



# Scotland Against Spin

The Alliance for everyone opposed to National Wind Energy Policy

Dear Supporters,

♪ No more turbines!

# No more turbines!

♪ No more turbines!

♪ No more turbines!

....And we haven't stopped shouting yet! What a day we had in Perth, demonstrating against the SNP Government's Wind Energy Policy. Despite the weather, a fantastic crowd turned out and joined in the (soggy) fun! Great speeches were made by Dr Rachel Connor and Graeme Steele, and we were joined by other representatives of groups from the South of Scotland and the Borders Network, and best of all, by many, many of you! Our thanks go to all who travelled to Perth and made it such a success. And for those that couldn't make it, there's a full report, and plenty of pictures of the day on pgs 2 & 3.

The protest march hasn't been the only piece of big turbine news this month. Shetland made the headlines when Lady Clark's ruling was published following the judicial review of Viking's huge proposal, the IPCC published their new Climate Change 'Bible', Harelaw windfarm was refused planning permission, elections in Australia and Europe have put 'green' energy policies at the forefront of their political agendas, and our own Fergus Ewing (MSP) has failed to show up....again. A very busy month indeed!

October 2013, Issue 12

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Website

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[www.facebook.com/groups/281302381898831/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/281302381898831/)



The banner we carried aloft at the protest in Perth, drawn especially for SAS by Iain Green – our thanks again, Iain!

# Singing in the rain - protest in Perth....

Despite truly awful, wet weather on Saturday, a great crowd of people turned up in Perth to join the 'Stop the Spin' protest at the SNP Autumn Conference. Cars and mini-buses drove from all parts of Scotland - Argyle, Renfrewshire, Berwickshire, Fife, Aberdeenshire, the Highlands - to march through the streets to the SNP Conference at the Concert Hall.

Led by our fantastic piper, Malcolm, and carrying our great 'Stop the Spin' banner, we marched through the streets of Perth towards the Concert Hall, attracting much attention with our chanting and singing along the way. Wet we may have been, but still in fine voice, and certainly not daunted!

If you haven't already seen the full [Photo Gallery](#) on our website, here are a few photos from the day....



The crowds brave the rain and march through the streets of Perth, waving their banners and chanting along the way!



Our youngest protestor (4 weeks!)  
- aawwww!

Cameras watching us - filming of the protest outside the Concert Hall, one of several TV cameras on the day.



## Ontario protesting alongside....

Scotland Against Spin weren't the only ones protesting on Saturday. Groups in Ontario, Canada brought traffic to a standstill with cars, trucks and tractors to demonstrate to their politicians what they think of turbines.... And to let us know that they were thinking of us too! How fantastic, and our thanks to them. We'll be bringing you full news of their protest in our next newsletter, and of the extraordinary fight of one woman there, Shellie, who has now set up Mothers Against Wind Turbines in an effort to bring the dreadful health impacts of wind energy to full light.



Paul Kuster protesting in Ontario, sends his support to us in Scotland

Inside the Concert Hall, Graham was joined by his wife, Marion, along with Nicola Meadean, Ken Brown, and Linda Holt, staffing the Scotland Against Spin stand – our great thanks to them! They spoke to delegates at the SNP conference, and there was a receptive response from many, who welcomed the opportunity to hear some of the reasons wind energy is not ‘the answer.’

One or two SNP politicians even took up our invitation to come outside and speak to their constituents about their views, although Mr Swinney (below) probably wished he hadn’t!



Marion Lang (centre) chats with Peter and Jean Chaene from near Invergordon, while Graham Lang (below) goes on a recruitment drive!



Some SNP delegates braved the crowds (above), including Mr Swinney (left), talking here with Linda Holt from SAS.



Our guest speakers, Dr Rachel Connor and Graeme Steele addressed the gathered crowds, giving a rousing flavor of their own experiences, and views of government policy. And when they had finished, we let Mr Salmond and the assembled SNP delegates know exactly what we all think of it as well, making as much noise as possible, with bells, whistles, horns, rattles and good old shouting during his speech. It was a fantastic day, which we are sure the SNP government saw, heard and took note of!

Our thanks go to everyone who helped to make the day such a success; Dr Rachel Connor and Graeme Steele (speeches), Stuart Young and all the Stewards, Iain Green (cartoons), Susan Fleming and Andy Shiells (songs), the Borders Network and South of Scotland groups, and all the Supporters who braved the weather and made Perth such a rousing day!

...and a special thank you to the very kind lady who lent a little girl an umbrella for the day - from Amyrose and her dad!



Guest speakers, Dr Rachel Connor (centre) and Graeme Steele (right) with Graham Lang

### SAS Conference....

On 24<sup>th</sup> November, Scotland Against Spin is hosting a conference in Stirling, exploring the true cost that we are all paying for turbines and wind energy. Guest speakers include Professor Gordon Hughes of Edinburgh University, Jeremy Nicholson, Dr Mike Hall, Mike Stigwood, and we hope, Mr Fergus Ewing (MSP) - a chance to really listen to and question the experts on wind technology and its impacts.

