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LIVE @ ALL-ENERGY 2025



14 May 2025

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Forbes calls for energy transition certainty

Scotland's Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes has called for urgency and investment certainty in delivering the low-carbon transition at All-Energy 2025.

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CorPower to build 5MW wave project

Wave energy developer CorPower Ocean has signed a berth agreement to build a 5MW wave energy project at the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney, Scotland.

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LS Cables plans £923m Tyne factory

LS Eco Advanced Cables has launched a five-week public consultation on plans to develop a £923 million high-voltage transmission cable manufacturing facility at the Port of Tyne to support the UK's offshore wind sector.

[Click here](#)

EDF consults on 250MW Welsh battery

EDF Renewables UK is seeking local views on the proposed 250MW Swansea North battery storage facility in Wales.

[Click here](#)

Haventus, Sarens launch Scottish floater solution

Haventus and Sarens PSG have developed what they say is a low-cost solution for the integration and launch of floating offshore wind turbines.

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Offshore braced for a geopolitical storm

The offshore wind industry will have to weather a geopolitical storm over the next few years as global multilateralism is brought into "disrepute". **p2**

Anderson sounds reforms warning

The UK government must be "careful not to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory" as it considers implementing wide-ranging energy policy changes, All-Energy 2025 heard today.

ScottishPower chief executive Keith Anderson told delegates in Glasgow potential reforms such as a move to zonal pricing – which is being weighed up by London as part of the Review of Electricity Market Arrangements – "creates uncertainty, and that increases costs".

"We want to get prices down, so let's be careful reforms don't drive them up," he said.

"Business confidence is a fragile thing and nothing kills confidence like complexity. Don't tamper with a system that works and investment will flow. It's hard to invest today if you don't know what the market is going to be like tomorrow. The UK needs growth now more than ever and we need investors to show up. The way you get that capital injection is by offering long-term stability because that's what's prized by businesses."

Electricity demand is going



ALARM BELLS: ScottishPower chief executive Keith Anderson speaking at the conference

Photo: All-Energy

to double "no matter your politics" and the UK must get the right infrastructure in place to support the shift "or get left behind", Anderson said in his opening address to the conference.

The ScottishPower boss added the upcoming Allocation Round 7 Contracts for Difference auction will have to be "the most successful in our history" if the government's Clean Power 2030 targets are to be realised.

He cautioned against allowing "immature projects" to bid into auctions without planning consent as London mulls making such changes to future CfD eligibility criteria.

"It might look like we're getting more renewables on to the system, but it's a

short-term sugar rush," he said, warning of "unintended consequences" in AR7 and the risk of "projects failing to get over the line".

"There's a big difference between early-stage projects and serious bidders who are ready to go with a plan," Anderson said.

The UK offshore wind market nevertheless still has "plenty of momentum" despite Orsted's decision to shelve the 2.4GW Hornsea 4 project off England.

The UK "has led the world on offshore wind, and it still can", he added, but "high inflation, supply chain constraints and increasing costs" are a challenge and developers are taking "a much more selective approach on the projects they build".

THE INTERVIEW
reNEWS

Shepherd and Wedderburn partner and head of clean energy Clare Foster discusses political support for the UK renewables sector, grid connections reform, and boosting investor confidence. **p3**



Why grid stability must take centre stage

The UK's energy transition needs joined-up thinking and a wider technology mix to maximise the benefits of clean power, writes Statkraft UK managing director Kevin O'Donovan. **p4**

What's on at All-Energy 2025?

Selected highlights from the educational programme. **p5**



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Offshore braced for a geopolitical storm

The offshore wind industry will have to weather a geopolitical storm over the next few years as global multilateralism is brought into "disrepute", delegates at All-Energy 2025 were told.

Global Wind Energy Council chairman Jonathan Cole told the conference organisations like the UN, G20, IMF and World Bank are being "systematically discredited and even vandalised right now in a way that is going to cause quite significant harm to the energy transition, at least in the short term".

He said a shift is needed "quite quickly" into a more "pluralistic mentality" where regional blocks are formed to create "coalitions of the willing".

"The energy transition cannot wait four years until the current US administration changes again," he said.

Big global markets like the



POWER PANEL: From left ETZ offshore renewables director **Isla Robb**, Innovative Climate Solutions director **Una Brosnan**, SPR chief **Charlie Jordan**, Scottish Renewables CEO **Claire Mack** and GWEC's **Jonathan Cole** Photo: reNEWS

EU, Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Korea and Japan can all "step up and play a role" over the next few years to keep momentum in the sector going outside of China.

"If that happens, I think this will be a three or four-year problem that will eventually disappear," Cole said.

The GWEC man also hit out at the "weaponisation of trade" through the use of tariffs and "the enforcement of buying LNG to try and force a geopolitical advantage".

