



Trade associations climate review

2021/22



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About this report

Customers, shareholders and wider stakeholders seek transparency of an organisation's policies and advocacy on climate change. Specifically, some of SSE's stakeholders want to understand whether SSE's strategy and principles on climate change align with those of the trade associations of which it is a member. This evidence demonstrates to stakeholders that there is integrity in a company's approach to climate change.

SSE has undertaken a thorough review of its trade association memberships to ensure that the policy positions of the organisations it is part of are aligned with its own on climate change. This is SSE's second Trade Association Review and covers the 2021/22 financial year.

SSE welcomes and encourages feedback on the result and the approach it has taken for this review. Feedback and comments can be provided by emailing sustainability@sse.com.

About SSE

SSE plc is a UK-listed energy company that operates throughout the UK and Ireland and carefully selected international markets in East Asia, Europe and North America. It is involved principally in the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity, and in the supply of energy and related services to customers. SSE's core businesses of economically regulated electricity networks and provision of electricity from renewable sources, complemented by provision of electricity from thermal sources, have crucial roles to play in the transition to net zero emissions. Underpinning this transition are SSE's 2030 Goals, which focus the company in addressing the challenge of climate change in a just and sustainable way.

Introduction

SSE recognises that investors and other stakeholders are seeking increasing information around its trade association membership. SSE works closely with trade associations and seeks to ensure that its principles to reach net zero align with those of the trade associations of which it is a member.

The objective of this review is to provide investors and stakeholders with evidence of SSE's consistency in its climate change advocacy work across its trade association activity.

In 2020/21, SSE published its initial review to establish a baseline from which to continuously monitor the alignment between the advocacy activity undertaken by its trade associations and the goals of the Paris Agreement. SSE committed to undertake subsequent reviews on an annual basis, with this 2021/22 review considering the climate policy positions of those trade associations that were included in the base year and any new trade association memberships that commenced during the financial year.

Keeping the goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C alive

The Paris Agreement of 2015 marked a turning point in global climate ambition, with Parties aiming to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible to achieve a central aim of limiting global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels while pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report delivered the starkest warning yet – that limiting warming to well below 2°C will not be enough to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, increasing the urgency to work towards limiting to 1.5°C warming.

At COP26 in Glasgow, where SSE were a Principal Partner, alarm was expressed that human activities had caused around 1.1°C of global warming since the industrial revolution and that impacts were already being felt in every region around the world. The Parties reaffirmed the long-term global goal of the Paris Agreement in Glasgow and recognised that the impacts of climate change will be much lower at the temperature increase of 1.5°C compared with 2°C.

Most recently, ahead of COP27, the United Nation's Environment Programme (UNEP) released the Emissions Gap Report 2022 that indicated that updated national pledges since COP26 would make a negligible difference to the predicted emissions output in 2030, and that there were no credible pathways to meeting the goal of the Paris Agreement. The UNEP indicates that the world is on track for a temperature rise of between 2.4°C and 2.6°C by the end of this century. Many dispute this claim, stating that the chances of 1.5°C are narrowing, but it is still achievable. Despite the disappointment of not seeing more ambitious commitments to make emissions reductions at COP27, the agreement to establish a global fund for loss and damage was truly historic. The momentum from such a significant breakthrough must be applied in order to keep the goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C alive and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

SSE's commitment to net zero

SSE recognises the serious threat of climate change and the urgency with which it must be addressed. Its business strategy is wholly focused on developing, building, operating, and investing in activities which support the transition to net zero.

In 2020, SSE set its own long-term ambition to achieve net zero carbon emissions across all its operations by 2050 at the latest, covering both SSE's direct and indirect emissions, or its scope 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse gas emissions. At SSE's Annual General Meeting in July 2021, SSE established a framework for annual shareholder advisory votes which involved committing to net zero in addition to publishing a Net Zero Transition Report to disclose progress towards net zero. In March 2022, SSE published its Net Zero Transition Plan and recognising the national and international importance of decarbonising the power sector as quickly as possible, SSE increased its ambition to achieve net zero across scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2040 at the latest and 2050 for scope 3 emissions. The Net Zero Transition Plan clearly sets out for stakeholders the key actions SSE will take to drive progress towards its net zero ambitions and its interim science-based targets aligned to a 1.5°C pathway. At SSE's Annual General Meeting in 2022, the resolution received near unanimous support, with 99.96% of the votes cast in favour.

