

## **Landowners: Set Your Sites On Renewables**

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I was encouraged to see at the All Energy Conference so many representatives from landowner "community". This seemed to be a clear indication that landowners are ready to come forward in numbers and realise the renewables potential to their assets.

The winds are favourable. With the Scottish Government setting stiff targets of 50 per cent electricity generation from renewables by 2020. (interim 31 per cent by 2011), there is a critical need to mobilise Scotland's untapped capacity for renewables. Why is now a good time?

Well, amongst other things, for large-scale windfarms, the Supplementary Planning Guidance and Spatial Frameworks being developed will make it easier for landowners and developers alike to identify realistic opportunities. And there is no shortage of windfarm developers looking for those opportunities.

For those with smaller appetites, there is increasing scope for small - to medium-scale projects and microgeneration. We are aware of companies in Scotland who are looking for such opportunities, for example opportunities to work with landowners to erect wind turbines which will provide the landowner with some of its own electricity requirements, with any remainder being sold to the grid. If you build your own small-scale windfarm and elect to sell the product to the grid, you will benefit from feed-in tariffs (FITs) which have been available since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. FITs offer a guaranteed minimum payment for all electricity generated, as well as separate payment for the electricity exported to grid.

Other opportunities include provision of biomass to various biomass plants being developed across Scotland, or the development of micro hydro schemes, which attract a favourable Feed-in Tariff and are tipped to make a significant contribution to Scotland's targets.

So, landowners of Scotland, ask not what renewables can do for you but what you can do for renewables.

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