"Each of those will have serious detrimental impacts on our industry," he warned, adding the "rise of disinformation" is causing a "crisis of social acceptability" for offshore wind and how the industry presents itself.

Nevertheless, multilateralism "is not dead forever" and while the industry has a lot of work to do to stay on track, it remains one where the long-term future can be "incredibly bright".

GB Energy pledges cash injection for emerging sectors

Great British Energy will use its status as a state-backed entity to create confidence for investors in nascent UK renewables technologies, All-Energy 2025 heard.

Chairman Juergen Maier said the company will "put our money behind" emerging sectors like floating offshore wind, tidal and marine energies and pumped hydro in Scotland – initially as a minority investor – because "we need to do everything we can to provide confidence".

"Ultimately we want to become a developer, an owner and an operator of clean power energy schemes in the UK," he told delegates.

"But we are going to do that in a way that we don't want to crowd out private sector investment, so that means we are going to focus on nascent technologies.



BREEDING CONFIDENCE: Great British Energy's **Juergen Maier** Photo: All-Energy

"We feel that by GB Energy, a state-owned company, providing that capital it provides confidence that we as a nation really want to get behind these technologies."

Maier added GB Energy will look to stimulate local economies and supply chains.

"A key lens when we're investing and helping develop projects will be the local generation of jobs and community benefits," he said.



Muirhall Energy Limited is a leading Scottish developer and operator of UK renewable energy projects.

At the heart of the company is a commitment to local people. We deliver real projects - creating meaningful opportunities for individuals, businesses, community groups, and local initiatives to grow, thrive, and make a lasting impact.

We're excited to be back at All-Energy this year. Join us at Stall J11 during the two-day conference to connect with our team and discover what's new.

THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Shepherd and Wedderburn partner and head of clean energy **Clare Foster** (left) discusses political support for the UK renewables sector, grid connections reform, and boosting investor confidence

Q What is Shepherd and Wedderburn's key message to attendees at All-Energy 2025?

A The imperative for government and industry to be aligned has never been more urgent. Together we need to pull the right levers to unlock clean energy development and decarbonisation on a massive scale. As other countries retreat from their clean energy commitments, the UK must fully embrace the green energy revolution – the importance of strong UK-wide political support cannot be overstated in this race.

There is a window of opportunity within which we need to go faster and further than we've achieved in the last two decades. Shepherd and Wedderburn is active across a significant number of clean energy projects and we are doing all we can to support our clients in their ambitions.

Q How has the UK policy/legislative landscape changed for renewables over the past 12 months and which reforms do you see as being the most impactful for the industry?

A The last 12 months have been filled with a number of real positives from a policy perspective. When Labour came to power in July 2024, there was a marked shift in approach to the sector and within weeks there were a number of announcements through which it committed to making the UK a clean energy superpower, including removal of the de facto ban on

onshore wind in England, creation of a new Mission Control to accelerate the transition and the introduction of the Great British Energy Bill.

The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (CPAP 2030) articulates some significant targets for a variety of technologies, with a focus on balancing environmental goals, economic growth and energy security. As a statement of the administration's intent and ambition to deliver clean power by 2030 and accelerate net zero, it provided a strong message to the market.

Q What are the main challenges/barriers to delivering on the UK government's Clean Power 2030 plan?

A Grid connections reform is in the process of being implemented and it remains to be seen how smoothly this will happen and which projects are deemed to align with strategic criteria for prioritisation. There is significant scope for disappointment as some dates are pushed further back.

Transmission charges also continue to bite differently across different projects and with scope for further changes in the near future which could represent more of what is to come through the Review of Electricity Market Arrangements that may make trading conditions very different.

The marine recovery fund meanwhile has the potential to unlock significant offshore wind development while ensuring resources are employed in

the best way for the protection of ecological resources, however, a number of details must still be worked out and the timing of delivery (in Scotland in particular) is very uncertain.

Q How can industry collectively address these challenges, and what is needed from government?

A In order to deliver on the CPAP 2030, we need a long term stable regulatory framework. Without that, investment becomes really challenging. We are seeing announcements across the sector which highlight how fragile confidence is.

This is not just about 2030 targets, as work will need to continue well beyond that date, but it is about formulating robust plans well in advance of delivery of the infrastructure required.

At the moment, it all appears to be taking too long and we need to ensure that investor confidence is restored and the UK is seen as the destination of choice for investment.

This is for government to articulate, but that framework has to take account of and/or mitigate industry concerns and reform needs to speed up. Without that, projects will continue to struggle and there will be no long-term visibility on risks around pricing, planning, charges and costs, making it almost impossible to plan investment in projects, whether onshore or offshore.

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Why grid stability must take centre stage

The share of electricity generated from renewable sources in the UK exceeded 50% for the first time in 2024, and the transition to clean energy continues to proceed at pace.

