



The Senedd Cross Party Group on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

12.15 - 1.15pm, Tuesday 28th February 2023

Online meeting

Minutes

Annual General Meeting

Members of the Senedd

Delyth Jewell MS (Chair)
Jane Dodds MS
Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Mike Hedges MS
Jenny Rathbone MS
Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change (Guest Speaker)

Attendees

Alice Jones	Henry Dixon	Ralph Windeatt
Amy Ravitz-Williams	Huw Lewis	Reece Emmitt
Andrew Crossman	Ifer Gwyn	Rhiannon Phillips
Andy Fewings	Ioan Dobbin	Richard Dibley
Andy Regan	Jack Pugsley	Robert Chapman
Angharad Davies	Jennifer Pride	Robert Jervis Gibbons
Antony Jones	Jessica Hooper	Ron Loveland
Ben Coates	Jocelyn Donald	Rosemary
Cathryn Tracey	Jon Fox	Ruth Lovell
Cathy Owens	Lara Stance	Ryland Doyle
Chris Williams	Lisa Christie	Sara Powell Davies
Charlotte Gibson	Lorna Scurlock	Sarah Jones
Chloe Corbyn	Louis Kirkup	Seumas Skinner
Chris Jackson	Manon Kynaston	Simon Morgan
Clare Dance	Mark Sandles	Steve Brooks
Clare Jones	Mary Thorogood	Susan Falch-Lovesey
David Jones	Meilyr Ceredig	Tathan Harding Lloyd
Eleri Davies	Mike Hedges MS	Tessa Blazey
Emma Wakeham	Neil Lewis	Thomas Yeo
Ffion Davies	Oliver Sandles	Tony Cooke
Ffion Wright	R Johnson	
Gwenllian Elias	Rachel Kennedy	

Agenda item 1: Welcome and introductions

- The Chair welcomed attendees.
- Manon Kynaston and Jess Hooper introduce themselves as Co-Directors of RenewableUK Cymru.



Agenda item 2: AGM

- Delyth Jewell MS was re-elected as Chair.
- Jane Dodds MS and Huw Irranca-Davies MS were re-elected as Vice Chairs.
- Cadno Communications was re-elected as Secretariat.
- The Annual Report and Financial Statement will be published on the Cross Party Group website within six weeks of the AGM.

Agenda item 3: Minister for Climate Change (12.30 – 13.00)

The Climate Change Minister, Julie James, addressed questions which had been posted by members prior to the meeting:

Q. The supply chain and skills opportunities that could be delivered locally as a result of future Celtic Sea floating offshore wind projects are significant. From conversations the Minister has had so far with The Crown Estate, how confident is she that the Agreement for Lease process for the initial 4GW and for subsequent leasing rounds, puts the right emphasis on supply chain and skills to achieve an outcome where Wales feels the economic benefits of floating offshore wind?

The Minister made the following points:

- That there has been much engagement with the Crown Estate, and the relationship is productive.
- Disappointed to see that there is only a pass/fail on supply chain development plans as part of the tendering process. Keen to see more detail on requirements, and a mechanism to ensure that developers deliver on their commitments.
- The CfD must also encourage local supply chain development.
- In terms of ports, the Welsh Government is supporting with investment, facilitating conversations with The Crown Estate and the UK Government.
- There is ongoing work with the Celtic Sea Cluster to mobilise supply chains.
- Recognise developer fears about grid readiness, and the Welsh Government is using the levers it has to help progress the issue, but ultimately it is the UK Government that has the powers.

Q. How can we improve cooperation between all relevant stakeholders to maximise supply-chain 2 opportunities for the benefit of Wales? How can we improve cooperation between all relevant stakeholders to maximise jobs, skills & training opportunities for the benefit of Wales?

The Minister made the following points:

- The Welsh Government is part of the Offshore Wind Industry Council and the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, bringing areas of mutual interest for delivery together.
- It is important that the UK Government develops an effective industrial strategy.

Q. What role does the Minister think that ports have in achieving Wales' decarbonisation ambitions? How important does the Minister think Wales' ports will be in the opportunity of floating offshore wind in the Celtic Sea? What role does the Minister think that freeport(s) will play in maximising Wales' decarbonisation ambitions?

The Minister made the following point:

- Free Port(s) in Wales will be expected to adhere to Welsh Government's Fair Work and Sustainability Principles. As the Welsh Government is part of the decision making process on free ports, the Minister made no further comment.



Q. Can the Minister describe the plans in train to use green Hydrogen to decarbonise the South Wales industrial corridor. How much Hydrogen do we need, what is the most likely source of the hydrogen, when will it arrive and how much will it cost?

The Minister made the following points:

- Green hydrogen is a major opportunity arising out of the Celtic Sea.
- Clear preference for green hydrogen using renewables.
- Working with the South Wales Industrial Cluster, transport stakeholders, and universities to assess what is needed and what the supply chain will look like.
- The future energy grid project takes a holistic approach across the electricity and gas networks. There is a Hydrogen Business, Research, and Innovation for Decarbonisation Small Business Initiative aimed at supporting the one or more of the ten objectives of our Welsh Hydrogen Pathway Report.
- Regulatory policy on hydrogen is a reserved matter.

Q. National and international standards can support the Welsh Government's transition to net zero. What consideration has been given to the Welsh Government's participation in the development of standards and/or their use to achieve Wales's net zero goals?

The Minister made the following point:

- The Welsh Government is currently working on a delivery plan for the next Low Carbon Delivery Plan, and those who wish to input are invited to contact the energy team at the Welsh Government.

Q. The latest global temperature predictions are of huge concern and will drive a significant increase in sea levels and storm surges. Is the Minister aware of the substantial benefits that tidal range projects, such as the North Wales Tidal Lagoon, will deliver in mitigating the challenges that will face our coastal communities and business?

The Minister made the following point:

- The First Minister is due to make an announcement at the Marine Energy Wales Conference on 22 March in Swansea.

Other points made during the discussion:

- Tidal lagoons could also contribute to the production of green hydrogen.
- A more localised, flexible, smarter and low-carbon system is a vital part of developing a sustainable future for Wales.
- Call for financial intervention from the UK Government to support Wales' net-zero energy system.
- Wales has some very old housing stock and energy efficiency is a challenge. The best and fastest way to decarbonise homes is to decarbonise the grid. Successor programmes to NEST and Arbed will be announced at the end of the year.
- There is scope for developer community benefit funds to pay for improved energy efficiency in local homes.
- The Scottish Government is piloting hydrogen boilers for heating in the community, with green hydrogen created from a local wind turbine. The Welsh Government is also exploring these initiatives.
- One of the biggest challenges is the grid for both onshore and offshore.



- The Minister expressed excitement about plans for a new state energy developer to develop renewable projects on Welsh government land and the woodland estate.
- Biodiversity gain is a key benefit that renewable energy projects can bring. Vattenfall has demonstrated this with biodiversity gains made at Pen y Cymoedd.

Agenda item 4: Future work plan

A poll will be conducted for members to vote on priorities for the group's future work plan.

Agenda item 5: Any other business

None.

Agenda item 6: Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be at 12:30 on Tuesday 27th June 2023. This is during Wind Week which runs from the 26th to 30th of June. The meeting will be hybrid, held at the Senedd and via Zoom.