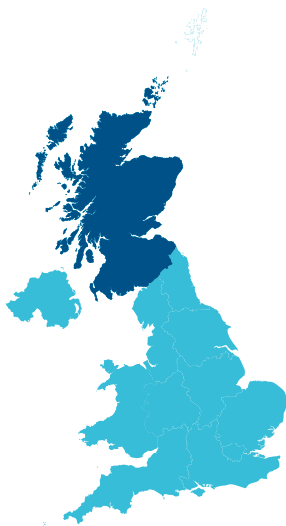




Muirhall Wind Farm, Scotland. (Credit: Muirhall Energy, Jose Vega-Lozano)

Onshore Wind in Scotland



Scotland is the leading country for onshore wind within the UK with just over **4,900 megawatts** of onshore wind installed. This capacity can power over **2.5 million** homes. It will also lead to over **£7 billion** worth of economic benefit to the country over the lifetime of the wind energy projects. The country has a significant supply chain, with just some of the major companies in onshore wind listed overleaf.

Estimated economic benefits to Scotland from installed onshore wind capacity

£7,032,740,000

Lifetime economic value from current installed onshore wind to the country

£249,537,435

Lifetime community benefit payments from current installed onshore wind to Scotland

Some of the major onshore wind employers in the area:

SSE, based in Perth, is an energy company which operates onshore wind farms in Scotland.

ScottishPower Renewables has a significant presence in renewables, and operates the largest onshore wind farm in the UK, the 539 megawatt Whitelee Wind Farm near Glasgow.

Natural Power is a renewable energy consultancy, providing expertise in all areas of onshore wind development. It manages more than a quarter of the UK's onshore wind farm capacity. It is based in Dumfries & Galloway.

RES is a global energy company, established in the UK, operating over 30 wind farms across the country.

RJ McLeod is a large civil engineering company, based in Glasgow, providing a range of services to wind farms, including substation improvements.

Installed onshore wind capacity within Scotland

4918 megawatts (MW)

Current onshore wind generation in Scotland

Current Generation (megawatt hours):

11,089,224 MWh

Homes Powered:

2,645,330 per year

Environmental benefits from onshore wind installed in Scotland

CO₂ reduced per year:

4.7 million tonnes

Popularity of onshore wind within Scotland

A *YouGov* poll from February 2015 found that more than seven in ten Scottish adults (**71%**) said they supported the continued development of wind power as part of our energy mix. This was an increase on **64%** from February 2013.

Major areas within Scotland for onshore wind

The three largest areas for onshore wind in Scotland are the **Highlands** with **824MW** installed, **South Lanarkshire** with **632MW** installed, and the **Scottish Borders** with **564.59MW** installed. All three areas benefit from significant supply chain benefits – in the Highlands this is a mix of developers and supply chain firms and around the Borders there are consultancy services such as Holequest who provide geotechnical services for onshore wind farms. There are also both renewables developers and supply chain companies in South Lanarkshire.

List of references

1. All installed capacity figures are taken from: www.renewableuk.com/en/renewable-energy/wind-energy/uk-wind-energy-database/index.cfm
2. Employer details are taken from the RenewableUK supply chain map: www.renewableuk.com/en/renewable-energy/supply-chain-map.cfm
3. Calculation of economic benefits to the area is based on multiplying the capacity in the region by the economic benefit figure contained within the report Onshore Wind: Economic Impacts in 2014 available here www.renewableuk.com/en/publications/index.cfm
4. An explanation of how homes powered is calculated is available here: www.renewableuk.com/en/renewable-energy/wind-energy/uk-wind-energy-database/figures-explained.cfm
5. Environmental benefits are available here: www.scottishrenewables.com/news/scots-renewable-energy-displaces-million-tonnes-co/
6. The poll referred to comes from here: www.scottishrenewables.com/news/number-scots-backing-wind-power-increases/