

COMMUNITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (CARES) ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Tuesday 27th September 2022

Responses to questions raised during the conference via chat facilities

The full recording of the morning plenary is available here: [CARES Conference 2022 - Community Climate Action, morning plenary - YouTube](#)

Question	Answers
<p>We need stable electrical base load on our electricity grid. Renewables can provide energy when the wind is blowing or it is daylight. LNG, natural gas, oil and coal are fossil fuels which contribute to global warming. Nuclear can provide stable baseload in a sustainable manner (breeder reactors can also be used to make new fuel and have their nuclear fuel recycled).</p> <p>Can the Scottish Government start to embrace new nuclear power stations, particularly Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), as they are another form of energy which does not emit carbon dioxide and they help to provide a stable baseload for the grid and can help ensure that electricity is produced where needed (hence reducing transmission losses) as part of our transition to a resilient reliable net zero energy mix?</p>	<p>While innovative in their smaller size and construction technique, Small Modular Reactors use the same nuclear fission technology as the power generating process you would find in larger traditional nuclear power plants and carry the same environmental concerns.</p> <p>We don't support the building of any new nuclear fission power stations in Scotland under current technologies – be that a large station such as Hinkley Point C or Small Modular Reactors, that are still in the design and licencing stage.</p> <p>A mixture of renewables, storage and carbon capture technology can support a secure and decarbonised power sector in Scotland.</p> <p>Our priority continues to be to support energy efficiency, develop Scotland's huge renewable resource and to promote storage and flexibility.</p>

What support can there be for district heating schemes? Tenements aren't suitable for heat pumps but this might be a way forward.

The Heat in Building Strategy includes a commitment to ensure all buildings, including tenements and flatted properties, use direct zero emissions heating systems by 2045.

Depending on the type and location of the property, and technological developments, zero emissions heating may be supplied by systems, such as individual electric heat pumps and connection to heat networks, or electric systems such as storage heaters, and systems that have very low emissions such as those that use hydrogen.

For certain types of tenement buildings, connection to heat networks or the use of communal heating systems may play an important role in supplying zero direct emissions heat. Our climate change targets are supported by the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021, which sets out a target of supplying 6 terawatt hours of thermal energy through heat networks by 2030.

CARES Community Heat Development Programme:

CARES will shortly be launching the Community Heat Development Programme to work with community organisations and groups of householders to help develop their ideas for locally-generated, low and zero carbon heat project ideas. Successful applicants will receive technical advice and support from expert advisors to appraise the feasibility of their project advice advise on next steps, including any potential routes for further funding. The programme will help to develop community learning and models for community heat, which will have the potential to be replicated in other communities across Scotland.

Home Energy Scotland

Home Energy Scotland (HES), administered by Energy Saving Trust on behalf of the Scottish Government, is a domestic advice service that acts as a single point of access for free, bespoke, impartial advice on energy efficiency, renewable heating and fuel poverty support in Scotland.

Within HES there are specialist renewables advisors with training to provide in-depth support to householders on home renewables systems, home energy efficiency and solutions for historic buildings.

HES also acts as the gateway to Scottish Government domestic loans and grants programmes for renewables and energy efficiency improvements to homes in Scotland.

Dedicated support for heat networks

Launched in February 2022, Scotland's Heat Network Fund makes £300 million available over this parliamentary session. The fund offers long-term support to enable the rollout of new zero emission heat networks and communal heating systems, as well as the expansion and decarbonisation of existing heat networks across Scotland.

These funds aim to support both networks suited to urban environments as well as small, rural and community-led heat networks and communal systems.

Grants are available for the funding gap of the project up to 50% of the total eligible capital costs. Applicants can use our District Heating Loan Fund to help meet the match funding requirements of Scotland's Heat Network Fund.

For individual property owners who want to connect to a nearby renewably powered heat network, interest free loans of up to £5,000 with cashback grant (£1,250 loan & £3,750 cashback) are available from Home Energy Scotland, subject to eligibility.

Heat Network Support Unit

On 29th September 2022, the Scottish Government launched the Heat Network Support Unit. It is designed to address challenges in the pre-capital stage of heat network development. It will identify prospective heat network projects; support the development of heat network projects across Scotland, through advice and grant funding; and build capacity and expertise across the public sector in Scotland to develop and run successful heat networks.

As there may not be an overall energy bill reduction when moving to decarbonised heating from mains gas, are there any plans for longer term government intervention in this area?

The Scottish Government has no power to change the cost of electricity since energy is an issue that is reserved to the UK Government.

