energy sector to plan for a multi-skilled workforce and the Scottish Government is supporting the energy workforce with the powers available to us. For example, through the Just Transition Fund, we have invested £9.7 million on skills interventions, such as the Energy Skills Passport and the Energy Transition Skills Hub, which will open later this year.

We are providing further certainty to key sectors through publication this year of a Bioenergy Policy Statement, Solar Vision, Sectoral Marine Plan 2 and Offshore Wind Policy Statement.

Our draft Climate Change Plan will also be published for consultation later this year - outlining policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all parts of the economy up to 2040.

In addition, we continue to work collaboratively with other governments to accelerate progress towards Scotland's economic and emissions reduction targets - including through the development of a Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) for Great Britain, which the Scottish Government has co-commissioned.

The SSEP is being led by the National Energy System Operator (NESO) and is intended to bridge the gap between government energy policy and infrastructure development planning, and provide certainty for industry on what energy infrastructure is needed and where. In addition, NESO is adopting a new role as Regional Energy Strategic Planner (RESP) to coordinate energy infrastructure across locations. This involves working with councils, energy providers and communities to forecast future energy needs.

**Energy Strategy and Markets Unit**

## **Petitioner written submission, 28 August 2025**

### **PE2160/C: Introduce an energy strategy**

I am studying for an MSc in the Economics of Renewable Energy at Heriot Watt University, so I am well placed to make this analysis.

I view the problems not only as the pervading windfarms and pylons causing a cumulative negative effect on the Scottish landscape, but also the highly flammable and dangerous Battery Energy Storage Systems. Caithness and Sutherland, in particular, do not have the capacity to deal with huge fires should one of the BESS fail causing an electrical fire, due to the remoteness and lack of resources by the Scottish Fire Services. The Scottish Ambulance Service would not be able to cope either, especially in Caithness General Hospital, Wick.

One consideration would be to have the infrastructure examined closely and ask the Ministers to update the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016.

The Just Transition Commission will not publish their plan for Caithness until the first quarter of 2026.

In terms of other work that might be happening to address the petition:

Battery Energy Storage Systems – The Highland Council has already started to take this on board due to my report and that of another expert.

Offshore wind – is not being addressed holistically, and some developers, such as at Sinclair Bay, the onshore windfarm has been applied for but not the offshore. Planning regulations are not keeping in line with what the developers are submitting. Even onshore wind, I note that one developer who has had planning permission for some time, but has not gone ahead, and meanwhile they have other options in hand.

The Scottish Government should update the Scottish Outdoor Access Code as a matter of urgency as well as the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016. The Core Paths can then incorporate the windfarm roads, which is not happening at the moment.