Details are on the attached Conference flyer, and you can book your tickets by contacting Sarah at [info@scotlandagainstspin.org](mailto:info@scotlandagainstspin.org)



## Legal ruling in Shetland defeats Vikings....

The epic battle over Shetland's proposed windfarm has recently resulted in a *grenade* landing right in the heart of the Government's wind energy policy.

In a judicial review of the controversial Shetland windfarm proposal from Viking, Lady Clark of Calton [ruled](#) that windfarms require an electricity-generating licence from the regulator Ofgem (or an exemption from DECC) before planning consent is given. As it is not normal practice to obtain a licence before applying for planning consent, this has the potential to throw scores of applications into limbo.

The Scottish Government is appealing against Lady Clark's ruling, but the case won't be heard until next March. In the meantime, they are resisting all attempts by campaigners and lawyers to invoke the Lady Clark ruling to stall, or invalidate, *unlicensed* wind farm applications of 10 MW or above.

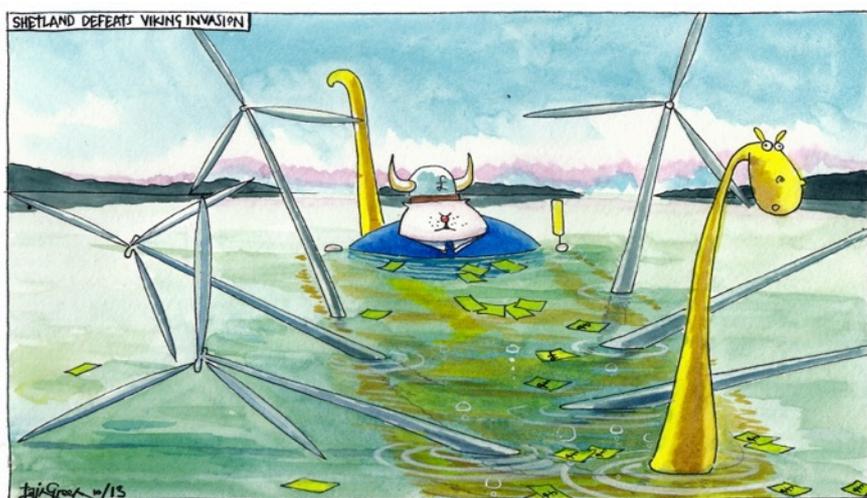
This issue has erupted in judicial proceedings by the Trump lawyers against the Menie offshore windfarm in the Court of Session, and in the quasi-judicial proceedings of the Public Local Inquiry into the

Glenmorrie wind farm. John Campbell QC, for local group Save Our Straths, wrote to the Chief Reporter to request the Glenmorrie PLI be "sisted" (suspended) because it was an *incompetent application* and would now be unlawful. Despite compelling legal submissions from Mr Campbell and others, the Glenmorrie Reporter refused to sist the inquiry when it opened yesterday (Monday), and it is now set to go ahead

Is this the Scottish Government arbitrarily over-ruling a judge because of pressure from the wind industry and party-political expediency? It is likely there will be

further legal challenges to the Scottish Government's action, with questions raised about its constitutional ramifications, and even if the Government successfully resists obeying the Lady Clark ruling until it is appealed, it is by no means certain the appeal will be decided before 2015 (if it goes to the Supreme Court) or that the Scottish Government will win.

All this spells uncertainty, delay and expense for developers, and it may well be the last straw for many projects, especially given the growing pressure our leaders are under to stem rising green taxes on energy bills.



Drawn especially for SAS by Iain Green – thank you!

### How you can use Lady Clark's Ruling....

#### If you are fighting a section 36 windfarm application, ie over 50MW

- Check whether the developer of the application you are fighting has a licence or exemption. You can do this via the Ofgem site [here](#) and via the DECC site [here](#)
- If it has none, write to your local planning authority (which will have expressed a view on the application or be in the process of doing so) and ask it to refuse the application on the grounds that Lady Clark's ruling means the application is not competent. You can cite the precedent by Scottish Borders Council with respect to Rowantree wind farm (attached) - and you can copy the arguments and legal wording from the SBC letter.
- You can also write directly to the Energy and Consents Deployment Unit, asking it to refuse the application on the same grounds.

#### If you are fighting a windfarm application of 10MW+

- Check whether the developer of the application you are fighting has a licence or exemption, as above.
- Senior counsel is advising that Lady Clark's ruling applies to all wind farms of 10MW and above, although this is presently being denied by the Scottish Government via the DPEA.
- If you/your campaign has access to legal advice, you may want to ask your own solicitor for an independent opinion.
- You can use Lady Clark's ruling plus the attached legal argument as grounds for objecting to an unlicensed/non-exempt windfarm of 10MW+.

