

## Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland (FREDS)

The main aim of the FREDS group is to help the Scottish Government achieve its 2020 ambitious targets of 50% percent electricity generated from renewable energy sources. In doing so, the FREDS group also aims to maximise economic opportunities for the sector.

The FREDS group is unique in the sense that it is a partnership between Government, Industry, Academia, Public Sector Organisations and Private Consultants. The combination of the different key stakeholders in within the FREDS group makes up its strength.

As the FREDS group has a Scottish wide stakeholder participation, which represents the different and complex renewable fields, it has the unique ability to directly influence the strategies and policies of the Government. The FREDS Group is chaired by the Minister for Enterprise, **Energy** and Tourism, Member of Scottish Parliament Minister Jim Mather, and by a key figurehead of the renewable sector - Mr. Niall Stuart, Chief Executive of Scottish Renewables. Therefore all of the issues faced by the renewable sector and the new proposed policies can be directly fed back to the politicians, having a direct impact on Scottish Society as a whole.

The best practice from the FREDS group is that the renewable sector has a close link with the Government and policy decision makers. They also feel that they are a part of a policy making process and can work together to make a real change through their participation.

How this is achieved?

- FREDS group gather feedback from all of its expert representatives and networks, that is the industry, academia, people on the street, consultant, public sector individuals, association etc.
- It studies each and every feedback.
- When a feedback is found appropriate it is included into the Scottish Government Operating Plan. The Operating Plan is a formal document produced by the Scottish Government to help shape Scotland's renewable energy policies and strategies. The Operating Plan takes all of its input from the FREDS group stakeholders, hence representing the wide diverse needs of the renewable sector.
- The Operating Plan is then used by the Government to forge new policy and develop strategies to be implemented.
- The Operating Plan is modified as and when required.

As the renewable sector consists of such a wide variety of actors, it was identified that there was a need for a number of sub-groupings to help focusing on each specific sector. As such the Scottish Government has initiated 5 subgroupings which directly feedback to the main FREDS group. The below figure illustrate all of the subgroupings.

