



COP26

In November 2021, Glasgow will host the 26th Conference of the Parties, COP26. This is an international conference on climate change in which world leaders meet and discuss their strategies to stop the ongoing damage to our planet. This will be the biggest international conference the UK has ever hosted, so all eyes will be on Glasgow.

COP26 is a particularly important conference as it will be the first COP to take place after the landmark Paris Agreement's measures take effect. Almost all countries signed the Paris Agreement at COP21 in Paris in 2015. It aims to restrict global temperature rise this century to 'well below' 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. COP26 is the first opportunity since then for nations to come together to review these commitments.

The Scottish Government has committed to ending our contribution to climate change by 2045. This goal was set within the Climate Change Bill which was introduced to the Scottish Parliament as a direct response to The Paris Agreement.

Information Sources: COP26 Official Website - <http://ukcop26.org> and the Energy and Climate Change Intelligence Unit website - <http://eciu.net>

Sarah Watt, Orbital Marine Power

“I am infinitely hopeful that COP26 will highlight the urgency of climate change. It is exactly the platform that we need to show global citizens that it is entirely possible to make the transition to carbon neutrality. I see COP26 providing a surge of enthusiasm for protecting our planet, but it will be imperative for large businesses and corporations to leverage their presence in our lives to change minds about the urgency we are facing. We need to get people talking about, and concerned about, the climate emergency, and I want to see politicians, business leaders and global philanthropists use their platforms to influence their followers to do more.”

Billy Sim, New Energy Scotland

“Scotland has a long and distinguished past in relation to innovation and we should be rightly proud of our history. But we also must look forward and how we can create new inventions that will shape our future generations, whilst meeting our net-zero targets, and achieving a just transition in the process.

Our approach to help people to transition to carbon neutral is to produce large amounts of green, renewable energy at a lower cost than at present. COP26 will have the eyes of the world on Glasgow. This is our chance to shine and show the world that we are still a nation of innovators and visionaries.”



Chris Dunn, Malin Group

“COP26 will give us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get directly involved in what could be the most significant climate change event of our lifetimes. We need to use the exposure that this event will bring to make sure that every single person in Glasgow, Scotland, and even the UK, understand why we need to change and more importantly how they can individually make a difference. This will create the momentum we need to start implementing the necessary changes, and hopefully will inspire a whole new generation of engineers who will bring their ideas to the table and help make the just transition a reality.”

Ian MacKenzie, Trojan Energy

“Change can happen and faster than you may think, but it will take all of us working together to make it happen. The benefits of the energy transition for the world are clear but in order for us to accelerate the change we need to bring everyone with us. This means using our skills and ingenuity to create solutions that benefit all, creating new job opportunities and being bold in our approach as a nation and as all nations to ensuring the transition is supported.

To quote the beloved TV character Bob the Builder -

“Can we fix it – yes we can!”

Colin, Energy Industry Expert

“The challenge for COP26 is to create the vision and pathway to net-zero for the benefit of all on the planet and not get lost in individual country’s interests. I believe that progress will be made, targets agreed, ambitions set and perhaps some agreements on cooperation between nations to achieve this; however, I also believe that there will be work for COP27 to do!!”



Aoife Hutton, Keep Scotland Beautiful

“I hope that COP26 gives decision makers a new motivation to make bold decisions about the future that will create a fairer, more ‘Just’ planet for us all.

At a global scale, we must also have a ‘Just Transition’. This means richer countries should play a big role in helping other countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change and the huge changes that are required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

A ‘Just Transition’ means no-one gets left behind. In moving towards net-zero, there could be opportunities for all countries, including new green jobs and healthier, fairer places to live and work.”

Shgufta Anwar, Bike For Good

“Cop 26 is about connecting the dots. Worldwide there is amazing work going on but in small silos. This event is a huge opportunity worldwide (and our beloved Glasgow) to bring those silos together, garner strength and encourage whole communities to inspire people to take individual (and resultant global) actions.

“I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation. When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family... Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world.”

–The unknown monk.