## Networking....

A couple of weeks ago, Linda Holt and Graham Lang had a meeting of minds with Rupert Soames, CEO of Aggrekko at the company's HQ in Glasgow. Aggrekko is the world's largest temporary power generation company. It has become hugely successful by helping organisations and governments deal with black-outs and shortfalls in essential electricity supplies, so few people are better placed than Mr Soames to comment on the UK's dysfunctional energy policy. In 2010 he gave a speech to Holyrood in which he warned,

*In the UK, we are already close to the rocks, because, over the next 8 years a third of our coal-fired capacity, two-thirds of our oil-fired capacity, and nearly three-quarters of our nuclear capacity will be closed down either through age or the impact of the European Large Combustion Plant Directive. Absent a massive and immediate programme of building new power stations, with concrete being poured in the next two years, we will be in serious danger of the lights going out.*

## Keeping the pressure on SNH....

Last week [SAS](#) broke the story that Scottish Natural Heritage wind farm maps were wildly inaccurate, making headlines in the *Times*, [Press & Journal](#) & *Courier*.

Head of renewables at SNH Brendan Turvey promptly called SAS to request that when people see errors or omissions in the SNH mapping, could they could please contact SNH direct. The person responsible is Mareike Moeller-Holtkamp; you can email her at [Mareike.Moeller-Holtkamp@snh.gov.uk](mailto:Mareike.Moeller-Holtkamp@snh.gov.uk) or call her on 01786 450362.

As anyone who has tried to keep track of turbine applications in a hotspot area will realise, keeping abreast of the national situation -

You will not be surprised to hear that Mr Soames has not been invited to speak again at Holyrood! Mr Soames' verdict on anti-wind farm campaigners? *On the side of the angels.*



*Rupert Soames (centre) with Graham Lang (right) and Linda Holt (left)*

We have also been in touch with two important Scottish political commentators, [Bill Jamieson](#) and [Brian Wilson](#), and are delighted by their warm responses to SAS's work. From different ends of the political spectrum, both recently published their most damning analyses of government wind policy to date.

All three welcomed our invitation to speak at the forthcoming SAS conference - which reflects a larger sea-change in public attitudes.

thousands of turbine applications, with scores of new ones registered every week - is an impossible task for one person.

Why on earth isn't the Government giving SNH the resources to do the job properly? How can you make responsible policy when you don't have accurate data?

These, and others, are questions you might like to put to the SNH top brass when they visit your area. Details of all SNH receptions, including upcoming ones in Hamilton, Forfar, South Uist, Bonar Bridge and Scottish Borders may be found [here](#) and in the [press release section](#) of the SNH website closer to the time.

Anti-wind farm campaigners are no longer dismissed as NIMBIES or nutters. People are no longer afraid of criticising wind energy for fear of being branded climate change deniers.

Of course the ever more obvious connection between rising electricity bills and increasing numbers of turbines is also waking people up. UK Energy Minister and one-time cheer-leader for the wind industry's role in saving the world from global warming, [Greg Barker](#) admitted over the weekend that putting windfarms in the wrong places had turned the public against renewable energy. He also said *the expansion of the onshore wind rush is over.*

Such honesty may not be forthcoming from Alex Salmond, but the signs are there that the Government knows it is on a losing wicket. Alex Salmond's [keynote speech](#) at the SNP conference made only one fleeting reference to wind, towards the bottom of a list of Scotland's *human talent and natural resources*. He was rather more loquacious and bullish about North Sea oil and gas.

## Glenmoriston Site....

A new website has recently been launched - [No Moriston Windfarm](#) - highlighting a campaign against yet another huge proposal from E.ON in Glenmoriston.

Members of the small community in Glenmoriston would very much appreciate your support in fighting the 50+MW proposal on the banks of the River Moriston, and are asking people to join up, via the site. And when you take a look at the pictures of the surrounding area, you see why they are so passionate about protecting their landscape and environment. At SAS, we urge you to lend your support if you can.

## Water pollution - an adverse effect of big wind...? Dr Rachel Connor

Very recently, SAS expert contributor, Dr Rachel Connor achieved prominent press coverage of a problem that she and her neighbours have been battling for some considerable time; water contamination, possibly caused by the construction of Whitelee Windfarm. (Times article attached.)

Like many living in rural Scotland, she and her neighbours have a Private Water Supply (PWS), contamination of which caused her, and other members of her community, to fall ill during a period when the construction of Whitelee Phase 2 was underway. Trying to find the cause of the illness became a major battle when Scottish Power (the developer), refused to release the data and test results that they were holding on water supplies in the area. They claimed that they had sent results to the Council when in fact they hadn't.

Talking to SAS, Dr Connor said:

*'This story in the Times followed on from months of trying to get information about our private water supply (PWS) from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, East Ayrshire Council and Scottish Power. Freedom of Information requests were reclassified as Environmental Information requests, for which SEPA demanded £2000 alone!*

*It has been a process of attrition, which would not have been possible without help from a local MSP who persuaded Scottish Water to talk to me! I finally got our PWS results from East Ayrshire Council, and after reviewing truly shocking episodes of faecal contamination in the water (at its peak in 2010, it showed 170,000 bacterial/100ml), confronted Mr Mathers, who is Scottish Power's Onshore Renewables Project Manager,*



