RENEWABLE ENERGY: DELIVERING FOR LOTHIAN

scottish renewables

Across Lothian, Scotland's renewable energy industry is working to harness our world-leading natural resources to generate the clean energy we need to run our lives while tackling climate change.

This factsheet shines a spotlight on just some of the renewable energy projects in Lothian which are building healthier communities, creating green jobs and investment and making vital progress in tackling the climate emergency.

Renewable energy facts: Lothian

1. 80.5% of the region's renewable energy capacity is onshore wind, followed by solar at 11.5% and bioenergy at 7.7%.[1]
2. Scotland has 11.9GW of renewable electricity generation capacity – 192MW are in Lothian.
3. Every year onshore wind farms in the region contribute £206,400 of community benefit funding money which would not otherwise be available for good causes.[3]

Onshore wind near Livingston

Across Lothian, windfarms from developer EDF Renewables are capturing our abundant wind resources to generate electricity for local communities. This includes the six turbine Pearie Law windfarm near Livingston which can generate 19.2MW and power up to 11,000 homes. This wind farm is investing £96,000 a year in the community which can be spent on local priorities.

Research for Scottish Renewables by Fraser of Allander Institute has shown that across Scotland onshore wind supports a total of 8,780 jobs, helping to create the green skills we need for our net-zero future. The onshore wind industry also provides Scotland with an economic output of £2.4 billion.

Scottish Renewables is calling for a low-carbon assessment to be introduced into Scotland's planning system to ensure that more renewable developments can go ahead.

EDF Renewables

1. https://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/burnhead-moss

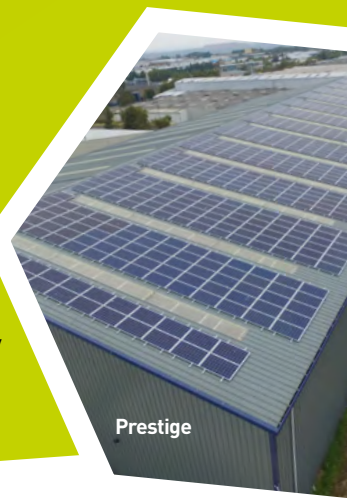
Solar power in West Lothian

Scotland is blessed with long hours of summertime daylight, and with solar PV technology this resource can be harnessed to power our commercial and industrial buildings. Prestige Leisure in West Lothian is doing just that and has worked with energy consultancy Locogen to install a 250kWp solar PV system.

Prestige Leisure supply branded clothing to printers and embroiderers for use in the leisurewear and workwear sectors from headquarters in West Lothian which boast a 100,000 square foot distribution facility.

Locogen carried out a detailed site survey and analysed the property's energy use before overseeing the design, construction and commissioning of the system on one of the onsite warehouses. This included the installation of a new electricity supply to the warehouse to conduct the electricity to the main factory building where it is used. A remote monitoring system has also been installed and Locogen regularly check the performance to ensure its effective operation. Through harnessing solar power, this system can generate 220,000kWh of power per year for Prestige Leisure whilst reducing its carbon footprint and fuel bills.[2]

The Scottish Government can lead a clean energy revolution by ensuring Scotland's commercial, public and industrial buildings harnesses the full solar energy potential of their buildings.



Prestige

Renewable heat at the University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh has to date, invested more than £30 million in low-carbon technology including developing its very own heat network. Across the university campus lies a network of pipes which distribute heat from one of five energy centres. The main source of heat for this network is a combined heat and power (CHP) plant which integrates the production of usable heat and electricity into one single, highly efficient process.

The University has expanded its network, saving 8,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide and more than £1.5 million every year.[3] The most recent development has been at the Easter Bush energy centre, where CHP is used to provide heat, cooling and electricity for the Roslin Institute and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. The University has found district heating to be an efficient and economical way of heating its buildings. The network has also helped reduce waste through capturing and recirculating heat back into the network, helping to limit fuel consumption and emissions.

Scottish Renewables is calling for The Scottish Government to deliver and expand heat networks across Scotland's cities and towns.

2. https://locogensandbox.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Prestige.pdf
3. https://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/what-we-do/climate-change/initiatives/low-carbon-renewable

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To read more about how renewable energy can support your constituents, please visit our hub for MSPs