

PRESS RELEASE

GREEN ENERGY CAN DELIVER GREEN SHOOTS OF RECOVERY

20 May 2009

The Scottish Council for Development and Industry has welcomed the Scottish Government's support for the renewable energy sector, and urged ministers to ensure that we convert new technologies to new industries.

Gareth Williams, Policy Manager, said:

“Scotland is blessed with vast wind and marine energy resources, and has the potential to be the renewable energy powerhouse not just of the UK but of Europe, making a massive contribution to meeting climate change targets.

“The green energy sector will be a key driver of the new world economy and can deliver the ‘green shoots’ of recovery we all want to see in Scotland. Our research estimates that Scotland alone will see a spend of some £13bn on new electricity generation and distribution over the next ten years.

“But to achieve this we need targeted support for research and development to make sure our technological lead in marine power delivers early commercial developments, faster connections to the Grid, and a speedier planning system.

“We need all levels of government to work with the industry to make sure that the opening of Whitelee is another step towards hitting our target of 50 per cent of electricity from renewable sources by 2020, and the first of many major investments in Scotland's green energy sector.”

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