Alongside the Net Zero Transition Plan, SSE's Net Zero Acceleration Programme is designed to accelerate clean growth, lead the energy transition and maximise value for all stakeholders. It includes a £12.5bn strategic capital investment plan to 2026 alongside carbon reduction targets, aligned with net zero and 1.5°C. This significant investment will contribute towards tackling climate change whilst securing indigenous energy supplies and creating high quality low-carbon jobs. It will also enable delivery of around 20% of the UK's revised 50GW offshore wind target and over 20% of UK electricity networks investment, whilst deploying flexibility solutions and exporting renewables capabilities overseas.

Climate advocacy through trade associations

As the UK's clean energy champion, SSE actively and positively advocates for more ambitious climate change policy to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement¹ and, with it, a more favourable climate for investments in renewable and low-carbon generation and investment in electricity networks. To ensure that SSE's approach to regulatory and political engagement is transparent and has integrity, the company has a publicly available Group Political and Regulatory Engagement Policy. The policy holds the company to the highest standards of probity and respect in its dealings with regulators, non-departmental public bodies and the institutions of government, recognising their key role in the sector in which SSE operates. Within this policy, SSE commits to only conduct lobbying and advocacy activity that is in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement and its own net zero strategy and ambitions. This commitment includes SSE's direct advocacy activities and advocacy that the company conducts through its trade association memberships.

Being a member of trade associations is an important way in which SSE advocates for accelerated progress towards net zero. Trade associations act as a representative body for industries, by putting forward the collective view and position of its members to government, regulators, and the media. They also provide their members with products and services,

¹ SSE supports the overarching aims of the agreement and specifically calls on its trade associations to endorse Article 2.1 to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and Article 4.1 which aims to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.

including training and educational materials, technical advice, and the opportunity to shape standards and guidance for their industry. Participation in these associations allows SSE to collaborate with its industry peers and provides a means to engage with key policy makers and other stakeholders.

As well holding regular membership for these trade associations, SSE is often represented on the boards and committees of key trade associations. In 2021/22 the SSE Group was a member of four principal trade associations in Great Britain: Energy Networks Association, Energy UK, RenewableUK, and Scottish Renewables. It has employees on the Boards of each of these organisations to support good and transparent conduct by these trade associations. Each of these organisations has established committees to oversee their advocacy activities, and SSE is also represented on each of these committees.

In Ireland, SSE is a member of three principal trade associations: Electricity Association of Ireland, Irish Wind Energy Association and RenewableNI. SSE employees participate with each of these organisations at either a Board or committee level, thereby ensuring that SSE has oversight of the advocacy activities of these associations.

Through these arrangements, SSE's Corporate Affairs directorate maintains an overview of trade associations' advocacy activities.

SSE does not contract organisations to undertake lobbying activity, for the purposes of influencing public decision making, and regularly reviews its trade association memberships to ensure that they are still relevant for SSE's business activities.

SSE seeks to ensure that the trade associations of which it is a member also undertake advocacy that aligns with the goals of the Paris Agreement. It works closely with these trade associations, engaging with them on a continuous basis, and as a result, they are usually well aligned.

Defining climate change standards

In March 2022, SSE announced its long-term goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions across its scope 1 and scope 2 emissions by 2040 (subject to security of supply requirements) and for remaining scope 3 emissions by 2050. Achieving net zero emissions across all economies by 2050 is a pre-requisite for preventing global temperature rises above 1.5°C, which is itself one of the key goals of the Paris Agreement. To assess the alignment of trade associations with the Paris Agreement and SSE's net zero strategy, SSE established its five key principles to reach net zero. These principles were drawn from SSE's Climate Change Policy, which aligns with the goals of the Paris Agreement, and further public statements of principle. SSE, itself, upholds these measures and advocates for others to embed them too. All trade associations included in the scope of the review were assessed against these five key principles.

1. Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change

SSE recognises the serious threat that climate change poses to the natural world and, therefore, to people and the economy. Physical impacts, such as increased extreme weather, could have an adverse impact on SSE's operations and interrupt the supply of energy to its customers. SSE expects the organisations it is a member of to recognise the serious threat that a climate changed world presents.

2. Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement

SSE welcomed the landmark agreement in 2015, which aims to combat climate change and to accelerate the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. SSE supports the overarching aims of the agreement and specifically calls on its trade associations to endorse Article 2.1 to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and Article 4.1 which aims to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.