*Dr Rachel Connor - Picture courtesy of Times newspaper*

*at the RenewableUK Conference in Glasgow, in early September. Scottish Power have monitored our water for seven years during the construction period of Whitelee and have not told a soul until August this year that we had episodes of dangerously high levels of bacterial contamination. Regardless of whether they caused this contamination, there has been a complete dereliction of their duty of care to notify public authorities that there was a serious problem, or even send them any of our test results!*

*Although Scottish Power deny they have caused our contamination, we know that the public water in our local reservoir had very significant spikes of iron and manganese levels at the height of Whitelee phase 2 construction, and I would have expected Scottish Power's tests on our water supply to have at least included tests for these contaminants, which can make water unpalatable and in susceptible individuals, can increase their chances of developing liver cancer. Prior to 2006 and the commencement of construction activity at Whitelee, we had water test results which showed mostly normal drinking water from our enclosed spring supply, which serves 10 households. Scottish Power have stated that they have no responsibility for our*

*private water supply and that 'they have never been conditioned to sample public water supplies.'*

*I know that Scottish Power have previously had to provide piped water to another rural community, Glendaruel, previously on a PWS, as a result of construction activity/site clearance for Scottish Power's Cruach Mor windfarm in Argyll. I think it's important now, that any individual or community that has had their water supply affected, either in quantity or quality, by windfarm development, get in touch with SAS.*

*Equally, all those communities with planning applications in the pipeline should press their Local Council for information on what monitoring arrangements have been put in place and whether a thorough risk assessment to vulnerable private water supplies has been made.'*

*The supply of clean water is vital to all of us, and if contamination is even a possibility, then measures need to be put into place immediately to prevent it. Wind development companies need to fulfill all their responsibilities to communities, and yet Scottish Power's non-disclosure of information indicates otherwise. Are they prepared to do so now?*

## All at sea....

**Dr V Smith**

Our energy policy is all at sea, in every sense! Our coasts and near-shore waters are being threatened by massive offshore arrays of turbines. The structures within them are, and will continue to be, very much taller and have wider blade sweeps than any current onshore ones, and the arrays will cover areas far greater than any land-based wind farm. The scale of these developments make it inconceivable that the seabed and the local ecosystem surrounding the arrays could remain unaffected.

As might be expected, seabirds and migratory species will be at very high risk through direct collision. The larger blade diameters mean there is a huge 'catch area' at a height at which seabirds fly when seeking prey. The concentration of most wind arrays will make it extremely difficult for birds to navigate safely, so it is highly likely that turbine related bird-kills would be much greater offshore than on land. Local populations of seabirds are likely to be less able to sustain such high levels of turbine mortalities, as they tend to live longer and have fewer young than other birds.

Noise is an inherent pollutant of wind energy, arguably more so offshore, as sound and vibration travel 5 times faster in water than in air. Piling during array construction will, without doubt, create excessive noise and vibration, and, throughout turbine operation, there will be audible and infrasound problems from the blades. Marine mammals have very sensitive hearing, as do many fish. Both use sound for communication and to sense their surroundings as a 'soundscape'. Turbine noise disorients these animals, thereby affecting their

ability to find food, avoid predation and secure a mate. Over time, the animals are likely to become chronically stressed; a state that impairs immunity to disease, growth and fecundity. Remarkably, even shellfish are averse to loud or anthropogenic noise; a recent study has shown that scallop larvae show abnormal development when subjected to prolonged loud noises.

Construction also causes huge disturbance of the bottom sediment. This has the effect of increasing turbidity and also risks bringing historic pollutants, (e.g. heavy metals, organo-chlorines and PCBs) buried in the silt to the surface. Such compounds could re-enter the food chain, perhaps even reaching human consumers. Increase in turbidity will not end after construction is complete, as wind-wake from the blades cumulatively creates oscillation in water around the array, posing a threat to burrows and breeding sites for benthic organisms. Prolonged turbidity will block light penetration and impede growth of photosynthetic organisms, such as seaweeds and phytoplankton in the water column. Ironically it is the tiny single-celled photosynthetic algae that play such an important role in fixing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. So offshore turbines reduce CO<sub>2</sub> levels?

Large arrays have other important impacts on marine life. For example, underwater power cables linking the array to the grid create electromagnetic fields, which are noisome to a number of animals. These EM fields, together with noise, vibration, turbidity and the sheer physical presence of such extensive installations, create barriers for the free movement of marine animals foraging or mate seeking. This, in effect, fragments the habitat. Habitat

fragmentation is the greatest threat to biodiversity in rainforests. Intense array developments in coastal waters (which also have high species diversity) would have a similar effect. Our coastal waters are extremely important for our wellbeing, food, wealth and the health of the planet. We damage them at our peril.



### **Consultation Response Form**

The Government's consultation on offshore wind closes on 13<sup>th</sup> November, so there is still a small amount of time left to send in a response. We have again attached the simplified form created by Struan Stevenson MEP, for any that missed it with the last newsletter, and urge you to complete it and send it in before the deadline, if you haven't already done so.

