



Briefing 19/42

December 2019

Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee - Call for Views (Energy Inquiry)

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland

For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

Key Issues:

The purpose of this briefing is to inform our membership of a call for views by the Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee on as part of its energy inquiry.

Responses should be submitted no later than 10 January 2020 to economyenergyandfairwork@parliament.scot.

Link to the Call for Views:

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/113459.aspx>

1.0 Introduction

The Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee has agreed to carry out a three-part inquiry, linking an overview of the Royal Society of [Edinburgh's Scotland's Future Energy Report](#) with consideration of electric vehicles (EV) infrastructure and locally owned energy.

Although these subjects will be considered separately, there are key linkages between all in relation to decarbonising energy systems and increasing the generation of renewable electricity, balancing transmission and distribution networks whilst powering increasing numbers of EVs and delivering innovative local energy systems, one of the strategic priorities of [Scotland's Energy Strategy](#).

The Committee would like to hear the views and experiences of as many stakeholders as possible and have asked if submissions can be kept to a maximum of two sides of A4. Written responses should be sent electronically in Word form only to economyenergyandfairwork@parliament.scot and do not need to cover all areas but can focus on those most relevant to your organisation.

2.0 Call for Evidence Questions

Electric Vehicles

The intention is for the Committee's inquiry to be an examination of the Scottish Government's role in powering and increasing the use of EVs. The Committee is seeking focused submissions covering (no more than two pages)

1	The impact of increasing numbers of EVs on electricity generation, transmission and distribution?
2	The role of EVs in balancing electricity transmission and distribution networks. Are new battery and grid technologies being adequately supported and rolled out to enable this?
3	Are enough and the right type of EV charging points delivering accessible charging and keeping up with consumer brands?
4	Given the declaration of a climate emergency, what more needs to be done to promote a change in culture where EVs are the preferred alternative to fossil fuelled vehicles?

Local Energy

The Scottish Government are running a consultation on [local energy systems](#), as such, the Committee will focus on the 2020 and 2030 targets, as well as the schemes that support their achievement. The Committee is therefore invited to seek focussed submissions on (no more than two pages)

1	The appropriateness and achievability of the 2020 and 2030 community and locally owned energy targets. What are the key issues impacting the viability of relevant schemes?
2	Whether it is appropriate to incorporate community and locally owned schemes in the same target and policy area? What more could be done to encourage and support community owned schemes?
3	Do CARES Grants and Loans adequately support relevant projects?
4	The role of District Network Operates in connecting community and locally owned projects. What more could be done by DNOs to encourage and support projects?
5	What role can smart, decentralised local energy systems play in ensuring security of supply and supporting a just transition to net-zero by 2045?
6	The role of local authorities in delivering community and locally owned projects.

	How can these be integrated into local energy systems?
7	What systemic and behavioural changes are needed to increase the use of smart local energy systems? Has public engagement to date been successful and what more could be done?

3.0 APSE Comment

APSE welcomes the release of a call for views regarding the Committee’s Energy Inquiry given the bold ambition to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032, the targets for the Scottish energy system by 2030 and the target of reaching net-zero emissions by 2045. With local authorities in Scotland playing a key role in helping to work towards achieving these ambitions and targets.

In a recent APSE Energy publication [On Street Residential Charging for Electric Vehicles](#), it highlights that given the predictions in relation to the number of electric vehicles on the road by 2040 (one prediction being 36 million), the need to plan the infrastructure is vitally important. It notes “Local authorities will have a role to play as potential providers of charging equipment, as generators of energy that could be used in chargers, as custodians of the highway, as managers of large fleets of vehicles and more. So, this is an issue which cuts across council services and one which cannot be ignored”. Whilst electric vehicles will have a huge role to play in the future of personal and commercial transport in Scotland, it would be a mistake to concentrate solely on EVs. Hydrogen while costly at present could potentially prove a valid alternative in the longer term and should not be discounted, with biofuels also an option in the more immediate term.

APSE Energy’s [2019 Energy across the authority](#) provides some local authority examples of the innovations already being undertaken including energy storage as well as electric and other low emission vehicles. Local authorities have taken a real leadership role and are encouraging others to play their parts too.

APSE and APSE Energy provide a number of forums dedicated to these areas providing our membership with best practice and up to date information. For more information about our Scottish Renewables and Energy Efficiency advisory group or APSE Energy please contact Louise Melville, Principal Advisor for Scotland on Lmelville@apse.org.uk or Phil Brennan, Head of APSE Energy on Pbrennan@apse.org.uk.

APSE would encourage local authorities to respond to this call for evidence and will also be looking to respond on behalf of APSE members. APSE would therefore welcome any information that local authorities are happy to share to support the submission. Please forward your information to Lmelville@apse.org.uk by no later than **Tuesday 31st December 2019**.

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