

3. RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 as amended, sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of seven greenhouse gases by at least 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, compared to the 1990-1995 baseline. The Scottish Government (2018) Climate Change Plan outlines a new interim target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 66% by 2032 against the baseline. The Scottish Energy Strategy also includes a new 2030 'whole system' target for the equivalent of 50% of Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption to be supplied by renewable sources. Both the Scottish Government (2017a) Energy Strategy and the Onshore Wind Policy Statement (2017b) recognise that onshore wind projects must play a vital role in decarbonising electricity, heat and transport systems and meeting the emissions reduction targets.

3.2 European Commission Climate Change Policy

3.2.1 The European Commission (2015) '2030 Framework for Climate and Energy Policies' contains the following headline commitments:

- 1) A binding European Union (EU) target of an at least 40% domestic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 (i.e. without the use of international carbon trading);
- 2) A binding EU target of at least 27% of all energy consumed to come from renewable energy consumed in 2030; and

3.2.2 In addition, an indicative target was set at the EU level, of at least 27% improvement in energy efficiency in 2030 compared to projections of future energy consumption.

3.2.3 The latest update provided by the European Commission (2017) on progress towards the 40% emissions reduction target confirms that in 2016 the EU greenhouse gas emissions were 23% below the 1990 baseline. The report anticipates that the 2030 target will be met. The evaluation of climate policies confirmations that the reductions achieved to date are mainly driven by innovation, including the use of low-carbon technology such as renewable energy.

3.3 UK Climate Change and Renewable Energy Policy

3.3.1 The UK Climate Change Act 2008 committed the UK to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 compared to a 1990 baseline, through the use of a series of five year 'carbon budgets'. The recent Clean Growth Strategy (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2017), reports that the UK exceeded its emission reduction targets for the 2008 – 2012 carbon budget and expects to exceed the emission reduction target for the 2013 – 2022 period.

3.3.2 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 received Royal Assent on 4 August 2009. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 aims for an 80% reduction in Scotland's GHG emissions by 2050 and includes an interim target of a 42% reduction by 2020 (compared to 1990 levels for carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane and 1995 levels for hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride).

3.3.3 The Scottish Government Climate Change Plan (2018) outlines a new target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 66% by 2032. The Scottish Energy Strategy also includes a new 2030 'whole system' target for the equivalent of 50% of Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption to be supplied by renewable sources.

3.3.4 As at March 2015 (Scottish Government, 2015), Scotland had 7.4 GW of installed renewable electricity generation capacity, with an additional 8.9 GW of capacity currently under construction or consented, the majority of which is expected from wind generation, both onshore and offshore (approximately 4.2 GW for each category). Taking into account pipeline projects in planning, the total renewable capacity in Scotland was estimated to be 20.7 GW (March 2015).

- 3.3.5 The Scottish Energy Strategy (Scottish Government, 2017) recognises that the onshore wind sector will continue to play a vital role in decarbonising electricity, heat and transport systems; however, it also recognises the need to deliver a route to market. This means that there is an increasing need to seek the “*extension and replacement of existing sites with new and larger turbines*” (Scottish Government, 2017a, p.44). Furthermore, the Onshore Wind Policy Statement acknowledges that the contribution from onshore wind must continue to grow, which again means seeking opportunities to deploy larger turbines.
- 3.3.6 The proposed development would comprise of turbines newer and larger than existing Tangy I and Tangy II Wind Farms and would provide additional installed capacity of up to approximately 80 MW, contributing to meeting legal obligations seeking to increase the proportion of electricity which is to be derived from renewable sources.

3.4 References

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, URL: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/12> (accessed 30/07/2018).

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2017) Clean Growth Strategy URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy> (accessed 30/07/2018).

European Commission (2017 Two years after Paris – Progress towards meeting the EU's climate commitments, URL: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/progress_en (accessed 30/07/2018).

European Commission (2015) 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework. October 2014, URL: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2030_en (accessed 05/07/2018).

Climate Change Act. (c.27) URL: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents> (accessed: 05/07/2018).

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. URL: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/12/contents> (accessed: 05/07/2018).

Scottish Government (2015a) 2020 Routemap for Renewable Energy in Scotland – Update. September 2015, URL: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/RoutemapUpdate2015> (accessed 05/07/2018).

Scottish Government (2017a) Scottish Energy Strategy: The Future of Energy in Scotland. December 2017, URL: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/12/5661/0> (accessed 05/07/2018).

Scottish Government (2017b) Onshore Wind Policy Statement. December 2017, URL: <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/onshore-wind-policy-statement-9781788515283/> (accessed 05/07/2018).

Scottish Government (2018) Climate Change Plan – the Third Report on Policies and Proposals 2017-2032. February 2018, URL: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/02/8867> (accessed 05/07/2018).