

WWF Scotland

MEDIA RELEASE

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“FLYING START” TO 2015 FOR WIND POWER IN SCOTLAND – NEW DATA PUBLISHED

+ Wind output by over a quarter compared to last year

January got 2015 off to a “flying start” when it came to wind power output in Scotland new figures published today (Wednesday 4 February) reveal. [1]

Analysis by WWF Scotland of data [2] provided by WeatherEnergy found that for the month of January:

- Wind turbines alone provided an estimated 1,307,629MWh of electricity to the National Grid, enough to supply, on average, the electrical needs of 146% of Scottish households (3.5 million homes) - This represents an increase of 27% compared to January 2014, when wind energy provided 1,033,130MWh.
- Maximum output was on 14 January, when generation was an estimated 60,800MWh, enough to supply 5m homes – equivalent to 206% of all Scottish households.
- Minimum output was on 19 January, when generation was an estimated 8,371MWh, enough to supply 688,931 homes – equivalent to 28% of all Scottish households.
- Wind generated enough output to supply 100% or more of Scottish homes on 24 out of the 31 days of January, including two days where output was equivalent to more than 200%.
- Despite it being winter, for homes fitted with solar PV panels, there was enough sunshine to generate an estimated 37% of the electricity needs of an average home in Aberdeen, 30% in Glasgow, and 24% in Edinburgh.
- For those homes fitted with solar hot water panels, there was enough sunshine in Aberdeen to generate an estimated 45% of an average households hot water needs and 29% in Edinburgh.

WWF Scotland’s director Lang Banks said:

“While January’s wintry weather caused havoc for many people, it also proved to be a good month for wind power output in Scotland, with enough pollution-free electricity generated to supply the needs of 146% of Scottish households. Even better, wind output was up by a quarter compared to the same period last year. Even on calmer days, when wind wasn’t at its strongest, wind still generated enough to support the electricity needs of more than a quarter of our households.

“While January’s wind output may have got 2015 off to a flyer, it’s important to remember that household electricity demand only makes up two-fifths of Scotland’s total needs. So, if we are to meet Scotland’s aspiration to generate all of our electricity needs from renewables we still need to see more renewables deployed alongside a step change in energy efficiency.

“Our recently published study on delivering a decarbonised electricity system shows that a renewable efficient power system for Scotland is perfectly achievable by 2030. However, for this to happen we need to see a commitment to a 2030 UK-wide electricity decarbonisation target, long-term certainty for the renewables sector, and much greater efforts to reduce electricity demand. [3] We’re looking forward to seeing what each of the political parties will set out in their election manifestos that will help deliver a low-carbon Scotland.”

ends

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

[1] Part of a joint project to help the public better understand the nation’s renewable energy resource, the data is provided by WeatherEnergy, and is part of the European EnergizAIR project, supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme, led by the European Agency for Competiveness and Innovation (EACI). The project currently has partners in ten European countries. Severn Wye Energy Agency is the UK partner.

<http://www.weatherenergy.co.uk>

[2] Wind data for January

	Production (MWh)	Equivalent number of households potentially provided	% of households
Scotland	1,307,629MWh	3.5 million homes	146% (of Scottish households)

Solar PV data for January

	Production in kWh	% of an average household electricity demand provided by PV
Aberdeen	140 kWh	37.9%
Edinburgh	111.8 kWh	24.1%
Glasgow	89.1 kWh	30.25%
Inverness	58.9 kWh	15.94%

Solar thermal data for January

	% of an average household hot water provided by solar thermal
Aberdeen	45%
Edinburgh	29%
Glasgow	21%
Inverness	9%

In generating the monthly report, the following assumptions are made:

- Average annual Scottish household electricity consumption - 4,435 kWh (and is greater than the UK average)
- Number of households in Scotland - 2.42 million.
- Total electricity consumption in Scotland is 25,873GWh, of which 41% is domestic and 59% is non-domestic.
- Average solar PV installation - 3kW
- Average hot water (thermal) installation - 4.62m²
- Average household daily hot water consumption - 122 litres

For wind power, live wind energy output data is aggregated from nearly 8 GW of currently running wind farms in the UK, together with data from UKWED which shows the capacity of wind energy installed in each UK region. Government data is used to provide the capacity factor of wind energy in each region. All of this data is combined by WeatherEnergy's EnergizAIR computer model to produce a realistic estimate of how much energy has been generated by the wind turbines in each region, it then converts this into how many homes could have been provided by energy from wind power.

Further technical information can be found here:

http://www.weatherenergy.co.uk/sites/default/files/About%20WeatherEnergy_technical%20%282%29.pdf

[3] Pathways to Power Report

<http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/pathwaystopower.pdf>

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