The email address to send it to is [offshorerenewableenergy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:offshorerenewableenergy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Also attached to this newsletter is the response from South West Wind Farm Action Group in Wigtownshire and TW312 in Stewartry, who are working together to prevent a wall of turbines being built along the Solway Firth. They would be very grateful if you were able to add your support to their campaign by filling in the form and sending it in.

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## Victory at Harelaw...

Anti windfarm campaigners were delighted last month when Scottish Ministers agreed with the Reporter's recommendation to refuse the massive Harelaw Windfarm of 39 x 120m turbines straddling the East Renfrewshire and East Ayrshire boundaries.

Aileen Jackson, who lives close by, attended the entire two-week Public Inquiry and reported back to us.

*The outcome of Harelaw was a huge relief to those who would have been most affected. Consent would have condemned many in East Renfrewshire and East Ayrshire to a life of misery, and Glasgow's southside citizens to a visual effect akin to being incarcerated!*

All those present at the Inquiry were

*impressed by the professionalism and humour of Karen Heywood, who is now Assistant Chief Reporter, keeping everyone from witnesses to Senior Counsel in their place! For some, giving evidence and being cross examined put them outside their comfort zone, but they were rightly proud of the part they played in securing a good outcome, supported throughout by their expert team.*

*It is unfortunate that East Renfrewshire Council, who supported us by objecting to the windfarm are now the subject of an Inquiry themselves, for failing to admit initially that they were aware that neighbouring Middleton Windfarm had been consented without a noise condition, which had a knock-on effect*

*on Harelaw. This resulted in a second Inquiry in November last year, to help the Reporter clarify the position, and put the applicant, objectors and both local authorities to extra expense. Due to Freedom of Information requests submitted by objectors, the Reporter concluded the Council had acted unreasonably in failing to disclose important information, and awarded partial expenses to both the applicant and objectors.*

This is the third s.36 in a row to be refused, with Allt Duine and Rowantree still awaiting a decision. Can Fergus Ewing (MSP) make it a full house with a referendum imminent, and renewable energy increasingly at the forefront of political debate?

## Fergus Ewing (MSP) now on the run...?

Last month we reported on the failure of Fergus Ewing (MSP) to make a scheduled appearance on the BBC radio programme *Call Kaye*. (Fergus Ewing (MSP) on the ropes...?) Now it seems that not turning up is becoming a bit of a habit for Mr Ewing.

Scheduled to appear at Drone Hill Windfarm on Coldingham Moor to officially 'open' the development there, the ceremony was cancelled by the developers, AES, shortly before the date. A small band of hardy protestors still made sure they made an appearance though, (just in case Mr Ewing changed his mind at the last minute), and spoke directly to a reporter at the [Berwickshire News](#) about why they are opposed to the windfarm, and to wind energy policy. (Please see link for full article.)

Officially Mr Ewing's non-appearance was due to 'diary pressures', but we suspect the adverse publicity windfarms and wind energy policy now attract is enough to see Ministers quietly running in the opposite direction!

## Noise News....

*More encouraging news for those of you suffering from noisy turbines and apathetic Environmental Health Officers....*

After hearing last month of a small turbine near Kirkcudbright which had been issued with a noise abatement notice and is now lying prostrate in a field, we were delighted to hear that two 6kw Proven turbines at Blacklaw Primary School in East Kilbride are about to suffer the same fate. Neighbours had been complaining to their Environmental Health Officer about noise and flicker problems for four years, one reporting her dog had developed epilepsy within weeks of the turbines becoming operational. Council Officials were reluctant to put a stop to the pupils' green project but after hearing of Aileen Jackson's successful noise abatement case, complainants approached Councillors with renewed vigor, resulting in both turbines being turned off and now awaiting removal.

In last month's newsletter, we also highlighted the case of *Sleepless in Aberdeenshire*, where one family had been suffering for eighteen months with the noise from their neighbour's three medium-sized turbines. Having checked their house insurance and sought legal advice, they were on the verge of commencing with their own private **nuisance** case when EHOs belatedly got a grip with the meaning of the word, as opposed to counting decibels! It now seems hopeful that the Local Authority will shortly commence enforcement action under the terms of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.



There seems to be a growing awareness amongst both the public and Environmental Health Officers, of the true meaning of the word **nuisance** in relation to the character of wind turbine noise, and we are quietly optimistic that many more turbines will be decommissioned on those grounds in the near future.

## Dark skies no more...?

We recently reported the threat to national security of turbine development around Eskdalemuir, the national 'listening station'. It is not, however, the only nationally important institution whose purpose may be compromised by the current onslaught of wind applications.

