

A year in review

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Photo: Bob Taylor



Dear Member

Over the past year, AREG has continued to support its members and the rapidly progressing energy transition, working with the oil and gas industry, encouraging decarbonisation and all forms of renewable energy. With all our activities we have championed the North-east's ambition to be a globally recognised integrated energy cluster.

It is an exciting time for AREG and for our members working at the forefront of transition in sectors including offshore wind, wave and tidal, hydrogen, transport and aviation.

We have continued to attract new members and seen an increase from 230 to 280 members over the last 12 months.

The recent members' survey highlighted a keen interest from members in contributing to AREG at a strategic level. Following nominations, five new directors were elected in June 2022 bringing with them a wide range of expertise.

They include Sven van den Bedem, energy transition manager, Shell; Nassima Brown, co-founder and director of business strategy, Fennex; Jason Hendry, managing director for England and renewables strategy, Peterson; Rodney Hutchison, legal director, MacRoberts LLP; and Dr Alfonso Martinez-Felipe, senior lecturer, University of Aberdeen.

The combined experience of the board enhances our ability to support members and promote the North-east of Scotland as a world leading destination for the production and use of renewable energy.

Strengthening the board further, councillor Ian Yuill was appointed as a director in October 2022, representing Aberdeen City Council.

Demonstrating the capabilities within the region and the expertise of our members was key to launching AREG's inaugural Energy Futures conference, exhibition and dinner last November. This was met with tremendous support from across the energy sector, from both members and wider industry. We would like to thank our sponsors, without whom the event would not have been possible.

AREG is building on the momentum created by the conference with a diverse calendar of Energy Futures activities planned for 2023-24. This reflects our continued priority to support members as they develop their businesses and secure new opportunities.

As the energy transition gathers pace and we progress plans to celebrate our 20th anniversary toward the end of the year, there is much to build upon and we plan to be at the heart of representing and working with our 280+ members.

Jean S Morrison MBE
AREG chairperson, March 2023

A year of challenges and opportunities for the North-east



Last year was full of challenges and opportunities for the North-east, including the announcement of 20 new ScotWind projects, some of which are off the coast of Aberdeen. These will bring investment to the area, opportunities for the local supply chain and potentially hundreds of jobs.

There is much to be optimistic about with several major renewable energy projects underway including the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub, the potential for the Acorn Carbon Capture and Storage project and an expected 5.5GW from the Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas (INTOG) leasing round.

The £400m game-changing Port of Aberdeen South Harbour expansion has developed at pace, creating opportunities for existing customers and new markets. Located next to the Energy Transition Zone (ETZ), this offers the potential to create transition-related jobs and help accelerate the delivery of net zero goals.

Although we are pleased that Inverness and Cromarty Firth and Forth Ports were selected as Scotland's first Green Freeports, we were disappointed that

Aberdeen and Peterhead's joint bid for a North East Scotland Green Freeport missed out on securing government funding and potential jobs. With the skills, expertise, and infrastructure already in place, the tax, and other benefits of freeport status could have helped advance the move to net zero.

Ongoing challenges for the region include the continued impact of Brexit, the cost-of-living crisis, war in Ukraine, and uncertainty over the Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan. We believe our region, with over 50 years' experience in the energy sector, is well placed to become a global leader in transition and renewable energy.

We are committed to supporting the supply chain, giving our members a powerful voice in the sector, and championing the North-east as a centre of excellence for the energy transition.



Photo: Iain Cridland

Meet our new board members



Councillor Ian Yuill
Aberdeen City Council



Rod Hutchison
legal director, MacRoberts LLP



Sven van den Bedem
energy transition business opportunity manager, Shell



Nassima Brown
co-founder and director of business strategy, Fennex



Jason Hendry
managing director for England and renewables strategy, Peterson



Dr Alfonso Martinez-Felipe
senior lecturer, University of Aberdeen





- > Over 500 delegates registered
- > 20+ exhibitors
- > A keynote speech by Michael Matheson Net Zero and Energy Secretary
- > bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd demonstrator model

AREG membership activities and events in 2022

During 2022, AREG continued to host a series of virtual and in person events, with the Energy Futures Conference and Exhibition being the highlight.

With 500 delegates attending the conference and a packed line-up of speakers, the event last November was a huge success. Four panel sessions throughout the day covered offshore renewables, supply chain, North-east hydrogen ambition, education, skills and training. Post event feedback showed a clear appetite for another event, which is something we are considering for 2024.

During his opening speech Michael Matheson, Net Zero and Energy Secretary, highlighted the significance of the event and the relevance of its timely agenda taking place in Europe's energy capital, pointing to opportunities ahead for the region to take a lead in the global energy transition.

