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## **LiVE @ ALL-ENERGY 2025**

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### NSTA calls for more offshore collaboration

Co-location of different offshore technologies is entirely possible with greater collaboration, All-Energy 2025 will hear. **p2**

### THE INTERVIEW reNEWS

Hitachi UK and Ireland managing director Laura Fleming discusses the UK's electric grid connectivity, delivering increased renewables capacity, and the long term value of integrated HVDC offshore connections. **p3**



### 'A week is a long time in renewables'

A stellar line up of quick thinking speakers means attendees will hear the latest insight on topical industry debates, writes RX's All-Energy project director Judith Patten MBE. **p4**

### What's on at All-Energy 2025?

Selected highlights from the educational programme. **p5**



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# Industry urges UK to stay the course

The UK government must double down on its support for the renewables sector amid growing net zero jitters and wider economic headwinds, All-Energy 2025 will hear.

Senior industry executives will tell officials from London as well as Holyrood that urgent clarity is required in a range of areas to ensure wind, solar and other technologies continue to be built.

Delegates in Glasgow will hear positivity about certain grid and planning reforms but will also be told the efforts do not go far enough and that the ongoing Review of Electricity Market Arrangements and uncertainty about network charging are threatening investment.

Scottish Renewables chief executive Claire Mack, who will speak during an offshore wind panel on Day 1, told reNEWS there have been "real strides" to overcome obstacles to deployment on grid connections reform and scaling up port infrastructure.

"However, high uncertainty on major policy decisions about market design and a lack of sustained



**SPEAKING UP:** Claire Mack has called for greater urgency from authorities

Photo: Scottish Renewables

project activity is damaging confidence when we need to invest and build at pace," she said ahead of the event.

Siemens Energy UK and Ireland vice president Darren Davidson, who will speak during a Clean Power 2030 panel on Day 2, said it is vital London "stays on course" with the energy masterplan.

"Something different will not help our objectives on energy security or net zero," he said.

Hitachi country managing director Laura Fleming echoed Davidson's remarks.

She said: "We need policymakers to maintain the current direction and level of ambition and not alter course."

"One area that does need attention is ensuring that the next two rounds of

renewables auctions, AR7 and AR8, are successful in delivering the capacity needed to meet the Clean Power 2030 targets and this means not doing anything to undermine investor confidence in UK renewables, one element of which is the uncertainty created by REMA."

Clare Foster, partner and head of clean energy at All-Energy sponsor Shepherd and Wedderburn, told reNEWS the imperative for government and industry to be aligned has never been more urgent.

She added: "As other countries retreat from their clean energy commitments, the UK must fully embrace the green energy revolution – the importance of strong UK wide political support cannot be overstated in this race."

### TRENDING ON reNEWS.BIZ

#### Outrage over Trump bid to roll back IRA provisions

US Republicans have released draft legislation that would end renewable energy subsidies, sparking outrage among the industry.

[Click here](#)

#### Greencoat Renewables sells 116MW Irish portfolio

Greencoat Renewables has agreed to sell a 116MW portfolio of Irish onshore wind assets to HitecVision for €156 million.

[Click here](#)

#### Record quarter for Irish wind approvals

An Bord Pleanála approved seven wind energy projects totalling 402MW in the first quarter of 2025, making it one of the strongest quarters in recent years for renewable project decisions.

[Click here](#)

#### 'UK government, Green Volt in talks over Mingyang'

The UK government is reportedly in talks with the developers behind the 560MW Green Volt floating wind farm over whether Chinese company Mingyang should supply the turbines.

[Click here](#)

#### Empire Wind 'faces axe within days'

Equinor has reportedly said it will be forced to terminate the Empire Wind project "within days" unless President Donald Trump's administration reverses an order that halted construction.

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## Sponsor's welcome

As headline sponsors of All-Energy for the last 11 years, Shepherd and Wedderburn is proud to welcome you to All-Energy 2025, writes *partner and head of clean energy Clare Foster*.