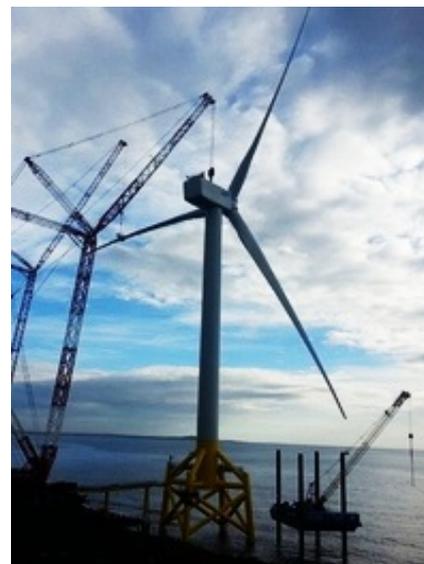
The Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park was opened last year by Alex Salmond himself, and is home to the only publicly accessible, research-grade observatory within such a park. It was made possible by the exceptionally dark skies in the area, uncontaminated by artificial illumination. However, there are now nine windfarm applications in the vicinity at various stages of the planning process. Many of the turbines will have infra-red safety

lights on their hubs, as required for MOD and aviation safety, affecting the ability of astronomers to use sensitive equipment, and the current visibility of stars, galaxies and comets.

Professor John Brown, the Astronomer Royal for Scotland is now calling on Mr Salmond to continue his support of the park, and to put his money where his mouth is by ensuring that windfarms are excluded from the entire Dark Sky Park area.

## GIANT in the making....

A simply huge offshore test turbine is being constructed by Samsung just 65m off the shoreline of Methil in Fife. At 196m in height, it will tower



over the whole region, but it's not yet really clear how true offshore conditions will be replicated in this location. We'll bring you the full story (and pictures) in the next edition.

## IPCC 'Bible' changes its doctrine....

The latest report from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – the so-called 'Bible' – was finally published on 27<sup>th</sup> September, but while previous editions (the last was 2009), have evoked high praise and panic in equal measure, the response from the awaiting media this time was a much greater level of scepticism and a certain quiet disappointment from some, that the 'Chicken-Licken' days of imminent global catastrophe are perhaps not so imminent after all.

Reading between the lines, the report now admits that there has been a 15 year standstill in temperature rises, which they had not predicted and now cannot explain. Warming, they reluctantly concede, has been much slower than expected, and they have now had to lower their estimate of how much temperatures will rise by the end of the century, estimating instead, a rise of 1-2.5C, of which approximately half has already happened. They have had to admit

that floods and storms are not happening more frequently and that sea level rises – about 1ft each century – are not accelerating. Dire, apocalyptic predictions of increases in the spread of malaria, of millions of climate refugees and ice caps in the Antarctic melting have also disappeared. So what's left?

The IPCC's overall assertion - that they are 95% certain that more than half of the warming since 1950 is man-made - is a very diluted version of their previous conclusions. Matt Ridley, writing in the *Times*, christened it *lukewarming*, a witty and apt description. Man has warmed the world, will probably warm it some more, and developed societies are producing CO<sub>2</sub>, but this alone doesn't cause catastrophe; there has to be *threefold amplification by extra water vapour*, and apparently, that isn't happening. In fact, there is a growing trend of thought that warming at the rate the IPCC now expects may be largely beneficial for the planet.

(See the [Sun's](#) new campaign against green energy levies.) Longer growing seasons, fewer droughts, fewer winter deaths from cold, and a 'greening' of the planet as plant life benefits from all the extra CO<sub>2</sub>.

If so, can climate change really continue to be used as justification for wrecking the environment with 'green' technologies? Is it still ok to carpet our landscapes with turbines, roadways and pylons, destroying wildlife and the very environments we are being told wind technology was meant to preserve? Professor Judith Curry of the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology thinks not, and made this response to the IPCC and its report.

*Once you sort out the uncertainty in climate sensitivity estimates and fix your climate models, let us know.... And let us know if you come up with any solutions to this 'problem' that aren't worse than the potential problem itself.*

Quite.

## Europe's new energy direction...?

On 7<sup>th</sup> September, Tony Abbott, head of the conservative Liberal Party in Australia claimed victory in elections to become their new Prime Minister. He brings with him significant changes to the country's position on climate change, carbon emissions and renewable energy.

His victory followed six years of political turmoil, during which Julia Gillard, when leading the Labor Party and Government in 2012, imposed a widely unpopular carbon tax. According to some estimates, this increased the country's energy bills by more than 100%, and it was partly the backlash created by this policy that brought Tony Abbott to power.



Tony Abbot, the new Australian Prime Minister

A highly controversial figure, Mr Abbott has stated that the science supporting climate change is *absolute crap*, although he has conceded that the politics of climate change are tough for his party, as 80% of Australians believe that climate change is a *real and present danger*.

In recognition of this latter fact, he is introducing a programme - *Direct Action* - which will provide \$3billion in grants and subsidies to encourage energy efficiency, although he has stated that he will cap the programme's budget regardless of whether or not it enables Australia to reach its goal of reducing emissions by 5% by 2020. He is also planning to shut down the government's *Clean Energy Finance Corporation*, which cost Australians \$10 billion, but the very first thing

he hopes to accomplish in Australia in the next three years is the scrapping of the hated carbon tax. It might not be as easy to achieve as he hopes, unless the Liberal Party is able to win full control of the senate, but it is, nevertheless, very clear that Australia is calling a halt to its costly 'green' policies.

