



Scottish Enterprise

Wednesday, 15 September 2021

Dean Lockhart MSP  
Convener  
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Email: [netzero.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:netzero.committee@parliament.scot)

Dear Convener,

## NET ZERO, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE – SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE SUBMISSION

Scottish Enterprise (SE) welcomes the opportunity to provide a written submission in advance of your Committee's evidence session on 21 September about our activities and aspirations to support Scotland's net zero ambitions.

The transition to a net zero economy is a key priority for SE. We recognise that immediate action is required to tackle the challenge of climate change and help ensure the Scottish Government meets its aim for Scotland to have net zero emissions by 2045.

That's why SE has placed the net zero transition at the heart of all our plans and activities for not only this financial year but also in our next three-year plan, 2022-25. We are fully committed to stimulating positive action to address the combined climate and nature emergencies and help to ensure the benefits are shared fairly across society.

SE's Net Zero Framework for Action, published in June 2021, sets out how we can be a catalyst for change in accelerating Scotland's just, net zero transition. It sets out our approach and specific actions we are taking across all our activities and operations. Building upon our strong track record in supporting low carbon innovation, investment and technologies, our Framework commits SE to:

- **Expanding net zero opportunities** - supporting businesses, industries and investors to grasp fast-growing climate opportunities, helping refocus Scotland's economy on a net zero future while safeguarding natural capital and improving collective wellbeing
- **Supporting a just transition** - helping businesses, industries and communities to deliver a just transition that is fair to all, safeguarding and creating good, green and high value jobs
- **Leading and influencing change** - incentivising more businesses to actively commit to sustainable practices, influencing others to accelerate the pace of change and maximising the opportunities and legacy of COP26
- **Becoming a net zero organisation** – we aim to become net zero by 2040 and are making good progress in meeting our interim target of reducing emissions by 75% by 2030, compared to a 2015/16 baseline

We are focused on stimulating early action. This year, for example, we are:

- Helping businesses create green jobs, innovation and business growth opportunities, supported by the Green Jobs Fund and the Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme
- Delivering National Programmes targeting fast-growing net zero opportunities, such as decarbonised heat, heavy duty zero emission vehicles and the hydrogen economy, working in partnership with businesses, investors and partners

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**  
We invest in people Silver



- Helping businesses develop a carbon reduction plan – reducing costs and environmental impacts. For example, we help businesses improve the efficiency of their premises, products or processes, and investigate renewable energy options
- Working with NatureScot and others to identify practical ways to embed support for improved biodiversity and natural capital in both our own and partner-led projects and programmes
- Driving business commitment to fair work and sustainability practices to accelerate a just transition to net zero by linking SE’s financial support to the wider purpose of business
- Delivering exciting, new programmes to support early-stage, purpose-led companies. For example, the third cohort of the Unlocking Ambition programme is supporting 38 co-founders with advice, mentoring, leadership development as well as grant funding
- Delivering climate literacy training to all our staff

This builds upon a strong track record of delivery over the past decade including:

- Expanding opportunities in renewables, sustainable transport, low carbon heat and the circular economy. Since 2010, examples of success include supporting supply chain, infrastructure and innovation in offshore wind and marine energy, and helping to develop hydrogen transport and infrastructure in Orkney, Aberdeen and Fife
- Helping companies identify more than 700,000 tonnes of CO2 savings over the past three years, equivalent to taking more than half a million cars off the road
- Helping build Scotland’s capabilities and assets, for example the rapid delivery of the proposition and development of a joint venture model for Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc (MSIP) in response to the closure of the Dundee manufacturing facility
- Investing £85.5m and leveraging an additional £207m in energy companies and projects via the Energy Investment Fund since 2012

SE recognises that many companies will need help to achieve net zero, and for some this may mean a significant business shift that might create additional challenges in the short-term. We are also acutely aware that businesses and industries are all at different stages in their net zero journey, particularly in the context of their recovery from COVID-19.

It is therefore vital that SE and our partners demonstrate leadership by incentivising more businesses to actively commit to sustainable practices, influencing others to accelerate the pace of change, and maximising the opportunities and legacy of COP26, which will showcase Scotland as a global leader in sustainable and inclusive economic development.

That spirit of collaboration is critical to achieving our net zero ambitions. SE is fully committed to working in partnership with industry, the Scottish Government, our fellow agencies and others at local, national and international levels. We continue to collaborate with our partners to align plans, access external funding and leverage private sector investment.

SE is working very closely with the Scottish Government, partners, industry bodies, investors and individual companies to showcase Scotland’s climate change ambitions during COP26. We are developing a comprehensive programme of events and activities as part of Scotland’s Innovation

and Investment Zone (SIIZ), promoting opportunities and attracting investment on a global stage.

The global policy focus on climate change and transitioning economies to net zero offers real opportunities for Scottish businesses, building on Scotland's natural assets and expertise. Indeed, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has identified a potential spend on decarbonised infrastructure of \$7 trillion a year up to 2030. The time for decisive action is now and SE is ready to rise to the challenge.

I hope this information is helpful in informing the work of the committee, and we look forward to updating you further at our forthcoming evidence session.

Kind regards,



Andy McDonald  
Head of Low Carbon Transition  
Scottish Enterprise