

Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan
15 Links Road
Prestwick
KA9 1QG

11 August 2004

Dear Sir or Madam

Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan

Thank you for inviting Scottish Renewables to respond to the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan's draft consultation.

Scottish Renewables is the voice of the renewables industry in Scotland. With over 120 members, it has consistently represented members' views for almost ten years in most forums of Scottish public life.

Rather than provide you with a detailed response to the Ayrshire JSP we write in support of the response written by the British Wind Energy Association. Its pivotal role in encouraging renewables in the United Kingdom means we are happy to back its comments on the Ayrshire JSP draft consultation.

In addition, Scottish Renewables would like to provide some context to policy development on the issue of renewable energy in Scotland.

Climate change has been identified by David King, the UK Government's chief science adviser, as a bigger threat than terrorism with the lives of hundreds of millions of people at risk throughout the rest of the century. Global warming is a reality now and it is set to get worse and there is nothing that humanity can do to stop it. However, humanity can lessen its impact with co-ordinated action on reducing greenhouse gases and massive investment in mitigation. Indeed, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that the difference between a 1°C change in global temperatures and 2°C by 2050 is considerable. Around 50 million more people would face the risk of contracting malaria and 1 billion more people would face water shortage. It could get worse by 2080. The difference between a 1.5°C increase and 3°C increase would lead to 100 million more people facing an increased risk of contracting malaria and 2.5 billion more people would face water shortage.



The Scottish Executive has identified tackling climate change and delivering environmental and social justice to the world's most vulnerable communities as a key priority. Reducing emissions quickly is therefore essential, and if Scotland is to play its part in action across the UK and internationally on climate change.

In addition, the Scottish Executive is determined to capture the economic benefit that comes with renewables and to ensure security of electricity supply.

These are the reasons why it has set tough renewable electricity targets for 2010 (it also wants to secure electricity supply with greater diversity and to create jobs). The 2010 target, 18% generation from renewables, has challenged renewables developers to provide a significant amount of green electricity quickly and is one of the cornerstones of the Partnership For Government agreement.

Given this background and the renewable resource that Ayrshire enjoys, the region has a fantastic potential in contributing towards achieving these targets – and it would not just be the worlds vulnerable communities that would be helped. The Ayrshire economy would receive a jobs boost if it embraced renewables and its farming community would be able to successfully diversify and ensure the durability of a great tradition in South West Scotland.

If there is anything at all that the staff at Scottish Renewables can help you with please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Jason Ormiston
Senior Wind Energy Officer