This premier platform brings together industry leaders, policymakers, and advocates to catalyse transformative change in the energy sector, paving the way for a greener, more sustainable future. It is a chance to listen, to learn, to share our expertise and to debate where the real priorities lie, as well as reinforce the collective commitment to tackling climate change.

The pursuit of a clean, affordable, and secure power system is a key priority for

the UK, as outlined in the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan. This plan articulates a suite of hugely ambitious, time-critical reforms that are essential. There is enormous opportunity for both industry and individuals to engage and help drive progress.

We are excited to reaffirm our support for All-Energy 2025 and join other innovators and leading players from across the sector. Together, we can work towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions while creating jobs and fostering innovation in the energy sector.

We encourage everyone to join us in this vital conversation and contribute to shaping a sustainable future.

# NSTA calls for more offshore collaboration

Co-location of different offshore technologies is entirely possible with greater collaboration, All-Energy 2025 will hear.

North Sea Transition Authority director of new ventures Andy Brooks will tell delegates that the organisation is actively working with others to drive a co-ordinated approach to managing the seabed.

Brooks, who will speak during the 'Solving the Offshore Rubik's Cube: Maximising the potential of the offshore energy sector'



**SOLVING THE PUZZLE: The NSTA's Andy Brooks** Photo: NSTA

session on Day 1, said co-location is possible even though the offshore space is becoming increasingly busy.

Ahead of the Glasgow event, he said: "To solve the Rubik's cube that is the North Sea will require industry and regulatory coordination, transparency and a willingness to come together to achieve our net zero goals and, it will be the people within our industries today that will ultimately find the solutions needed."

His colleague, NSTA chief technical officer Carlo Procaccini, will meanwhile tell the conference that hydrogen has the potential to help scale-up other renewables.

## Education is 'vital' to solving industry skills shortage

Civil engineering specialist Tony Gee is urging a multifaceted approach to tackling the renewables sector's "significant skills gap" to ensure growth opportunities are maximised.

Head of power and energy Peter McDonald told reNEWS

a blend of education and training, upskilling and reskilling, and awareness and outreach is needed to attract the new blood required to deliver on 2030 clean power targets.

"Partnerships between academia and industry

are vital to ensure training programmes meet market needs," he said.

■ ERIKS Industrial Services is to launch a lifetime extension and through-life management service for onshore wind turbines at All-Energy 2025.

## Muirhall Energy Limited is a leading Scottish developer and operator of UK renewable energy projects.

At the heart of the company is a commitment to local people. We deliver real projects - creating meaningful opportunities for individuals, businesses, community groups, and local initiatives to grow, thrive, and make a lasting impact.

We're excited to be back at All-Energy this year. Join us at Stall J11 during the two-day conference to connect with our team and discover what's new.



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Stand J11





# THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Hitachi UK and Ireland managing director **Laura Fleming** (left) discusses the UK's electric grid connectivity, delivering increased renewables capacity, and the long-term value of integrated HVDC offshore connections

**Q** What is Hitachi's main message to policymakers at All Energy 2025?

**A** The UK's electricity grid is heading in a very positive direction, with strategic energy planning and the Clean Power 2030 action plan providing a long-term view of the grid build out required.

Tools such as the Advanced Procurement Mechanism should now allow network companies to engage early enough with the supply chain to plan equipment and resource needs to match project requirements.

The changes in planning and community engagement are also moving in the right direction to accelerate the roll out of grid infrastructure.

We need policymakers to maintain the current direction and level of ambition. One area that does need attention is ensuring that the next two rounds of renewables auctions, AR7 and AR8 are successful in delivering the capacity needed to meet the CP30 targets and this means not doing anything to undermine investor confidence in UK renewables.

**Q** Where is the UK on its energy transition journey? And how is grid helping or hindering?

**A** The UK is in an advanced phase of its energy transition, with significant progress made in decarbonising power generation – particularly through offshore wind, which now contributes a substantial portion of the UK's electricity mix.

As of 2025, the UK is targeting 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 and last year we saw the closure of our last coal fired generation.

There is still much to do, and the lack of grid capacity and grid connections remain a blocker to wider economic growth.

