

# Why Wind Power?

## RENEWABLE ENERGY IN SCOTLAND

While renewable energy continues to be the main aspect of the UK's contribution to fighting climate change, onshore wind is also the most cost-effective way for us to achieve a secure supply of low-carbon energy into the future. Scotland is already coal-free in its energy mix and aging electricity generating facilities will continue to be decommissioned over the coming years. In order to maintain the current level of electricity supply and keep up with forecast increases in demand, a significant amount of new generating capacity is required.



The turbines shown in this image are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to represent the proposed turbines

### SUBSIDY - FREE

Over the last few years the onshore wind sector has transitioned through substantial market change and has evolved towards a subsidy free market place. The Scottish Government recognises in their Onshore Wind Policy Statement that developments capable of exploiting better wind resource are more likely to achieve a cost effective route to market and therefore make the continued contribution to targets. The industry has responded to this with an evolution and refinement in terms of technology, such as larger, more efficient turbines.

Energiekontor is an established developer, committed to developing robust projects which balance commercial, planning and environmental constraints. Their projects present an opportunity to realise benefits for the local and national economy, as well as make a substantial contribution to helping to meet renewable energy targets

### ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Scotland's long-term climate change targets will require the near-complete decarbonisation of our energy system by 2050, with renewable energy meeting a significant share of our needs. For energy security we require a mix of generating technologies. Having more home-grown energy sources such as onshore wind, combined with demand-side response and improvements to the network, will help to protect UK consumers and businesses. Onshore wind is the cheapest form of new power generation in Europe today.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

The UK and Scottish Government has recently declared a Climate Emergency. Scotland has a long history of supporting EU Climate Change and Energy Policy. This in turn feeds into our Scottish policy. Notably, Scotland's Climate Change Plan (Third Report on Policies and Proposals 2018-2032) details an ambitious target to cut current emissions by 80% by 2050. The Plan promises continued support for large scale onshore wind, which is recognised as a key contributor to reducing our emissions and achieving our emissions targets. To support these targets the Scottish Energy Strategy (2017) commits to providing equivalent of 50% of the energy for Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption from renewable sources

### LARGEST UK RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE?

In 2018, renewable sources generated 26,708 GWh, 74% of Scotland's electricity, and 71% of that was from onshore wind.

Between January and March 2019, renewables generated 31.2% of UK electricity.

Onshore wind can also make a real contribution to carbon reduction targets. In 2018 the UK government estimated that renewable generation has enabled the nation to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 25 million tonnes annually by switching away from fossil fuels.