

Teviot Wind Farm

Climate Emergency

The Climate Emergency we currently face requires immediate action. It is one of the most pervasive and threatening crises of our time. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report claims that it is unequivocal and indisputable that humans are warming the planet, with temperatures being the hottest on record over the last five years since 1850¹.

The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net zero by 2045 at the latest. This is an ambitious target which is achievable but projects such as the proposed Teviot Wind Farm will make a meaningful contribution towards that target.

In September 2020, Scottish Borders Council declared a Climate Emergency and set the target of the region emitting net zero carbon by 2045, in line with the Scottish target.

In Scotland, renewable energy has come to play an increasingly important role in the electricity market, with the equivalent of 96% of electricity consumption sourced from renewable sources in 2020². As a result, the equivalent of almost all of Scotland's electricity demand can now be met from renewable sources. However, the share of all energy consumption sourced from renewables is much lower, at around a quarter (24%)², as other areas of the economy, notably transport and heat, remain reliant on fossil fuels.

As Scotland and the UK transition towards a more sustainable economy, these areas will increasingly be powered electrically. For example, the UK Government announced in November 2020³, that the sale of new petrol and diesel cars will not be allowed from 2030, and has signalled its commitment to a cleaner transport system. In Scotland, transportation accounts for around a third of emissions⁴. A significant contributor to these emissions are the 2.5 million cars on Scotland's roads, which account for around 8% of the UK's 32.9 million cars⁵. Currently less than 1% of the UK's vehicles are battery powered⁶.

Teviot Wind Farm will generate renewable energy from the wind and the sun. The electricity produced by Teviot Wind Farm will result in a saving in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) with associated environmental benefits (see **Board 6**), making a significant contribution to Scotland's net zero targets and all from the cheapest form of electricity production in Scotland⁷.

1 IPCC (2021) Climate change 2021: The Physical Science Basis – Sixth Assessment Report
2 Scottish Government (2021) Energy Statistics for Scotland Q1 2021 Figures
3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-historic-step-towards-net-zero-with-end-of-sale-of-new-petrol-and-diesel-cars-by-2030>
4 Scottish Government (2020) Climate Change Plan Update
5 Department of Transport (2020) VEH0104: Licensed vehicles by body type and region
6 Department of Transport (2020) VEH0130: Licensed ultra low emission vehicles by body type
7 <https://www.gov.scot/policies/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy/onshore-wind/>