Given the acute crisis we are facing currently, the Scottish Government has called on the UK Government to introduce short-term solutions to decouple the market price of renewable and low carbon electricity from the cost of gas.

We await further detail of the UK Prime Minister's announcement that "renewable and nuclear generators will move onto Contracts for Difference to end the situation where electricity prices are set by the marginal price of gas" as part of a package of reform to address the cost of energy crisis.

	<p>In the longer term, the UK Government’s Review of Electricity Market Arrangements presents an opportunity to reflect on the structure of the market and consider what we can do to ensure it serves the best interests of consumers and deliver net zero.</p>
<p>The repair of heat pumps can be expensive and will be difficult for some householders/owners to afford - has there been any thinking on this potential issue and how might this be mitigated?</p>	<p>On 11th November 2022, we published a new Supply Chains Delivery Plan, setting out a broad system of support for businesses working in the energy efficiency and zero emissions heating retrofit sector. This includes dedicated funding for innovation, a programme of engagement with industry, and ongoing support for skills and training.</p> <p>Actions within our Delivery Plan aim to encourage the supply chain to develop new, attractive, propositions which streamline the transition for consumers and coordinate delivery. We want to ensure that our funding programmes are designed to stimulate innovation within the market and that we realise any opportunities to drive down the cost of zero emission heating systems and energy efficiency works.</p> <p>Heat in Buildings Quality Assurance Policy Statement</p> <p>In designing Scottish Government support schemes for low-carbon technologies, we are committed to a requirement for strong quality assurance, ensuring that all work is carried out by skilled operatives, in accordance with enforceable industry standards with adequate redress in place to protect consumers. We published our Heat in Buildings Quality Assurance policy statement on 7 June 2022. This policy statement covers the standards, skills and certification required for installers on Scottish Government schemes, ways to tackle scams and mis-selling and how to improve public engagement. The document can be found here: www.gov.scot/isbn/9781804355350</p> <p>For our forthcoming successor to the Home Energy Scotland loans and cashback scheme, microgeneration work will retain the current requirements for Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) approved suppliers. This requirement will also apply to future schemes and programmes where appropriate.</p>
<p>Community Energy Groups could be key delivery partners with local authorities to decarbonise their buildings and transport but there are no frameworks for procurement of third sector organisations. How is the</p>	<p>Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies</p> <p>Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) are at the heart of a place based, locally led and tailored approach to delivering the transition to climate-friendly, more energy efficient homes and non-domestic buildings</p>

<p>Scottish Government looking to address this short coming and also hold local authorities to account on their climate emergency plans?</p>	<p>These local Strategies will underpin an area-based approach to heat and energy efficiency planning and delivery.</p> <p>The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022 came into force on 21 May 2022.</p> <p>The Order sets out a legal requirement for local authorities to produce Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies and Delivery Plans by 31 December 2023 and update them every five years.</p> <p>The Order was developed in partnership with COSLA and creates a clear statutory basis that will ensure consistency and comprehensive coverage across Scotland against a common minimum standard, raising the profile of local Strategies with industry and investors.</p> <p>To fulfil their statutory duty as set out in the Order, the Scottish Government is publishing LHEES Guidance, which sets out what is required in terms of the production and content of an LHEES.</p> <p>This Guidance contains specific requirements in relation to engaging community groups during the development of the Strategy, as well as preparing joint actions for delivery relating to heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency retrofit.</p> <p>The Non Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework</p> <p>The Scottish Government can offer to organisations classified as Scottish Third Sector, including registered charities, access to the Non Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework (NDEEF).</p> <p>Split into projects under £1 million capital and projects over £1 million capital, the Scottish Government developed two National Procurement Framework Agreements to enable Non Domestic Energy Efficiency (NDEE) capital installations for the Scottish Public Sector and Scottish Third Sector Bodies</p> <p>These provide pre-approved suppliers able to retrofit public sector and third sector buildings with energy efficiency measures using Energy Performance Contracts to guarantee carbon and costs savings</p> <p>Additionally, the Scottish Government Project Support Unit (PSU), supports users of the frameworks to develop and issue tenders for available services, provides project management and technical advice on services including energy efficiency and up to £50,000 of grant funding per project.</p>
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<p>I know of several local schemes to promote training of the workforce needed to do the work on installation, maintenance of all the technologies. What is the Scottish Government doing to support this?</p>	<p>We estimate that the Green Heat supply chain is largely balanced at existing levels of demand, but recognise that the pace of the Heat in Buildings transition requires a substantial growth in supply chains, particularly in the availability of skilled heating and energy efficiency installers.</p> <p>Since publishing our draft Heat in Buildings Strategy for consultation in February 2021, over £1.49 million has been invested through our National Transition Training Fund (NTTF), which supported over 3,350 participants to access courses for heat pump, energy efficiency and retrofit construction skills. NTTF is now complete and the findings from this and other skills programmes will inform the development of a lifetime skills offer. This is one of the key skilled workforce commitments set out in the National Strategy for Economic Transformation.</p> <p>We have also provided £160,000 capital investment for colleges in the north of Scotland for heat pump and thermal insulation training equipment, with further investment in the South of Scotland colleges provided by the SP Energy Networks Green Economy Fund.</p> <p>Further initiatives include the Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF), the Heat Pump Skills Grant and MCS Certification Fund.</p> <p>On 11th November 2022, we published a new Supply Chains Delivery Plan, setting out a broad system of support for businesses working in the energy efficiency and zero emissions heating retrofit sector. This includes dedicated funding for innovation, a programme of engagement with industry, and ongoing support for skills and training.</p>
<p>The EPC is out of date and unable to factor in solutions such as local energy systems and new technologies. What action does the Scottish Government have in the pipeline to address this and is there further action planned?</p>	<p>Our Heat in Buildings Strategy set out plans to reform Energy Performance Certificates – EPCs – in particular domestic EPCs which was the subject of a consultation in 2021.</p> <p>For non-domestic buildings, the variety of building types, uses and activities that make up Scotland’s community buildings are difficult to capture in the simple model used to produce estimates of energy consumption and emissions for a non-domestic EPC.</p>