The reform of the grid connections process has been an enormous task and projects will be getting their revised offers in the next few months. We all need the new queueing process to be a success.

**Q** What is your response to April's IET report, which highlights the cost differential of HVDC offshore point-to-point connections and HVDC offshore networks?

**A** The IET's April 2025 report rightly highlights a key strategic question facing the UK: how to balance near-term costs with long-term system efficiency in offshore transmission design.

While HVDC point-to-point connections remain cost-effective for individual projects today, the report makes a compelling case that integrated HVDC offshore networks, though initially more expensive - offer greater long-term value.

They reduce duplication of infrastructure, improve resilience, and enable cross-border energy trading. Crucially, they align with the broader vision of a meshed North Sea grid, which the UK and its European partners have committed to.

**Q** You are due to speak on Day 1 during a session on the complexity of the grid upgrade required. What will be your main messages?

**A** I will be speaking on how rapid investment in a more sustainable, flexible, and secure energy system is key to the UK achieving cheaper, more secure energy and clean power by 2030. HVDC has historically been used purely as an efficient high-power link, but HVDC and other power electronics solutions have a critical role to play in operating a highly renewable grid.

There is an increased demand in electrical equipment as we shift our global focus towards renewable energy sources and their integration into the grid.

In the UK, the 2030 decarbonisation target requires that critical infrastructure is scaled which has meant there is some challenges in securing transformers and other critical electrical equipment, driven by a combination of global demand, supply chain constraints and limited manufacturing capacity.

The complexity of transformer production means that manufacturers have limited flexibility to rapidly scale-up, and this has meant that now, the surge of demand has led to longer delivery times for many transformers.

Hitachi Energy has recently announced investments of \$1.5bn specifically to scale up transformer capacity including a \$250 million investment announced in March.

Those bottlenecks can be relieved with more investment by others, and through UK positioning.

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# 'Seven days is a long time in renewables'

**A** week's a long time in politics' is attributed to British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, and probably first said at a journalists' lobby briefing during the 1964 sterling crisis.

Rising to the challenge of creating a topical conference for All-Energy and having themes firmly in place by early February makes that difficult – or does it? Our 2025 programme with stellar line-ups throughout 56 sessions means speakers can think on their feet and react to news stories on their day of speaking at Glasgow's SEC next week.

I've created the conference for All-Energy since the first one in late February 2001. I started with a committee, then moved on to a call for speakers with 'sector champions' helping make the final decisions. A 'call' is still used for our ever-popular show floor theatres (seven of them this year) but we've not used it for the

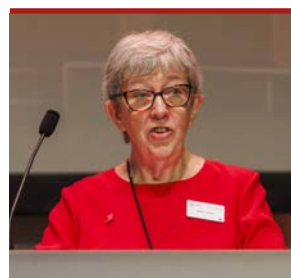
A stellar line up of quick thinking speakers means attendees will hear the latest insights on topical industry debates, writes RX's All-Energy project director **Judith Patten MBE**

main conference since the pandemic. Instead, we've opted for 'by invitation' to speakers, and to like-minded organisations for whole sessions. There I include our headline sponsor for 11 shows, Shepherd and Wedderburn, which always comes up with incredible sessions – this year on offshore wind, ports, cities and planning.

Early on I had nightmares about not having asked anyone to speak other than a chair. I just put signs on doors saying: 'Offshore Wind'; 'Onshore Wind' and 'Marine Renewables' (we dealt only with the 'wet and windy' initially) and invited people to

go in and talk about what they had found interesting in the news. I woke before finding if it worked. Looking back over the past week, I wonder if an 'in the news' room should be left for this. Food for thought – chair it, reNEWS?

Creating 42 webinars during the pandemic soon made me realise that the classic 'Five speakers and a chair, 15 minutes for each presentation and Q&A at the end' didn't work online. We could see that people dropped off the call around half time, so switched to short presentations and lots of fascinating inter-panel discussion. Pearls of wisdom kept dropping, and watching



on my own I often felt I was eavesdropping on worthwhile conversations and was the only person to have been able to do so.