The busy exhibition hall was packed with 20 stands and included a focus on technology and innovation, with a tech bites' area, hosted by OGV, and bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd's demonstrator model, which showcased how Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub will operate when it starts producing hydrogen in 2024.

During the year, we hosted three webinars, which covered the future of sustainable aviation with Air France and KLM, Crown Estate Scotland shared more about the next steps for ScotWind and our skills webinar included speakers from OEUK, ETZ, the Energy Transition Institute and OPITO.

Alongside the webinars, AREG's popular network series continued with online events including an informative update on Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub with Dr Oliver Taylor, CEO, bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Ltd.

A well-attended calendar of meetings also took place for our policy, supply chain and technology and professional services networks. The Renewable Energy Young Professionals' (REYP) network, sponsored by OPITO, held three in person events and continued to attract young talent from across the energy sector.

In 2023 we will build on the themes from the Energy Futures Conference with our newly branded Energy Futures webinar and network series. This will continue to cover topics including ScotWind and INTOG across key areas of interest to our members – communications, government policy, supply chain and technology, and professional services.

A full calendar of events, including plans for our 20th anniversary celebrations, will be published on the AREG website in the coming weeks.

Our member only bulletins, newsflashes, and integrated social media plan reflect the diverse interests of AREG members and our #MemberMonday series continues to spotlight members, alongside social media, and website news, showcasing member products, services, and achievements.

We look forward to continuing to build relationships with our membership community and welcoming new members over the coming year.

For more information about joining AREG email info@aberdeenrenewables.com or visit our website.

The Art of Renewable Energy 2023 photo calendar competition

AREG's photo calendar competition, The Art of Renewable Energy, received an extremely high standard of entries from across Scotland, making it hard for our judges to select 13 winning images.

We asked amateur photographers to share their views of Scotland's changing energy mix through a camera lens.

After much debate, Tom Forbes was announced as the overall competition winner. He was presented with his prize of £200 by our calendar sponsor, STROMAR, at a breakfast event at Aberdeen Science Centre in December.

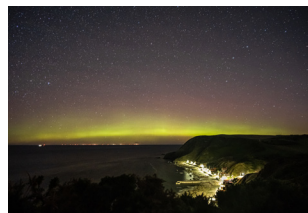
Mr Forbes' winning image, which features on the front page of the 2023 calendar, shows an open water swimmer entering the

freezing North Sea with Aberdeen Wind Farm and offshore industry supply vessels in the background.

Twelve runners up each received £50 and had their photos included in the calendar.

The 13 winning images are on display at Aberdeen Science Centre for the remainder of 2023.

We'd like to thank STROMAR for sponsoring and supporting the calendar competition for the past two years and we look forward to launching the 2024 calendar competition in May.



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT





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Europe Leading Blue Energy (ELBE) and Trade Mission to Canada 2022

Last year AREG continued its involvement in the ELBE (European Leaders in Blue Energy) project to support the positioning of European marine energy technologies and related expertise, at the forefront of the global offshore wind, wave and tidal energy industries.

This 18-month project involved a consortium of organisations including AREG, Blauwe Cluster (Belgium), Energy Cluster Denmark, GCE Node (Norway), Offshorevast (Sweden), Pole Mer (France) and was co-ordinated by the Basque Energy cluster (Spain).

AREG's activity included leading a five-day trade mission to Canada which centred around participation in the H₂O conference in Halifax, and site visits with key industry stakeholders, as well as a series of meetings for participating organisations with potential clients and partners.

The mission was a great success and culminated in the signing of two memoranda of understanding between ELBE and the two leading industry organisations in the market: Canada's Ocean Supercluster and Marine Renewables Canada.

The six participating companies benefitted from over 50 B2B connections and this was a significant contribution towards ensuring that ELBE achieved the project KPIs that had been set by the EU funding organisations.

French delegation to visit North-east



Photo: Port of Aberdeen

This month AREG will host a delegation from France who are visiting the North-east as part of a fact-finding, trade mission to better understand the opportunities for investment in the area, particularly in offshore wind and hydrogen.

The delegation of representatives from 25 French companies will visit some of the key transition projects and places in Aberdeen City and Shire, including the Port of Aberdeen and Net Zero Technology Centre.

We are confident our visitors from France will leave knowing that the North-east is open for business.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Jeremy Cresswell

In November we took the opportunity, during our Energy Futures dinner event, to celebrate the contribution of Jeremy Cresswell to AREG.

Jeremy was the founding chairman of AREG more than 20 years ago, laying critical groundwork for the development of Aberdeen Bay Wind Farm, also known as the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC).

A well-known journalist, Jeremy has written four books about oil and gas and was originally enlisted by AREG director, Gordon McIntosh, to help 'take renewable energy forward' in Aberdeen.

We don't think there's anyone more deserving of the AREG lifetime achievement award than Jeremy and we'd like to iterate our thanks for all he has done.