	<p>We are investigating concerns that non-domestic EPCs do not encourage the use of zero direct emission heating systems and are not always appropriate for historic buildings or those – such as community buildings – that have multiple uses.</p> <p>The UK Government has consulted on setting a minimum energy performance standard based on EPC C for private rented non-domestic buildings in England and Wales. We are investigating the most effective regulatory approach to decarbonise all of Scotland’s non-domestic buildings.</p> <p>We conducted a Call for Evidence in December 2021 on regulatory options to decarbonise non-domestic buildings to meet the 2045 Net Zero target, including the role for non-domestic EPCs</p> <p>We are investigating the use of actual, measured, direct emissions as the basis for EPC reform and regulation – as recommended by the Climate Change Committee – to encourage the decarbonisation of buildings across Scotland.</p>
<p>Will the Scottish Government support the regulation of the Electrical Installers like create a GasSafe/Corgi system for the electrical industry to assure stakeholders that the electrical contractors are fully qualified to undertake work in installing and maintaining new green energy systems?</p>	<p>It is important that we support growth in the retrofitting and heat installation skills base to ensure consumers across the whole of Scotland can access high quality services when required.</p> <p>A balance needs to be struck between ensuring that installers are qualified to carry out high quality work, while also not placing unnecessary barriers in the way of businesses that will be vital in ensuring that Scotland has the capacity to decarbonise and can reap the benefits of that decarbonisation. We published our Heat in Buildings Quality Assurance policy statement on 7 June 2022. This policy statement covers the standards, skills and certification required for installers on Scottish Government schemes, ways to tackle scams and mis-selling and how to improve public engagement.</p> <p>By requiring improved standards for our own schemes and by supporting consumers to access trusted suppliers while avoiding bad actors, we hope to encourage a greater level of skills and competence in the industry more generally and foster a more secure sector that customers can be confident in regardless of how their work is funded.</p>
<p>Will the Scottish Government support Local Authorities to ensure that it is affordable to install Low Carbon heating systems in new build schools and other public buildings</p>	<p>The Learning Estate Strategy sets out our strategic vision for Scotland’s school estate, and makes clear that schools should be greener and more sustainable.</p>

Although it is the statutory duty of local authorities to manage and maintain their school estate, through our £2 billion Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP), we are providing local authorities with funding support to enable them to replace some of their worst condition schools.

Phase 3 of the LEIP will invest in net zero schools, and that includes: high efficiency standards, zero emissions heating, electric vehicle charging points, and ambitious embodied carbon targets.

Meanwhile, [the Scottish Public Sector Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme](#) – part of the Green Public Sector Estate Decarbonisation Scheme – offers zero interest loans to the public sector to enable them to undertake spend to save retrofit energy efficiency improvement projects, and to help them towards achieving net zero carbon in their estates. This scheme is open to local authorities who can use this as a funding route to decarbonise their estates, including schools.