And they are by no means the only country to be doing so. At the beginning of August this year, the Czech government decided to halt all subsidies for new renewable energy projects by the end of this year. Czech Prime Minister, Jiri Rusnok said the *...reason for this law amendment is the rising financial burden for electricity consumers... It threatens the competitiveness of our industry and raises consumers' uncertainty about power prices.*

Europe is now facing a huge dilemma about the cost of its *green energy revolution*. EU member states have spent about €600bn on renewable energy projects since 2005. (*Bloomberg New Energy Finance*.) These hundreds of billions are being paid by ordinary families and small to medium-sized businesses, reducing consumer spending power in a continent already struggling with a severe economic and financial crisis.

The emergence of cheap shale gas in America has thrown into sharp relief the difficulties of increasing European energy prices in the global market place. As a result, many EU member states have begun the process of rolling back and cutting their renewable energy strategies and subsidies. At the EU summit in Brussels last May, leaders indicated that they intended to prioritise the issue of affordable energy over cutting greenhouse gas emissions by supporting the development of cheap energy, including shale gas,

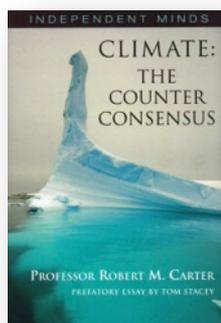
and cutting green energy subsidies. This has alarmed EU environment ministers, many of whom are now seeking to prevent the development of EU shale resources by trying to introduce EU-wide environmental barriers. (France has just introduced a blanket-ban on fracking, but produces much of its energy via nuclear power.)

The assumption of European policymakers that its main competitors would follow the shift from cheap fossil fuels to expensive green energy has not materialised, and is beginning to look increasingly naïve. Europe's strategy was founded on two fears: that global warming was an imminent threat that needed to be prevented at all costs; and that the world was running out of fossil fuels, making oil and gas increasingly expensive. In the wake of the shale gas revolution in America, and now the release of the new IPCC Climate Change report, both of these assumptions are beginning to look somewhat shaky. Which way will Europe go?

All the indications are that the current UK government shares this dilemma over the cost of, and justification for 'green' energy, but the Scottish Government does not. However, Tony Abbott in Australia is not the only politician making new energy policy promises to secure votes. In last month's German elections, Chancellor Angela Merkel promised German voters to drastically curtail the €20bn annual (yes, *annual!*) burden of the renewable energy levy they currently pay if she won. Now that she has, it's a question of when, rather than if, these subsidies are cut. With the Scottish Independence Referendum less than a year away in 2014, and government elections in 2015, Alex Salmond should surely be taking note.

## SAS Bookshelf....

The release of the *International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*'s report at the end of last month, lead to a flood of articles, interviews and blog pieces in the main stream press, all with their own particular view of what it means for climate change theory, and for the renewable energy industry in particular. In fact, there have been plenty of books written since the IPCC was set up in 1988, challenging their ideas, but such has been the strangle-hold of the *Anthropogenic* (or man-made) *Global Warming (AGW)* theory on the mainstream media, and its proponents' dire warnings of imminent global catastrophe, few of these books have been given much attention. One that stands out however is *Climate: the Counter Consensus* by Professor Robert Carter.



*Climate: The Counter Consensus*  
by Professor Robert Carter,  
Independent Minds, 2010

A palaeoclimatologist with over 40 years of research experience into ancient environments and climates, and a string of qualifications from eminent institutions around the world, Professor Carter is one of the few amongst the scientific community who could claim the status of 'expert' in the field of climatology. It is to his credit though that one of his very first assertions is that *no one person* currently has a full understanding of the hugely complex and dynamic climate mechanisms at work around the planet, himself included.

His dispassionate scrutiny of the current available evidence about AGW and climate change is both

easy to understand, and worth taking note of. He gives a clear assessment of the scientific basis of AGW, looking at, amongst other things, the short meteorological records that have, and still are being used by the IPCC, the current understanding of CO<sub>2</sub> as a driver for climate change, of the oceans as CO<sub>2</sub> sinks, and the very real and dangerous limitations of computer modeling. Professor Carter also looks closely at the role the IPCC has played in politicising science within society.

*It is a profound truth that science is not concerned with authority, nor with consensus, but with testing hypotheses.... Regrettably, though, the global warming discussion in the public domain ceased to be about science many years ago, ever since the coining and relentless reiteration of the silly mantras that 'the science is settled' and 'there is a consensus'.*

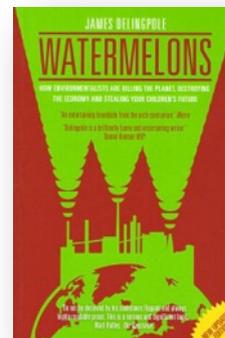
Central to this have been the actions of the IPCC and *noble cause corruption* within the scientific community, resulting, he argues, in an increasing loss of confidence in the scientific community as a whole, closely followed by the politicians whose responsibility it is to find credible solutions to the very real problems that natural climate change will bring. Yet they seem to continue pursuing....

*....the alarmist agenda of global warming extremism even to the point of inflicting yet more pointless damage on an already teetering global economy.*

A detailed, and authoritative book, easily digestible and very illuminating on the field of climate science, scientific method and the politicisation of modern science.

