



National Developments – Response Form

Please use the table below to let us know about projects you think may be suitable for national development status. You can also tell us your views on the existing national developments in National Planning Framework 3, referencing their name and number, and providing reasons as to why they should maintain their status. Please use a separate table for each project or development. **Please fill in a [Respondent Information Form](#) and return it with this form to scotplan@gov.scot.**

Name of proposed national development	All renewable energy developments of 50MW or greater capacity.
Brief description of proposed national development	All renewable development with a generating capacity of a minimum of 50MW. This may include hydro and solar developments, but we focus here on the significant role onshore wind farms will continue to play in the transition to a low carbon economy. This will necessarily include extending the lifetime of existing onshore wind farm projects and repowering existing wind farms to accommodate modern technologies.
Location of proposed national development (information in a GIS format is welcome if available)	Nationally across Scotland.
What part or parts of the development requires planning permission or other consent?	As exceeding 50MW it will require consent via Section 36 of The Electricity Act 1989.
When would the development be complete or operational?	The Onshore Wind Policy Statement (2017) recognises the contribution onshore wind makes to Scotland's economy and the transition to a low carbon economy. It also recognises support should be given for more onshore wind development in the right places. To support these ambitions developments will need to progress from inception to operation during the lifetime of NPF4.
Is the development already formally recognised – for example identified in a development plan, has planning permission, in receipt of funding etc.	The UK Government announced in March 2020 that onshore wind projects will be eligible to bid for a Contract for Difference in the auction planned for 2021. Provision is also made in development plans throughout Scotland for areas of search for wind farm development. Several

developments have planning permission but require re-design and revised applications to ensure projects are economically viable and make use of the most modern and efficient technology available.

Contribution of proposed national development to the national development criteria (maximum 500 words):

The slowdown in onshore wind development after the abrupt ending of subsidies in 2015 has led to a dramatic reduction in this type of development resulting in many consented projects becoming unviable and stymied development at a time when the climate emergency has gained global recognition. This has necessitated revisions to development proposals to increase tip heights and rotor diameters to make use of modern and emerging technology and ensure the projects taken forward are as efficient as possible.

To ensure onshore wind can still play an important role in meeting the transition to a low carbon economy and net zero by 2045, NPF4 requires to recognise the significant contribution a large number of smaller, but not insignificant developments could make to Scotland reaching its net zero target ambitions and also the contribution renewable energy development makes to the National Outcomes set out in the National Performance Framework.

Inclusion of these developments in NPF4 would give elevated status and primacy in the decision-making process. These developments take time to progress through the development process from project inception to operation, so the timeframes within which developments are processed needs to be streamlined and reduced in many cases and therefore realising the benefits of this lowest cost energy generation and the associated economic benefits and opportunities.

As turbines become more efficient, each with a greater generating capacity, even relatively smaller scale onshore wind farms, compatible with landscape and other environmental constraints could be developed with an overall generating capacity of 50MW or above. Commercial large-scale solar projects are more challenging in Scotland, but some geographical areas could be suitable for development and as such would benefit from support as national development, as would hydro developments.

The combination of these smaller developments could, if supported and consented, make a valuable contribution to meeting the Scottish Government's target of achieving net zero by 2045, and at the same time protect our sensitive environments and landscapes in Scotland.

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