

Guernsey, Jersey and Sark Joint Statement of Intent on Marine Renewable Energy

This joint Statement of Intent has been agreed between the relevant government authorities in the Guernsey, Jersey and Sark (the islands' authorities) which are:

States of Guernsey:	Commerce and Employment Department
States of Jersey:	Department of the Environment
Chief Pleas of Sark:	General Purposes and Advisory Committee

The States of Alderney Policy and Finance Committee has declined to be a party to this Joint Statement but has confirmed its willingness to contribute and participate in discussions wherever possible.

This joint Statement of Intent relates to marine renewable energy, in particular tidal, wave and wind, although it is recognised that individual authorities may have wider responsibilities for energy including other forms of renewable energy.

Background

1. A 2005 Tidal Stream Resource Assessment¹ concluded that the "*Channel Islands area appears to offer a usable resource of 1.5 – 2.5 TWhr/yr²*". Detailed feasibility studies and monitoring of technological developments is ongoing to establish the potential magnitude and costs of the actual energy that can be extracted and exploited which may be of the order of single figure GWhrs²/yr and it is considered that a similar magnitude may be extracted from off-shore wind. Little research has so far been undertaken on the potential wave energy resource.
2. This marine renewable energy potential may be harnessed to contribute to meeting local electricity demand in each island as well as for export to markets in other jurisdictions to assist them in meeting their commitment to renewable energy whilst providing an economic benefit to the islands.
3. The islands' authorities recognise that each may face different circumstances on some aspects of marine renewable energy and that there may be a degree of competition on some aspects such as securing external commercial investment in projects and commercial agreements with export markets. They also recognise however that there are several aspects of marine renewable energy on which they have common interests and that collaborating on pursuing those common interests can bring mutual benefits.

Environmental Licensing and Regulation

4. Each of the islands' authorities embrace the principle that a statutory licensing and regulation regime is necessary to ensure the protection of the marine environment from damage from the placing and operation of plant, cables etc. and to protect the interests of other users (e.g. fishermen, mariners etc).
5. As responsible members of the international community the islands' authorities wish to implement internationally recognised standards and practices for the protection of the marine

¹ Undertaken by Alan Owen of Aberdeen University for Black & Veech Consulting.

² A KWhr (kilo watt hour) is one "unit" of electricity equivalent to the electricity used by a one bar electric fire in one hour. A MWhr (mega watt hour) is one thousand KWhrs, a GWhr (giga watt hour) is one thousand MWhrs and a TWhr (tera watt hour) is one thousand GWhr or 1,000,000,000,000 units. The combined annual electricity consumption of Jersey and Guernsey is approximately 1TWhr.

environment and comply with those provisions of UK Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA) which have been extended to both Jersey and the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

6. Guernsey and Sark have received Royal sanction for separate but similar Renewable Energy Laws and a joint Regional Environmental Assessment of the territorial seas of each island, which about each other, has been undertaken. Jersey is currently drafting legislation. (Alderney has enacted a Law on which the Guernsey and Sark Laws have been based, and has appointed a regulatory Commission (ACRE))
7. **The islands' authorities have committed to collaborate on sharing expertise on the development and implementation of statutory licensing and regulation regimes and to assess the possible benefits of achieving compatible regimes that facilitate the sharing of licensing, monitoring and enforcement resources whilst respecting the constitutional status of each jurisdiction.**

Constitutional and Regulatory International Issues

8. Exploitation of marine renewable energy does have international governmental aspects additional to reputational aspects on protection of the marine environment referred to above. One such issue is access to the premiums paid in other jurisdictions for electricity produced from renewable sources in relation to any exports of electricity produced from such sources around the islands given the islands' constitutional status and the regulatory requirements of other jurisdictions.
9. Through the CIEG cable network Guernsey and Jersey are already physically linked to the European grid for the import of electricity. The links Jersey to France are currently of the order of 200 MW capacity and Guernsey via Jersey 60 MW. Plans to increase these capacities are currently under consideration and in the longer term might include a link via Sark. This network could be used for the export of electricity produced from renewable sources. (Alderney is considering France - UK link via Alderney.)
10. There may be opportunities for exports further afield but the most obvious opportunities would seem to arise from the requirements of the 2009 EU Renewables Directive that requires member states, including the UK, to meet targets on the proportion of energy that comes from renewable sources.
11. One of the work streams of the British Irish Council (BIC) on which Guernsey and Jersey is represented relates to electricity from marine renewable sources and the electricity grid linking the UK and Irish jurisdictions. The grid strand to this work stream encompasses access for the Crown Dependencies (Isle of Man and CI) to the UK renewables premium markets to assist the UK in meeting its targets. Access could be either by direct connection or, in the case of the CI, by "statistical transfer"³ via the CIEG network and European grid connection to the UK.
12. Out of the BIC work stream it has become apparent that, in addition to the issue of access to premium markets for electricity generated from renewable sources, there may be complex regulatory and EU compliance issues to resolve on the use of any existing or new connector for the export of electricity.
13. Jersey and Guernsey have already adopted a joint approach to the BIC work stream and the Guernsey Policy Council has agreed that Alderney and Sark be kept informed of discussions.

³ Statistical transfer of electricity is where one jurisdiction with excess renewable energy can sell the value of its surplus power to another member state. The power / physical flow of electricity is not actually transferred between jurisdictions, only the renewable value of the electricity is transferred

Overall, the influence on work streams and any other discussions with external jurisdictions would be strengthened by the islands adopting a unified stance.

14. **The islands’ authorities have committed to collaborate on representing and promoting their joint interests in securing “constitutional and regulatory” access for CI based operators to export markets for electricity produced from marine renewable resources through the BIC work streams and to externally promote the joint interest of the islands in marine renewables in any other appropriate forum.**

Collaboration Arrangements

15. **The islands’ authorities have agreed to nominate up to two non-political individuals to sit as core members and represent their interests on a CI Marine Renewable Energy Group (CIMREG). The Group will meet regularly at intervals determined at the first meeting. At least once a year, or more often if circumstances dictate, a political level meeting of representatives of the islands’ authorities will be held to receive updates and to jointly sign off any policy issues or specific initiatives.**
16. CIMREG will also discuss progress in general on marine renewable issues, other opportunities for collaboration and may invite other persons to join meetings as appropriate.

SIGNED

States of Guernsey:

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Commerce and Employment Department

States of Jersey:

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Department of the Environment

Chief Pleas of Sark:

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General Purposes and Advisory Committee

Date.....

This Statement of Intent was signed in the presence of Roy Burke, Chief Executive of the States of Alderney.