For a very entertaining read on the subject of climate change, you

would be hard pressed to find better than *Watermelons: How Environmentalists are Killing the Planet, Destroying the Economy and Stealing Your Children's Future* by James Delingpole.



*Watermelons* by James Delingpole,  
Biteback Publishing, 2012

Whether or not you agree with him, James Delingpole's prose is certainly witty, sharp, and provocative, challenging the reader to reassess their own ideas and thoughts on a whole range of subjects, none more so than climate change. Have you been cajoled or even duped into a particular political position by a subtle blend of lobbyists, media, and politicians? *Watermelons* is an unsettling, thought-provoking and amusing look at climate change politics in Britain for which Mr Delingpole rightly deserves our appreciation.

Finally a quick mention for Donna Laframboise's extensive and meticulous crowdsourcing analysis of the IPCC, *The Delinquent Teenager Who Was Mistaken for the World's Top Climate Expert*, available from her website at [www.noconsensus.org](http://www.noconsensus.org)

Donna Laframboise takes a detailed look at the individuals selected by the IPCC to write their Climate Change 'Bible', and the very deliberate means used to arrive at politically desirable conclusions. If you want to know more about this relatively obscure but incredibly powerful UN group and how they operate, then give this a go. It will make your head spin!

## Ode to a wind turbine....

In response to our call for chants and songs to use on the protest march in Perth, we received a fair few from Supporters across Scotland. And some of you were moved to go further. Liz McLaughlin put pen to paper, and came up with this lengthy ode, which we thought you might enjoy....

### ....And who will pay?

Liz McLaughlin (an ex-SNP voter!)

Said Alex Salmond in his spin,  
"We will capture and use the wind  
This is the answer to all our ills."  
So now we have these Fools on  
Hills...  
...And we will pay

To farmers and councils and owners  
of land,  
"Our Eck" threw money - fist over  
hand.  
Their noses are down deep in the  
trough.  
The turbines pay out whether  
they're on or off!  
... And we will pay

The energy companies with little  
ado,  
Are given money from me and you.  
Obscene amounts they call  
subsidies,  
Just to build these monstrosities...  
...And we will pay

The 'lectric they make we can't even  
store.  
They can't make enough, of that  
'they' are sure.  
And how many more are we likely  
to get?  
Here's a shock. You've seen nothing  
yet!

...And we will pay

They say that it's cheap and very  
green,  
But there's hundreds of jobs we've  
never seen.  
Each one costs us loads of cash,  
But here's the rub - it's cheaper  
WITH gas!  
...And we will pay

They're going up now bigger and  
quicker,  
But nothing is said about the noise  
and the flicker.  
They're even known to sometimes  
explode.  
Let's hope it's not near a school or  
a road.  
...And still we pay

They're white and reach some awful  
height.  
The arrays on the hills are a terrible  
sight.  
They're massive and as their blades  
spin round.  
Across the world they're falling  
down!  
...And still we pay

Useless and ugly and expensive to  
boot,  
With hidden dangers - who gives a  
hoot?  
The promises he makes - don't

believe a word!

What does it matter if they kill the  
odd bird?

...And still we pay?

So meet *Salmond's Folly* - the Wind  
Turbine,  
Paid by people, some on the  
breadline.

In a few years from now, after He  
has spoken,  
When the turbines lie down, all  
rusted and broken...

...Who will pay  
then?



### CXC diary date....

ClimateXChange, is Scotland's  
....centre of expertise on climate  
change, supporting the Scottish  
Government's policy development on  
building resilience to climate change,  
reducing emissions and...transition to  
a low carbon economy. We've spotted  
one of their events that may be of  
particular interest to SAS  
Supporters - *Social Assets in  
Community Renewables*.

This event explores the social and  
political factors influencing the  
success or failure of community  
energy projects in Scotland.

Participants include academics,  
decision-makers and community  
representatives and practitioners.

We certainly think it would be  
worth going in order to make some  
waves about the impacts of current  
actual policy (including CARES, etc)  
amongst the well-meaning  
professors.

The event is free, in Edinburgh, and  
on Friday 8 Nov, 9am - 1pm.

You can find out more information  
and book a space online at the  
[Eventbrite website](#).

**We hope to see many of you at our special Scotland Against Spin Conference in Stirling next month (see separate flyer with this Newsletter for details), where we can catch up on the latest thinking about the financial implications of wind energy and put a few names to faces. In the meantime, if you have a news item about your campaign, a national policy development, or even a poem or two, then send it in to us and we'll include it in the next newsletter.**

**Kind Regards,**

**Graham, Linda, James, Aileen and Sarah**

**The SAS team**

**SAS Chair – Graham Lang, Secretary – Philip Mould, Treasurer – Simon Andrews, Press – Linda Holt,  
12 Webmaster – James Glen, Noise/Planning – Aileen Jackson, Supporters/Newsletter – Sarah Burnside,  
Expert Contributors – Dr Rachel Connor, Tim Harrison, Dr V Smith, Cartoons – Iain Green**