3. Supports a strong carbon price

SSE has long advocated for robust carbon pricing, believing it is one of the most effective tools to support the decarbonisation of the UK and Irish economies. SSE has publicly urged the UK Government to commit to a carbon pricing trajectory that will incentivise negative emissions. Given the critical importance that a price on carbon makes to enabling climate action, SSE expects relevant trade associations to advocate for a strong carbon price.

4. Promotes innovation

The scale of SSE's investment in net zero requires continuous innovation, and its approach is to partner with others to develop the technologies, experience and skills that it needs to accelerate projects in support of net zero. SSE is involved in a number of key innovation projects that are helping to trial new technologies and demonstrate their potential business applicability, including smart grid demonstrations and zero-carbon clusters. Trade Associations play a very important role in fostering innovative practices at an industry level and, as a result, SSE expects its trade associations to play an active role.

5. Seeks a just transition to net zero

SSE is actively seeking to consider the social consequences of the transition to net zero. In November 2020, SSE published its Just Transition Strategy – 20 principles to support the transition to net zero in a socially just and fair way, focussed on its key stakeholders: employees, energy consumers, suppliers and communities. While the significance of a fair and just transition is still emerging, this is an area of importance to SSE and it believes trade associations provide an excellent framework from which industries can collaborate to bring about fair social outcomes for consumers, working people and communities.

Summary of findings

SSE considered 18 of its trade associations to be within scope for this review. Trade associations were included if SSE were members within the 2021/22 reporting year and if their annual membership fee exceeded £5,000. Trade associations with fees below this threshold were assumed to hold a lesser influence when lobbying for climate change policy in line with SSE's principles to reach net zero. Exceptions were made for SSE's named principal trade associations where the annual membership fee was below the £5,000 threshold. This exception applied to RenewableNI in 2021/22. Further details on SSE's principal trade associations can be found in SSE's [Political Engagement Statement](#) which can be accessed through the SSE Group Political and Regulatory Engagement Policy at [sse.com/sustainability/policies-and-assurances](https://www.sse.com/sustainability/policies-and-assurances).

Based on the methodology outlined in the *Trade association climate review – scope and methodology* document (found at [sse.com/sustainability/reporting](https://www.sse.com/sustainability/reporting)), SSE considered 16 of its trade associations to be aligned overall to its five key principles to reach net zero. Two trade associations were considered partially aligned and no trade associations were found to hold opposing views against SSE's five principles. A full list of trade associations of which SSE is a member, and whether they were included or excluded in the review, can be found in Appendix A.

A majority of trade associations demonstrated explicit alignment with SSE's position on climate change. Most trade associations recognised the threat of climate change and advocated for innovative means to solve this global issue. A majority endorsed a carbon price mechanism to accelerate decarbonisation and understood the importance of a transition to net zero which is delivered in a socially just and fair way.

A few trade associations were found to be lacking explicit alignment against some of SSE's five principles to reach net zero. In such cases, a judgement was made as to whether there was enough to consider an implicit alignment between SSE and the trade association. Implicit alignment was determined based on a lack of explicit evidence; those holding views contrary to SSE principles on climate change were considered to be opposing.

Implicit alignment was more common among smaller trade associations that did not hold a clear position on supporting a carbon tax or a just transition. Implicit alignment against one of the aforementioned principles was deemed acceptable for overall alignment. However, implicit alignment on SSE's acknowledgement of the threat of climate change or support for the goals of the Paris Agreement was determined to be incompatible with SSE's position on climate change. 2 trade associations did not explicitly support the goals of the Paris Agreement and were therefore deemed partially aligned overall. For full details of the methodology, see the *Trade association climate review – scope and methodology* document (found at [sse.com/sustainability/reporting](https://www.sse.com/sustainability/reporting)).

Results of the trade associations alignment with individual principles on climate change are summarised in Table 1. For transparency, the annual costs for SSE's trade association memberships are presented in Table 2.