So, post-pandemic it was a case of 'all change' no more poring over hundreds of abstract submissions and with the help of very patient sector specialist attempting to make meaningful sessions out of a fraction of the submissions.

Instead, autumns are spent soaking up topical wisdom from the 'great and the good' across the board (thank you) to determine themes. Then working with sector specialists and All-Energy fans, pick the very best people to be invited to bring the themes to life

and build topical sessions with short presentations plus that all-important inter-panel discussion (aided by the audience via Slido).

So, that's what lies behind two compelling plenary sessions, a lunchtime fire-side chat, sessions on offshore and onshore wind, grid and networks, solar, marine renewables, hydro and tidal range, bioenergy, and hydrogen and energy storage. Plus, decarbonising heat, transport, cities and industry. And the essentials – investment, PPAs, workplace – recruitment, skills, ED&I, mental health (the latter two curated by our new conference manager), digital, AI and cyber security, and critical materials. All free to attend along with the major exhibition and networking opportunities check the All-Energy 2025 App for it all.

We thrive on feedback. So, bring it on. Then let's fix an autumn date for me to soak up more from you. ■

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### WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

#### Britain's Clean Power Mission

Featuring keynotes from UK and Scottish government ministers and a panel discussion chaired by ScottishPower CEO Keith Anderson.

**0900-1300, Lomond Auditorium**

#### Offshore Wind 2024: A Year in Turmoil - How Do We Get Back on Track?

Delegates will hear from industry experts about the challenges facing offshore wind over the past 12 months.

**1100-1230, Lomond Auditorium**

#### Onshore Wind: Scottish Sector Deal and UK Taskforce Update

Representatives from the UK and Scottish governments, SSE Renewables, ScottishPower Renewables and trade association Scottish Renewables will provide updates on the progress of the

Scottish Onshore Wind Sector Deal and UK Onshore Wind Industry Taskforce.

**1100-1230, Conference Stage 2**

#### The Long Port Infrastructure Journey

Panellists will discuss the challenges, levers and action required to unlock and accelerate progress towards a

multibillion-pound UK port infrastructure market that can support offshore wind ambitions including for ScotWind and INTOG projects.

**1400-1530, Lomond Auditorium**

#### Delivering Solar in the UK and Scotland

Experts will explore policy frameworks and key challenges to delivering the UK's 60GW by 2030 solar deployment target and Scotland's own 4-6GW end-decade ambition for PV. Practical barriers including grid constraints, investment risks, skills and supply chain will be under the microscope.

**1400-1530, Conference Stage 2**



**SETTING THE STAGE:** Delegates will hear from a wide range of industry speakers and experts

Photo: Johnston Newline Media

#### Key Trends in Renewable Purchase Power Agreements

Renewables developers and electricity offtakers will discuss trends within the PPA market, including grid connection lead times, the growing impact of price cannibalisation across renewable technologies and the balance between CfDs and corporate PPAs.

**1400-1530, Dochart**

#### Connections Strategy and Reform: Aligning with Clean Power 2030

Energy Networks Association CEO Lawrence Slade will chair a discussion rounding up the latest news about the UK's grid connection queue reforms.

**1600-1730, Conference Stage 1**

#### Preparing the Renewables Workforce

The skills challenge within the UK renewables sector will be assessed with discussion to spotlight some positive initiatives underway to attract, retain and cross-skill personnel.

**1600-1730, Carron**

#### Floating Wind - A Strategic Opportunity for the UK's Clean Power Future

Attendees will hear views about what is

needed for the UK to reap the benefits of being an early adopter of, and investor in, floating offshore wind technology and ports infrastructure.

**1600-1730, Lomond Auditorium**

#### Planning: To 2030 and beyond

This session will look at the levers and obstacles to the delivery of onshore technologies, including wind, solar and CCS through the lens of government reforms to the planning system.

**1600-1730, Conference Stage 2**

**reNEWS**

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# Ireland Report

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- ✓ Exclusive updates on Ireland's wind sector including RESS-backed and PPA projects in construction



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