Opportunities ahead for the North-east

All of us who live in the North-east of Scotland are acutely aware how reliant our economy has been on a world-class oil and gas sector. For almost 50 years the region has made a massive contribution to the UK's economic productivity and energy security and, in doing so, has sustained thousands of jobs across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

It continues to provide the region with a huge portion of the world's subsea capability and over 1000 energy supply chain companies that have been at the cutting edge of delivering pioneering and innovative solutions. This is, of course, our unique selling point – the critical mass and record of delivery that will be so important in accelerating our diversification to new and green energies.

And the opportunity in these energies is simply huge. A majority of the ScotWind licences are within a 100-mile radius of Aberdeen and will add up to 28GW of offshore wind, with investment expected to surpass £8bn. With 15GW of this in floating wind, we have a clear competitive

advantage to really go after this emerging technology. The waters off the Buchan coast are an ideal location to foster carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) in the UK given the capacity for CO₂ storage in the North Sea and a further one gigawatt of low carbon hydrogen can be generated in the region by 2030.

This region is therefore, without doubt, one of the most attractive locations in the world to accelerate low carbon technologies and our job at ETZ Ltd is to unlock the opportunity to its fullest potential. And that is precisely what we are doing.

A comprehensive investment programme is already underway to deliver market-ready, 'net zero exemplar' properties and development sites for high-value manufacturing and the wider energy transition supply chain. This coordinated programme will include the creation of specialist campuses for Marine Development, Offshore Wind, Hydrogen, Innovation, and Skills – each of which will be anchored by a transformational project to catalyse further investment in each sector.

Taken altogether, the Zone provides businesses with the unique opportunity to invest in the largest dedicated energy transition complex in Scotland.

There will, as ever, be challenges along the way but, as a region, we have faced those down before with a business community famed for its resilience and ability to adapt. We should certainly approach the next five years with confidence that we will become a focal point for a domestic renewables industry that is the envy of the world over.

Maggie McGinlay, chief executive, Energy Transition Zone (ETZ Ltd)



AREG 20th anniversary sponsorship opportunities

We have a suite of tiered sponsorship opportunities to celebrate our 20th anniversary year from branding and speaker opportunities at our celebratory dinner to smaller, targeted digital campaigns.

Our popular network series has a rapidly growing, cross-sector attendee list and each network covers a variety of topics under its key theme – communications, policy, supply chain and technology, professional services and young professionals. AREG's networks were established to encourage engagement among members and wider stakeholders, sharing of information, best practice and updates on latest developments and the chance to meet like-minded professionals.

To find out more about sponsoring one or all of our networks and other events you can view our 2023 sponsorship pack [HERE](#) or contact info@aberdeenrenewables.com

Network chairs include:



Neil McIntosh
director of Aberdeen
International Associates

**SUPPLY CHAIN
AND TECHNOLOGY**



Stephen Christie
communications and
external affairs manager, bp

COMMUNICATIONS



Paul Robertson
head of public affairs
BIG Partnership

PUBLIC POLICY



Rod Hutchison
AREG board member and
legal director at MacRoberts

**PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES**



Graceann Robertson
marketing manager,
Vertume

**YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS**



Charlotte Hartley
public affairs manager,
Storegga

**YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS**

Fond Farewells



David Rodger, AREG CEO

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the AREG members for their support during my (second) time here with the group. It has been a pleasure to act as an ambassador for the collective ambitions of the membership at external events, with politicians and with the media.

Having visited long established and new AREG members I saw first-hand their ambition to succeed. The AREG survey we carried out last year with Paul Dargie and the University of Aberdeen underlined the international dynamics of many of our organisations and showed the positive impact of our collective efforts with communities and environmental organisations.

As AREG nears its 20th anniversary it's in very good hands with a passionate and larger board whom I trust will build on the membership growth and groundwork that our Energy Futures Conference has created. AREG has the opportunity now to strengthen its voice, welcoming new organisations and individuals into its network of members who are all passionate about our energy future.



Malcolm Laing, AREG legal advisor

Malcolm Laing, former partner at Ledingham Chalmers, will be leaving us after 20 years of providing AREG with legal support and advice.



Philip Bell, AREG director

Philip Bell will step down as a director after six years with AREG and he will be missed by all.

Closing comments: People of AREG

I want to thank David, Malcolm and Philip for their dedication and commitment, especially over the last few years during which time we've significantly increased our membership, launched new forums including our conference and had a voice on some of the biggest issues facing the energy sector.

People make AREG the successful non-profit organisation that it is, and I'd like to thank Beverley Stainton for her hard work in supporting our members this year as well as reiterating my welcome to our new board members whose support so far has been invaluable. They will continue to play a pivotal role in the direction of the group going forward.

Jean S Morrison MBE
AREG chairperson

