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Scotland Breaks Another Wind Power Record

Lorraine Chow

Scotland is celebrating yet another record-breaking month for wind power, new figures show.

Scottish wind turbines provided 846,942 megawatt hours of electricity to the National Grid, enough to supply the power needs of 2.25 million, or 93 percent of, Scottish households, according to WWF Scotland. That's 33 percent more homes than the same time last year, when wind energy provided 629,603 MWh, the environmental group noted.

Impressively, on Aug. 19 alone, wind power provided the equivalent of 158 percent of Scotland's total electricity demand.

"Scotland's had another fantastic month for renewable electricity. With more turbines having come online, this trend looks set to continue," Karen Robinson of WeatherEnergy said in a statement. "Already this year millions of tonnes of damaging carbon emissions have been avoided thanks to investment and forward-thinking policies."

The country's total electricity consumption for homes, business and industry in August was 1,776,118 MWh, meaning that wind power supplied nearly half (48 percent) of Scotland's entire electricity needs for the month.

WWF Scotland's acting head of policy Gina Hanrahan praised the country's "huge strides forward" on clean energy and pushed for the same efforts to apply across all energy sectors, including heating, building efficiency and transportation.

"Renewables are working, creating jobs and investment and cutting carbon and thanks to clear policy ambition we are now a leading global player," Hanrahan said.

The Scottish government is actively working towards a low-carbon future. Last week, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced plans to end the sale of new gas and diesel-powered cars by 2032 and fast-track the development of a country-wide charging network for <u>electric vehicles</u>.

"We live in a time of unprecedented global challenge and change," Sturgeon <u>said</u> on Tuesday. "We

face rapid advances in technology; a moral obligation to tackle <u>climate change</u>... These challenges are considerable, but in each of them we will find opportunity. It is our job to seize it."

The <u>BBC</u> reported that two Scottish renewable energy projects—the Moray East Offshore wind farm and a Grangemouth biomass heat and power plant—have been awarded 15-year contracts after a UK government auction.



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