



reNEWS



COLLETT

EXPERTS IN MOTION

www.collett.co.uk

13 May 2026

LIVE @ ALL-ENERGY 2026

SPONSORED BY **REBLADE**

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Top Starks

The UK government's head of Clean Power Chris Stark tops the bill on Day 2 of All-Energy 2026 with an opening address to delegates followed by a fireside chat.

Lomond Auditorium, 0930-0950

Delivery mode

Speakers including National Wealth Fund head of policy Joel Kenrick and DESNZ deputy director of CP30 Melanie Macrae delve into the risks, opportunities and key policy decisions that will shape the UK energy transition.

Lomond Auditorium, 1000-1100

Onshore in focus

How is the UK onshore wind market shaping up and what will its next phase look like? SPR onshore managing director Gillian Noble, Nadara head of UK development Finley Becks-Phelps and DESNZ head of onshore wind India Brattan are among the panellists.

Lomond Auditorium, 1105-1205

Fresh connections

Emtec director Chris Clark, Boralex head of grid Mark McCabe and SSEN Transmission director Bless Kuri are among the guests running the rule over the UK's crucial grid upgrades programme.

Lomond Auditorium, 1325-1425

Iran crisis bolsters clean power resolve

The UK government is committed to doubling down on its clean power agenda as a response to unfolding global market crises, the All-Energy 2026 conference was told.

Energy minister Michael Shanks told delegates in Glasgow today that the conflict in the Middle East "should be a wake-up call that we can't afford to delay" the energy transition.

"For the second time in less than five years we are seeing the devastating consequences of an energy system that relies too much on an oil and gas market that we can never control," Shanks said.

"(Russia's invasion of) Ukraine was a moment we should have said we will do everything possible as a country to change direction, but we didn't, so this present crisis must be that line in the sand.

"This moment is far too important for misinformation, misplaced nostalgia or sticking to a discredited status quo," he added.

"The momentum is with clean energy, not just in Britain but around the world - the question is how much we now lead that transition.



WAKE-UP CALL: Energy minister Michael Shanks addresses the All-Energy 2026 conference
Photo: reNEWS

"Do we want to be a country that is always buffeted by the headwinds of conflicts that we play no part in starting, or do we want to take decisive action now to protect people and guarantee our future economic prosperity."

Shanks confirmed the UK government will open the Allocation Round 8 CfD auction on 20 July as part of this push to accelerate progress on clean energy, and pointed to further measures announced today as part of the Energy Independence Bill in the King's speech.

The energy minister also referred to shifting political sands, and the growing popularity of the anti-net

zero Reform party. He said he recognises the "worry" this causes to the industry that decarbonisation targets and policies may be overturned if a Reform government is elected to power.

"You can have all the huff and puff of saying 'lets go back to coal', but the reality is you're not going to do that and a lot of this is just noise," Shanks said.

He added that his government will meanwhile "seek to embed as much as possible into the system now so it is never possible to go backwards" to guard against potential net zero policy reversals by future governments.

NESO's Slye warns of 'Herculean' 2030 effort

Hitting the UK's Clean Power 2030 target remains "achievable" but will require a "Herculean effort", according to NESO chief executive officer Fintan Slye. **p2**

Electricity market reform slowly shifts into top gear

With national pricing retained and new planning, siting and charging levers emerging, the UK's focus has shifted to delivery, writes Shepherd and Wedderburn partner Jamie McRorie. **p3**



THE INTERVIEW reNEWS

Reblade chief executive officer Fiona Lindsay discusses turbine blade recycling, the importance of a specialist approach to decommissioning and repowering's role in the future of UK onshore wind. **p4**



reNEWS.biz

for rolling industry news updates on your PC and mobile

The Power of Legal Expertise

Delivering cutting-edge legal advice on groundbreaking clean energy projects for over 35 years

SW Shepherd + Wedderburn

Headline sponsor



NESO's Slye warns of 'Herculean' 2030 effort

Hitting the UK's Clean Power 2030 target remains "achievable" but will require a "Herculean effort", according to NESO chief executive officer Fintan Slye.

He told the All-Energy 2026 conference in Glasgow today that "there is huge momentum" behind delivering an electricity system capable of supporting a decarbonised grid, particularly after the connections reform process to streamline the waiting list of projects looking to connect.

"But we should not underestimate the delivery challenge – both in terms of generation and storage, but also the planning, consenting and construction of the network to support it," Slye said. "We are getting into the years of the big infrastructure delivery part of the programme. (Doing that) is hugely challenging but we can see a way through."