Table 1: Alignment to individual principles to reach net zero

Trade Association	Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	Supports a strong carbon price	Promotes innovation	Seeks a just transition to net zero
Association for Decentralised Energy	●	●	●	●	●
Association of University Directors of Estates	●	●	●	●	●
Carbon Capture and Storage Association	●	●	●	●	●
Electricity Association of Ireland	●	●	●	●	●
Energy Networks Association	●	●	●	●	●
Energy UK	●	●	●	●	●
Global Wind Energy Council	●	●	●	●	●
Hydrogen UK	●	●	●	●	●
International Hydropower Association	●	●	●	●	●
Irish Business and Employers Confederation	●	●	●	●	●
Japanese Wind Power Association	●	●	●	●	●
Netherlands Wind Energy Association	●	●	●	●	●
Renewable NI	●	●	●	●	●
RenewableUK	●	●	●	●	●
Scottish Renewables	●	●	●	●	●
Solar Energy UK	●	●	●	●	●
Wind Energy Ireland	●	●	●	●	●
WindEurope	●	●	●	●	●

● Aligned ● Partially aligned ● Not aligned

Table 2: Trade association membership costs

Membership cost (£)	Trade association
250,000 - < 500,000	Energy Networks Association.
100,000 - < 250,000	Energy UK.
50,000 - < 100,000	Irish Business and Employers Confederation.
30,000 - < 50,000	Global Wind Energy Council; RenewableUK; Scottish Renewables; Netherlands Wind Energy Association.
15,000 - < 30,000	Carbon Capture and Storage Association; Electricity Association of Ireland; Wind Energy Ireland; Association of Decentralised Energy; WindEurope; International Hydropower Association; Hydrogen UK; Japanese Wind Power Association.
5,000 - < 15,000	Solar Energy UK; Association of University Directors of Estates.
0 - < 5,000	Renewable NI.

Action taken on results of the review

SSE will continue to engage with all trade associations that were found to be aligned with the five key principles and support advocacy for an accelerated transition to net zero.

For the trade associations that were found to have implicit alignment on any of SSE's five principles, SSE will undertake a process to seek increased engagement on the specific issues where partial alignment was identified, ahead of the next review. SSE will continue to monitor the publications and policies of its trade associations to ensure that their advocacy activities do not oppose the goals in the Paris Agreement or SSE's net zero ambitions.

The two trade associations found to be partially aligned, are trade associations newly joined during 2021/22 which are outside the UK and Ireland and that did not have sufficient publicly available content to assess their alignment with SSE's principles to meet net zero. As these new trade associations' memberships were for renewable energy associations, it is assumed that their positions on climate change will broadly follow those of SSE. SSE will seek to further engage with these trade associations to ensure that they are explicitly aligned with SSE's key principles to reach net zero.

Conclusion and Next Steps

SSE is committed to ensure that the goals of the Paris Agreement are met and that the company will reach net zero emissions across its entire operations and value chain by 2050. To be credible, SSE recognises that these net zero targets must be backed up by a clear plan of actions that will be taken to achieve them. SSE's Net Zero Transition Plan provides this clarity of action for its stakeholders, detailing 17 key actions SSE will take to accelerate decarbonisation in a just manner, and ensure its net zero ambitions are met. Two of the key actions (Action 3 and Action 13) are focused on transparent advocacy for stronger climate policies, which will help SSE to reach net zero emissions. Targeted action on both direct advocacy and advocacy undertaken through trade associations, aligned to the Paris Agreement, is key in supporting SSE and the countries it operates within to reach net zero.

This process to explicitly review the climate policies of all the key organisations it is a member of has been instructive. SSE can confirm that there is nothing of concern regarding the core climate principles that guide SSE. However, the process has established a platform for enhanced engagement and paves the way for collaboration on developing policy areas. The principles and actions that would result in a just transition to net zero, is a very good example.

As SSE expands its operations internationally, it will continue to hold its existing and new trade associations to account on their positions on climate change. Many of the new trade associations that SSE joined outside of the UK and Ireland during 2021/22 did not have sufficient publicly available content to assess their alignment with SSE's principals to meet net zero. As these new trade associations memberships were for renewables associations, it is assumed that their positions on climate change will broadly follow those of SSE. SSE will seek to further engage with the new trade associations SSE joined outside of the UK and Ireland to ensure that they are explicitly aligned with SSE's key principles to reach net zero.

Finally, SSE will undertake subsequent reviews on an annual basis which will be published following the close of the financial year. Each iteration will consider any updates to the climate change positions of the trade associations that were included in the base year and expand the scope to include any new trade association memberships that commenced during the financial year.

