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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener,
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By Email: netzero.committee@parliament.scot

28 October 2023

Dear Edward,

Announcement of a Solar Ambition for Scotland

I am writing to inform the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee that the Scottish Government will today announce a proposal for a solar deployment ambition of 4-6GW by 2030, with a condition for large scale solar projects to provide an appropriate level of community benefit, to be agreed with industry.

The draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (ESJTP) included a draft vision for solar in Scotland and a consultation question on whether a solar deployment ambition should be set. There has been significant industry interest in the Scottish Government's commitment to consider the evidence for setting a solar deployment ambition.

The Scottish Government agrees with the solar industry, and other stakeholders, that a strong ambition for solar will support further solar PV deployment that will help increase the diversity of Scotland's energy mix. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity will today underscore that industry must provide an appropriate level of community benefit for commercial-scale solar projects.

We will work with the industry to agree on a level of community benefit that is reflective of the sector's costs but also fair to communities, in line with our commitment in the draft ESJTP, to maximise the benefits flowing to communities from the energy transition.

The announcement of this proposed solar deployment ambition for Scotland is a significant achievement which demonstrates that solar has an important role to play, as part of a diverse energy mix, in Scotland's decarbonisation journey.

Yours sincerely,

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