HUGE MOMENTUM: NESO chief executive Fintan Slye speaking at All-Energy 2026

Photo: reNEWS

The NESO man added that the emergence of AI and large data centres "presents opportunities" for the UK on the demand side of the network, although cautioned that strategic deployment is key.

"If you put them in the right place, they can support the grid, and certainly there's an opportunity in Scotland for some of those data centres," he said. "If managed well they can be additive and helpful to the energy system." Slye said the location, timing and ability

to be flexible in response to grid signals are critical factors to their success in supporting the GB energy system balance.

Siting in Scotland, where the facilities can "soak up excess renewable energy", could be a useful avenue to explore, he said.

Data centres must also be timed correctly so their deployment does not outpace the delivery of generation infrastructure, which could lead to problems on the system, he added.

GB Energy gears up to play role of 'activist investor' in renewables

Great British Energy (GBE) will make "strategic market interventions" in areas where it can anticipate "failures" in the market, All-Energy 2026 heard.

Chief executive of the public body Dan McGrail told delegates that after its first "start-up year" of establishing a strategy and building the organisation, it is now ready to begin playing the role of a "patient, publicly owned, activist investor" that can help to de-risk new technologies and improve investor confidence.

He gave the example of the multiple foundation concept options for floating offshore wind, where he sees an opportunity for GBE's intervention.

McGrail said developers face a question of which foundation to select, while the turbine OEMs must "get

their heads around how to engineer their products to marry up with different concepts".

"We're looking to put together a programme that accelerates that convergence," McGrail said, noting details of the scheme will follow "later this year".

He added it is a "targeted intervention that we think is necessary if we really want to lead the market in this technology".

"If we take a passive approach, then others will decide and they may decide it in other countries and they'll capture the value."

McGrail added GBE will aim to support UK floating wind through the same "step-wise" evolution as with fixed-bottom with an "intentional" focus on the "middle step" between demonstration and large-scale projects.

DECOMMISSIONING DONE RIGHT.

If your windfarm is approaching end of life, let Reblade take care of it. From decommissioning strategies to planning documentation; stakeholder liaison to project design; onsite asset removal to material management and site remediation. As your Principal Contractor, we look after everything, keeping your project compliant, on schedule and on budget.

REBLADE

**ONE EXPERIENCED TEAM.
TOTAL PEACE OF MIND.**

info@reblade.co.uk | www.reblade.com

Electricity market reform slowly shifts into top gear

Electricity market reform may be criticised for moving at a glacial pace, but it is moving with the same inexorable momentum and undeniable impact as it transitions slowly to delivery.

With zonal pricing rejected, the publication of DESNZ's Reformed National Pricing Delivery Plan in April sets out how the UK government intends to make the existing market design work. Meanwhile, Ofgem's consultation on locational charges and regulatory siting levers in March 2026 begins to translate transmission charging strategy into regulatory reality.

The question is whether these reforms can be delivered at the pace and scale required for Clean Power 2030 (CP30).

DESNZ's Delivery Plan confirms a decisive shift away from relying on wholesale price signals and market-based competition.

Instead, it proposes a

With national pricing retained and new planning, siting and charging levers emerging, the UK's focus has shifted to delivery, writes Shepherd and Wedderburn partner

Jamie McRorie

framework built on three pillars: reform siting and investment levers to support the delivery of the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP), to bear down on network constraint costs, and to improve system operability and efficiency.

The key challenge here is coherence. Each of these levers is individually sensible, but CP30 will only succeed if they operate as a single, aligned system.

At present, there is a risk of fragmentation. CfD allocation rounds remain largely volume-driven, with limited explicit linkage to location. The SSEP is not yet embedded as a binding decision-making

tool in the levers that are to be relied upon, and it is not yet clear how this will be achieved. Network charging reform is still at consultation stage.

For government, the priority must be the integration of several different reforms which will signal a fundamental shift in the operation of the market. The SSEP will need real weight if it is to be effective at informing network investment, CfD delivery, connection prioritisation and infrastructure sequencing.

These reforms must also be credible: non-market interventions will be expected to deliver outcomes that



prices have otherwise signalled to date. That places greater weight on the institutional capability of key players, primarily NESO, charged with delivering SSEP reform.

The irony here is that the greater the pace of delivering reform, the greater the potential that the necessary stability is undermined. Government will need to move quickly to confirm the overlap between the SSEP, long-term role of CfDs, grid connection and the treatment of constraint costs.

