

It's Scotland's Energy

Scottish Parliament Debate, 28 May 2026

Summary

- People in Scotland should be the **first to benefit** from our energy system. It should bring down our bills, create good jobs, and generate wealth that's fairly shared by all. This means we need a **publicly owned energy system, based on renewable energy**.
- Fossil fuels keep our **bills high** and accelerate the destructive effects of **climate breakdown**, such as extreme weather events like storms, flood and heatwaves.
- **Private fossil fuel companies have derailed the energy transition**, decreasing their investments in renewables, increasing their oil and gas portfolios, and laying off North Sea workers.
- MSPs can support increased public ownership and a fair transition to renewables by advocating for the measures set out in this briefing.

Reclaiming Scotland's Energy

Scotland's energy wealth has not been fairly shared among people living in Scotland or those who helped to create it. Private corporations are first to benefit from our energy system and infrastructure, leaving workers and communities frustrated and worse off. Repeated fossil fuel crises have left Scottish households with ever-increasing bills, while witnessing huge rises in private company profits. Since the beginning of the war in Iran, the world's top 100 oil and gas companies have made \$31 million per hour, while Ofgem announced the next price cap will increase by nearly 13%, adding over £200 to the average household's annual bill. One in three households in Scotland are in fuel poverty.

Energy can only meaningfully be "Scotland's energy" if it is run in the public interest. This means increasing public ownership of manufacturing and generation, accelerating the transition to renewables, and phasing out fossil fuels quickly and fairly.

Owning our energy

There are a number of ways in which the Scottish Government could increase public control and ownership of our energy, that MSPs can advocate for:

- **Take a stake in all future offshore wind projects to generate public revenue.** Offshore wind is growing impressively in Scotland, yet we risk the benefits being privatised and the manufacturing jobs offshored. A minimum 20% equity stake, funded through bodies like the Scottish National Investment Bank, would secure revenue generation and good manufacturing jobs here in Scotland.
- **Fund local councils to invest in local renewable energy projects to generate local income.** Orkney Islands Council has developed its own wind farms, generating income that helps to fund social care, education, and transport services for local people. This in turn creates more support for local renewables projects among the communities that live near them.
- **Give local communities more opportunities to own local energy projects.** In Denmark, two-thirds of onshore wind is community owned, compared to less than 1% in Scotland. Supporting communities in this way generates substantial income and enables the people who live in energy-rich communities to play a meaningful role in the move to renewables.

A fair transition to renewables

Scotland's energy should be based on renewables, which lower our bills, create jobs, and stop the impacts of worsening climate breakdown. MSPs can support a fair phase out of fossil fuels by:

- Call on the Scottish Government to **reject SSE's proposal to build a new gas burning power station in Peterhead** and oppose new oil & gas drilling in the North Sea, including the Rosebank field.
- Support a permanent **windfall tax** that curbs fossil fuel industry profiteering. Energy companies made £125 billion in profits since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Maintaining this public revenue would enable the redistribution of resources to household support for energy bills.
- Increase investment in the **Oil and Gas Transition Training Fund**, expanding the access of the scheme to all oil and gas workers. The introduction of this fund is a welcome start, but progress needs to be significantly hastened to **enable all oil and gas workers** to be able to access the fund.