Appendix A: SSE's trade association memberships

Trade association	Overall alignment to SSE's key principles to reach net zero	Included in scope?
Association of Decentralised Energy	Aligned	Included
Association of University Directors of Estates	Aligned	Included
Carbon Capture & Storage Association	Aligned	Included
Electricity Association of Ireland	Aligned	Included
Energy Networks Association	Aligned	Included
Energy UK	Aligned	Included
Global Wind Energy Council	Aligned	Included
Hydrogen UK	Aligned	Included
International Hydropower Association	Aligned	Included
Irish Business and Employers Confederation	Aligned	Included
Japanese Wind Power Association	Partially aligned	Included
Netherlands Wind Energy Association	Partially aligned	Included
RenewableNI	Aligned	Included
RenewableUK	Aligned	Included
Scottish Renewables	Aligned	Included
Solar Energy UK	Aligned	Included
Wind Energy Ireland	Aligned	Included
WindEurope	Aligned	Included

Trade association	Overall alignment to SSE's key principles to reach net zero	Included in scope?
American Clean Power Association	n/a	Excluded
British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association	n/a	Excluded
Confederation of British Industry - NI	n/a	Excluded
Irish District Energy Association	n/a	Excluded
Irish Solar Energy Association	n/a	Excluded
UK District Energy Association	n/a	Excluded
UK100	n/a	Excluded
Women In Transport	n/a	Excluded
Zemo Partnership	n/a	Excluded

Appendix B: Detailed assessment of SSE's principal trade associations

All seven of SSE's named principal trade associations of which it was a member during 2021/22 were found to be fully aligned to SSE's five key principles to reach net zero. Detailed results of the assessment of alignment for each trade association is set out in this appendix.

Energy Networks Association

About: Energy Networks Association (ENA) represents the companies which operate the electricity wires, gas pipes and energy system in the UK and Ireland. Its members control and maintain the critical national infrastructure that delivers these vital services into homes and businesses. ENA supports its members to deliver some of the safest, most reliable, most efficient, and sustainable energy networks in the world. As the owner of the high voltage electricity transmission network across the north of Scotland, and the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) responsible for delivering power to 3.8m homes and businesses across central southern England and the north of Scotland, SSEN's ENA membership is important not only to make sure that its voice is heard in discussions regarding today's energy system but crucially in the work to overhaul electricity networks for a net zero world.

Overall alignment: Aligned

Detailed alignment:

1. Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change

One of ENA's paramount goals is to ensure that the UK and Ireland energy networks ensuring networks are the sustainable in the world. ENA acknowledges the stark warnings made by the Climate Change Committee and demand that action must be taken to address the climate emergency.

2. Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement

ENA see network companies as a central pillar to enabling the net zero transition. ENA are committed to and are working towards the UK's goal to be carbon net zero by 2050 and will accelerate progress where possible.

3. Supports a strong carbon price

ENA support a strong carbon price on natural gas through the GB carbon price support (CPS) and UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) in order to help grow the UK's hydrogen economy.

4. Promotes innovation

ENA have committed to continue to build, maintain and reinvest in its infrastructure, harnessing innovation to improve efficiency and safety while lowering its environmental impact. ENA is supporting its members on innovative projects such as HyNet, H21 and HyDeploy, which are looking to distribute and deliver hydrogen safely and securely and in turn significantly reduce carbon emissions by 2050.

5. Seeks a just transition to net zero

ENA seek to deliver its services in a fair and affordable way, identify and support its most vulnerable customers and to ensure that no-one is left behind in the transition to clean energy.

Paris Agreement Support: *"The UK's energy networks are some of the greenest and smartest in the world, but we need monumental action and collaboration across all industries to deliver Net Zero. Today's warning is stark. Action must be taken now to address the climate emergency. We urge the government to push forward in publishing the long-awaited Net Zero, Hydrogen, and Heat and Buildings Strategies."* - Ross Easton, Director of External Affairs at Energy Networks Association (ENA, 2021).

Action: ENA is fully aligned with SSE's key principles to reach net zero. SSE will continue to work closely with the ENA across all areas of its networks businesses, especially for collaboration purposes across industry.

Energy UK

About: Energy UK is the trade association for the energy industry in Great Britain. It has over 100 members, across suppliers, generators, and stakeholders with a business interest in the production and supply of electricity and gas for domestic and business consumers. Members of Energy UK deliver nearly 80% of the UK's power generation and over 95% of the energy supply for 28 million UK homes as well as businesses. As the broadest based energy company in the UK and Ireland, SSE considers membership of Energy UK, which represents the entirety of the energy value chain, to be vital in engaging key policy makers on net zero policies. SSE's Chief Commercial Officer, Martin Pibworth, is a Board Member of Energy UK.

Overall alignment: Aligned

Detailed alignment:

1. Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change

Energy UK acknowledge the warnings from the Climate Change Committee and International Panel on Climate Change and reaffirmed its commitment to tackling climate change. Energy UK look to take action to support wider society and other sectors of the economy to move towards net zero emissions.

2. Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement

Energy UK are committed to support the energy industry in Great Britain to deliver the technology and infrastructure which will be vital for the energy transition and to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

3. Supports a strong carbon price

Energy UK are supportive of a robust carbon price and cite the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and the UK Government's Carbon Price Support (CPS) alongside the Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme as key drivers in developing a world-leading offshore wind market in the UK.

4. Promotes innovation

Energy UK encourage the UK Government to replicate the success at deploying renewables with the other innovative low carbon technologies, such as low carbon hydrogen, CCUS, pumped hydro and other long duration storage options.

5. Seeks a just transition to net zero

Energy UK advocate for a fair and just transition to net zero. Their aim is to deliver a fair and affordable energy transition, while creating cleaner air, better energy services, and tackling climate change with a net zero power system as the backbone of the future economy.

Paris Agreement Support: *"We all understand the urgency - warnings from the Climate Change Committee and International Panel on Climate Change demonstrate the need to accelerate energy transition to keep global heating below 1.5 degrees. This relies on billions of pounds of investment in technology development and infrastructure which Energy UK members are keen to deliver, supported by appropriate policy and regulation."* - Lord John Hutton, Chair of Energy UK - Energy UK Annual Report 2022 (Energy UK, 2022).

Action: Energy UK is fully aligned with SSE's key principles to reach net zero. The SSE Group will continue to engage and collaborate with Energy UK on numerous areas of policy development as the industry as a whole responds to the UK and Scottish Government energy and net zero policy proposals.

RenewableUK

About: RenewableUK supports over 450 member companies to ensure increasing amounts of renewable electricity are deployed across the UK and access markets to export all over the world. Its members are business leaders, technology innovators, and expert thinkers from right across industry. As the leading developer of renewable energy in the UK and Ireland and currently constructing what will be the world's biggest offshore wind farm, SSE Renewables is committed to engaging with valued stakeholders via Renewable UK to ensure that increasing amounts of renewable electricity are deployed across the UK.

Overall alignment: Aligned

Detailed alignment:

1. Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change

RenewableUK acknowledge the warnings from the Climate Change Committee and encourage the UK Government to address barriers to the growth of renewables including establishing a well-resourced new planning system which puts the climate emergency at the heart of decision making.

2. Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement

RenewableUK support the objective of the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C and to achieve net zero emissions by mid-century.

3. Supports a strong carbon price

To accelerate progress against the UK Government's target of net zero emissions by 2050, RenewableUK call for a rise in the carbon price to be consistent with delivering grid decarbonisation by 2035.

4. Promotes innovation

RenewableUK advocates for funding in innovation to support the development of floating offshore wind technology, such as the research and development of key components needed to install floating turbines, which can be deployed in deeper waters with higher wind speeds.

5. Seeks a just transition to net zero

RenewableUK acknowledge that the energy transition will be a global challenge which will need to be resolved through broad and cooperative engagement. For this reason, RenewableUK and its members will support wider sector conversations on the Just Transition.

Paris Agreement Support: *"The Paris Agreement set a clear objective to limit global warming to 1.5C, which will require achieving net zero emissions by mid-century...The UK should continue its global leadership on climate action ahead of COP26 by setting out a net zero strategy with clear targets and supporting policies for 2030 which set a credible roadmap for rapid decarbonisation of energy which will grab the world's attention." - Raising the bar: the world-leading energy commitments the UK should make ahead of COP26 (RenewableUK, 2021).*

Action: RenewableUK is fully aligned with SSE's key principles to reach net zero. SSE Renewables will continue to partner with RenewableUK to host conferences and events such as Global Offshore Wind which promote the role of renewable energy in meeting the UK's net zero targets.

Scottish Renewables

About: Scottish Renewables represents around 300 member organisations and acts as the voice of Scotland's renewable energy industry in leading the debate in how the growth of renewable energy can help sustainably heat and power Scotland's homes and businesses. Its members work across all renewable energy technologies, in Scotland, the UK, Europe and the world. Scottish Renewables aims to grow Scotland's renewable energy sector and sustain its position at the forefront of the global clean energy industry.

Overall alignment: Aligned

Detailed alignment:

1. Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change

Scottish Renewables recognise that Scotland is in the grips of a climate emergency and that reform to Scotland's planning system to enable renewable energy developments is essential if net-zero is to be achieved.

2. Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement

Scottish Renewables are supportive of the goals of the Paris Agreement and has called for a plan of action on how countries will secure global net-zero and keep 1.5 degrees within reach.

3. Supports a strong carbon price

Scottish Renewables are supportive of a meaningful carbon tax to ensure that heat networks are powered by low-carbon heat sources.

4. Promotes innovation

Scottish Renewables supports the growth and development on innovative new renewable energies such as hydrogen, floating offshore wind and tidal power.

5. Seeks a just transition to net zero

Scottish Renewables recognise that the energy transition is made with people as one of its key considerations. Scottish Renewables strive to support a just transition that ensures Scotland's communities and stakeholder groups can share in the benefits of the transition.

Paris Agreement Support: *"A lot of the work around COP26 and the negotiations is already hugely positive with new agreements like the commitment to halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation by 2030 already emerging, what we need now is a plan of action on how we are going to secure global net-zero and keep 1.5 degrees within reach."* - Claire Mack, Chief Executive of Scottish Renewables (Scottish Renewables, 2021).

Action: Scottish Renewables is fully aligned with SSE's key principles to reach net zero. SSE will remain an active member of Scottish Renewables and will continue to be present at all relevant policy working groups hosted by Scottish Renewables. SSE will also partner with Scottish Renewables to host several conferences aimed at promoting renewable energy and accelerating its deployment as a central factor in meeting Scotland's net zero targets.

Electricity Association of Ireland

About: The Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI) is the representative body for the electricity industry and gas retail sector operating within the Single Electricity Market (SEM) on the Island of Ireland. EAI comprises utilities that represent 90% of generation and retail business activities and 100% of distribution within the Irish SEM. Its members range in size from single plant operators to international power utilities, with EAI members owning over 82% of all renewable assets on the island and 100% of thermal assets. Additionally, EAI represents the Irish electricity industry in Eurelectric, the representative body for the European electricity industry, and helps shape the broader European response to developing policy and legislative initiatives.

Overall alignment: Aligned

Detailed alignment:

1. Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change

EAI recognise that planet is warming, and that the climate is changing in dangerous ways. EAI acknowledge the need to reduce emissions and decarbonise the complete energy system.

2. Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement

EAI recognise the science underpinning the Paris Climate Change Agreement and support the goal of limiting the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. EAI acknowledge the important role that a decarbonised electricity sector will play as a vector for clean energy but also as the backbone to a resilient and secure energy future.

3. Supports a strong carbon price

EAI recognise that investors need clear and reliable long-term signals to allocate funds to capital-intensive projects such as renewable energy developments. EAI suggest that a well-functioning power market and efficient carbon pricing are key tools to deliver the necessary investment signals in a technology-neutral way.

4. Promotes innovation

EAI support the development of innovative technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS) and hydrogen. EAI recognise that such innovative technology features strongly in global scenarios that achieve Net Zero emissions in line with the Paris Climate Agreement.

5. Seeks a just transition to net zero

EAI support the Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland's calls for the implementation of a transition strategy that encompasses energy providers and users with essential engagement with citizens and stakeholders.

Paris Agreement Support: *"All-Island power system emissions should not be greater than 6.2 million tonnes in 2030 to be in line with obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement. The modelled All-Island 2030 system is just on the outer envelope of this range [~6.3 million tonnes]. Efforts to reduce emissions should be pursued to bring the system in line with expectations and reduce the burden of decarbonisation post 2030."* – Our Zero Mission Future (Electricity Association of Ireland, 2020).

Action: Electricity Association of Ireland is fully aligned with SSE's key principles to reach net zero. SSE sits on the EAI Board and Coordination committee, as well as holding positions as Chair of its Markets Committee and Vice-Chair of its Retail Committee. SSE will continue to work with EAI to implement its strategy, which includes advocating for a cost-effective transition to a decarbonised electricity sector; championing electrification of the heating and transport sectors; promoting efficient and competitive electricity and gas markets that support customer preference and sustainable investment in the sector and supporting the deployment of new low-carbon technology in a secure and resilient system.

Wind Energy Ireland

About:

Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) is the representative body for the Irish wind industry, working to promote wind energy as an essential, economical and environmentally friendly part of the country's low-carbon energy future. WEI is Ireland's largest renewable energy organisation with more than 200 members who have come together to plan, build, operate and support the development of the country's chief renewable energy resource. WEI's purpose is to help create jobs, invest in communities, reduce emissions and work to end Ireland's reliance on foreign fossil fuels.