But to build on that work, a multi-technology approach is needed more than ever to help increase our energy security and bring long term price stability, which will help growth in the UK economy.

This transition from large fossil-fuel plants to renewable energy presents a need for technology that can deliver grid stability and flexibility, increasing the amount of renewable energy delivered on the grid network and reducing costs for consumers.

The recent power disruption in Spain is another example of why it is important that we match the roll-out of renewables with upgrades that allow the electricity grid to remain stable.

This is why we have been investing in a leading grid

The UK's energy transition needs joined-up thinking and a wider technology mix to maximise the benefits of clean power, writes Statkraft UK managing director **Kevin O'Donovan**



to the public. Over time this has led some to question why the country needs to make the journey and why it cannot be done in a way that does not impact anybody anywhere. This is understandably leading to increasing scepticism and hostility.

It is incumbent on us all to continue to make a positive case. And those who claim we need to look backwards to fossil fuels to power the technologies of the future like AI are wrong.

Wind and solar are the cheapest way to generate power, and the fastest to deploy.

Let's not forget the progress that has been made, the solutions already underway, and importantly, what the end result means. Energy security, competitive industries, stable electricity bills, and cleaner power.

It's within reach if we are united and come together as a sector to get this done. ■

stability portfolio in the UK for several years.

Statkraft offers the broadest range of services and technologies in the industry, covering wind, solar, grid stability, long duration storage, and green hydrogen.

We're the UK's leading renewables trader, with 7.2GW of third-party renewable and flex generation under contract and have facilitated over 4.5GW of new-build renewable energy generation through more than 250 long-term PPAs.

Without this service, renewable developers, including those in the emerging green hydrogen

market, wouldn't be profitable and the industry would struggle to progress.

This significant knowledge means we bring a unique perspective to our activities, whether that's ensuring the right level of skills are in place to deliver a project or trading product or making the case for policy changes to ensure a more favourable development environment.

Importantly, we're able to stay open minded and consider what is suitable at a particular location or for a particular customer, which could be a standalone scheme, or a combination of different, complementary

technologies, such as solar and battery storage.

The industry needs to ensure that the transition delivers for local people too.

Projects such as our Loch na Cathrach pumped storage hydro scheme near Loch Ness can support a huge number of jobs in construction and during operation, as well as play a transformative role in decarbonising the electricity grid.

But there are challenges ahead.

The political consensus around renewable energy that existed in the past has fractured and mixed messages are being delivered

Innovative engineering solutions for renewables, grid and energy storage



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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Delivering the Clean Power 2030 Mission

Head of Mission Control Chris Stark is the keynote speaker in a session that will discuss the critical blueprint for the UK's energy decarbonisation strategy. Also features RWE country chair Tom Glover and Siemens Energy UK and Ireland vice

president Darren Davidson.

0900-1020, Lomond Auditorium

REMA update

Delegates will be sure to pack out this session on the Review of Electricity Market Arrangements.

Panellists include people from DESNZ, Octopus Energy and SSE.

1100-1230, Conference Stage 1

Safety first

Senior experts from offshore wind developers and contractors will take part in this session highlighting the impact of safety on the future of renewable energy. The session will frame safety as a crucial element in scaling renewable energy and ensuring its long-term success; and stress the need for strong leadership and a focus on human factors.

1100-1230, Lomond Auditorium

Overcoming obstacles

Many developers are familiar with the technical challenges that arise when building wind projects across the UK. However, for some, these barriers can be unexpected and emerge at any stage of development.

This panel will explore key obstacles, including abnormal load transportation, the Eskdalemuir Seismic Array, and, time permitting, persistent aviation issues that hinder deployment and raise.

1100-1230, Conference Stage 2

Food for thought

Former offshore wind champion Tim Pick will be quizzed on all things energy during a lunch time conversations.

1300-1340, Lomond Auditorium

Offshore hydrogen

The session will commence with an overview of the major UKRI/EPSRC funded Ocean REFuel Research & Development programme that is establishing a fundamental understanding of hydrogen production from offshore wind and its transportation/storage and use.

The programme is led by Strathclyde University with partner universities: Newcastle, Nottingham and Cardiff along with Imperial College London with a broad range of industry and regulation/

certification stakeholder partners.

1400-1530, Lomond Auditorium

Tide of change

This session will highlight the role of tidal range energy in achieving a secure, sustainable, and independent energy future in the UK. Some of the new work undertaken will be featured that demonstrates how tidal range can enhance grid resilience, improve the UK's energy security, and support local economies through amenity infrastructure development and job creation.

1400-1530, Alsh 1



GREEN ENERGY: Attendees will discover the latest insights including updates on offshore hydrogen and tidal range

Photo: Johnston Newswire Media

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Ireland Report

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- ✓ In-depth reporting on active developers and projects in the pipeline
- ✓ Exclusive updates on Ireland's wind sector including RESS-backed and PPA projects in construction

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