Ofgem's consultation on the future of transmission charging highlights a parallel set of challenges.

It recognises that existing locational charges are too volatile and, in some cases, misaligned with the needs of a renewables-led system.

For industry, the main challenge is adaptation. A more managed system will require closer engagement with planning frameworks, greater alignment with system needs, and potentially new approaches to project development and financing.

Ultimately, the success of CP30 will depend on execution. The UK now has the outline of a workable model: national pricing supported by strategic planning, long-term CfDs providing investor certainty, targeted regulatory intervention and a reform of transmission charges.

If the government, NESO and the regulator can work together to unlock the benefit promised by such a complex puzzle, then from a market reform perspective, CP30 remains very achievable. ■



LAST CHANCE TO ENTER! FREE TO ENTER

SUBMIT ENTRIES BY FRIDAY 15TH MAY 2026

*Celebrating excellence
in the UK's onshore and
offshore wind industries*



Awards Ceremony:
Thursday 17th September,
Hilton London Bankside

www.nationalwindenergyawards.co.uk

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



HEADLINE SPONSOR



Nordex UK & Ireland

EVENT SPONSORS



THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Reblade chief executive officer **Fiona Lindsay** (left) discusses turbine blade recycling, the importance of a specialist approach to decommissioning and repowering's role in the future of UK onshore wind

Q What is Reblade's main message to attendees at All-Energy 2026?

A Innovation in wind energy doesn't stop at the turbine. The industry has invested decades of engineering ingenuity into making wind farms more efficient, more powerful, and more cost-effective, and we need to bring that same ambition to what happens at end of life. Reblade exists to prove that decommissioning and materials recovery can be delivered with the same rigour and inventiveness as any other phase of the wind energy cycle.

Q How do you see the UK wind market evolving over the next few years, and where does Reblade fit into that journey?

A We are at the start of the end-of-life wave for first-generation wind farms. Of course, we've known this was coming for some time, and those of us who were involved in developing those early sites now have a responsibility, I think, to

ensure they come down in a way that minimises environmental impact while maximising the local economic benefits of the decommissioning phase. The industry needs specialist operators who understand decommissioning not as a cost to be managed but as a phase to be delivered well.

Q What key elements should asset owners be considering when it comes to their decommissioning strategies?

A The single most important shift is recognising decommissioning as a critical, defined phase of the wind energy lifecycle, and one that requires specialist expertise, not a generalised contractor.

Done well, decommissioning can save an owner-operator hundreds of thousands of pounds. That means thinking carefully about what assets get removed from the site and what remains, how materials are optimised, and how the restoration plan supports rather than complicates future applications. Asset owners that

engage early, with the right technical support are the ones that end up with the best outcomes across the board.

Q What role is repowering going to play in the future of UK onshore wind?

A Repowering is how we maintain and grow our clean energy generation capacity on sites that already have the grid connections, the planning history, and the community relationships. The alternative is allowing first-generation assets to simply expire, and that's a missed opportunity that our industry can't afford.

Q Why is blade recycling important, and can you give some examples of innovative products that can be made?

A Composite blade material is one of the more technically challenging waste streams in the sector, but the tonnage is often lower than people assume. That opens the door to pragmatic, market-led

solutions. BladeBoard is one product we've manufactured from shredded decommissioned blades, with around 45-50% recycled blade content.

We've developed a complete blade-derived fencing solution including planks, posts, and rails. Fire testing is progressing well, and we're already receiving enquiries from the construction and energy sectors.

reNEWS

Publisher
Lewis Business Media (Arts) Ltd
Suite A, Arun House, Office Village,
River Way,
Uckfield, TN22 1SL

ISSN 1478-307X

© All articles appearing in reNEWS are protected by copyright. Any unauthorised reproduction is strictly prohibited.

editorial@renews.biz
renews.biz

reNEWS

UK Energy Storage 2026

- ✓ Examination of the project pipelines and the developers behind rapid growth
- ✓ Analysis of the country's existing approx. 60-70GW pipeline
- ✓ Focus on key projects in construction, planning and development

Published to all **reNEWS PREMIUM** subscribers on 22 October
Advertising booking deadline: 1 October



BRAND NEW FOR 2026!

Click above to view a sample of the 2025 European Solar Report

Enhance your presence in this market by advertising in our annual special report

For more information contact sales@renews.biz

Sponsorship opportunities are also available