Overall alignment: Aligned

Detailed alignment:

1. Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change

WEI acknowledges that climate change is causing enormous disruptions, and list storms, droughts, floods, heatwaves, and biodiversity loss as consequences of planetary warming. WEI recognises that to avoid the worst impacts, cutting greenhouse gas emissions and phasing out fossil fuels across Irish society will be essential.

2. Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement

WEI acknowledges that the climate is warming and that cutting greenhouse gas emissions and phasing out fossil fuels will be required to limit this warming to 2°C Celsius and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.

3. Supports a strong carbon price

WEI suggests that the Irish Government should set a carbon price floor of €100 per tonne of CO₂ by 2030 to reflect the real cost of fossil fuels and enable renewables to push the final remaining fossil fuel, natural gas, out of the electricity market.

4. Promotes innovation

WEI advocates for green hydrogen and believe that it represents a transformative opportunity for Ireland, allowing for the decarbonisation of the heat and transport sectors which cannot be electrified. With the industry is in its infancy, WEI calls on the Irish Government to take action to ensure that the opportunity is missed.

5. Seeks a just transition to net zero

WEI aims to develop onshore and offshore wind to deliver a zero-carbon Ireland while creating sustainable jobs, attracting green investment and building stronger communities. WEI is committed to inclusive growth in Ireland, ensuring that growth in the wind sector benefits all stakeholder in society.

Paris Agreement Support: *"Evidence for warming of our climate system is beyond dispute and observations show that global average temperatures have now increased by more than 1 degree Celsius since pre-industrial times. The projections of future global and regional climate change indicate that continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and changes to our climate. Governments around the world have agreed to strive to limit this warming to 2.0 degrees Celsius and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius."* - Our Climate Neutral Future Zero by 50 (Wind Energy Ireland, 2021).

Action: Wind Energy Ireland is fully aligned with SSE's key principles to reach net zero. SSE sits on the WEI Board and Council and is a member of all WEI's committees and several working groups. SSE will continue to work with WEI to implement its strategy.

RenewableNI

About: RenewableNI represents businesses across the renewable sector in Northern Ireland, fostering knowledge exchange, policy development, support and consensus on best practice between stakeholders. RenewableNI is a collaboration between Wind Energy Ireland and RenewableUK, working closely with both trade bodies on issues impacting the renewable electricity industry across the UK and Ireland.

Overall alignment: Aligned

Detailed alignment:

1. Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change

RenewableNI recognises the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 'Code Red for Humanity' and support the NI Assembly's Climate Bill which includes a stretching target of 80% renewable electricity by 2030. This target is seen as a key milestone in delivering net zero electricity by 2035.

2. Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement

RenewableNI recognises that the Climate Emergency requires Northern Ireland to rapidly reduce its emissions. RenewableNI acknowledges that Northern Ireland must play its part in meeting the UK requirement for Net Zero Greenhouse Gases by 2050, and as a part of the Single Electricity Market (SEM), its journey to zero-carbon is also inextricably linked with that of the Republic of Ireland.

3. Supports a strong carbon price

Aligning itself to the recommendation of the Wind Energy Ireland, RenewableNI recommends that a carbon price floor to £90 per tonne of CO₂ by 2030 is set in Northern Ireland to reflect the real cost of fossil fuels and enable renewables to push the final remaining fossil fuel, natural gas, out of the electricity market.

4. Promotes innovation

RenewableNI supports the development of long-duration energy storage along with green hydrogen. It advocates for Northern Ireland's existing gas generator fleet to be retrofitted to run on green hydrogen and that any new fossil fuel plant built this decade must be designed to make conversion to low-carbon fuels easy.

5. Seeks a just transition to net zero

To support the NI Assembly's Climate Bill of achieving 80% renewable electricity by 2030, RenewableNI has recommended that all new developments should deliver a just transition. RenewableNI goes beyond the traditional definition of ensuring no segment of society is specifically disadvantaged and only those that benefit from a scheme should be expected to pay for it and by extension, those that do not benefit should not have to pay.

Paris Agreement Support: RenewableNI is a collaboration between Wind Energy Ireland and RenewableUK. See quotes from Wind Energy Ireland and RenewableUK above.

Action: RenewableNI is fully aligned with SSE's key principles to reach net zero. RenewableNI is fully aligned with SSE's key principles to reach net zero. SSE sits on the RenewableNI Council and the majority of its working groups. SSE will continue to work with RenewableNI to implement its strategy.