



Climate Policy Engagement Review

2024/25



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About this report

Shareholders, customers, and broader stakeholders are interested in the openness of an organisation regarding its policies and support for climate change advocacy, not just directly, but also through the trade associations it is associated with. In particular, SSE's stakeholders want to establish whether the company's strategy and guiding principles in addressing climate change are aligned with those of the trade associations of which it is a member. Providing this evidence demonstrates SSE's commitment to actively managing its indirect influence on climate policy and assures stakeholders that the company maintains integrity in its approach to addressing climate change.

This report builds upon SSE's previous reviews of its trade associations' climate-related advocacy activities. This 2024/25 review evaluates the alignment of these associations with SSE's net zero principles and the goals of the Paris Agreement. In line with best practice and increasing stakeholder interest, this report also summarises SSE's direct climate-related advocacy for this financial year.

SSE welcomes and encourages feedback on the result and the approach it has taken for this review. Feedback and comments can be provided by emailing sustainability@sse.com.

About SSE

SSE plc is a leading UK-listed energy company that invests in, develops, builds and operates electricity infrastructure and businesses needed for a clean, secure and affordable energy system. Its diversified portfolio includes onshore and offshore wind farms, hydro-electric power, solar and batteries, flexible thermal generation and electricity transmission and distribution networks. SSE also provides energy products and services for businesses and other customers.

SSE's strategy is to create value for shareholders and society in a sustainable way by building, operating, and investing in the infrastructure and businesses that are critical to a clean power system.

For more detail about SSE's strategy and business activities, visit **[sse.com](https://www.sse.com)**.

Introduction

As the urgency of the climate crisis continues to grow, so too does the importance of ensuring that corporate influence on climate policy is transparent, responsible, and aligned with global climate goals. The Global Standard on Responsible Climate Lobbying sets a clear expectation: that all lobbying efforts, whether conducted directly or through intermediaries such as trade associations, must actively support the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals, including limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and ensuring that greenhouse gas emissions peak and decline as soon as possible.

Corporate climate lobbying, also referred to as advocacy, includes any activity by companies or their representatives which aims to influence climate-relevant policy decisions. When aligned with climate science, such advocacy can accelerate the transition to net zero. However, misaligned lobbying can delay or weaken climate action, undermining public trust and policy effectiveness.

SSE acknowledges the growing interest among investors and other stakeholders in obtaining more detail about its involvement in trade associations. The company works closely with these associations to ensure that their positions and activities are consistent with SSE's own principles for achieving net zero. To support this, SSE will implement and publish an annual monitoring and review process that evaluates its advocacy efforts across all geographies in which it operates.

The aim of this 2024/25 annual review is to:

- Assess whether SSE's indirect climate advocacy, through trade associations, is aligned with the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement.

This review will focus on the climate policy positions of SSE's principal trade associations, particularly those with significant influence over climate-related policy in the jurisdictions in which SSE operates. It will also include an assessment of new trade association memberships that commenced during the 2024/25 financial year, ensuring that these new relationships are consistent with SSE's net zero principles from the outset. In addition, the review will reexamine trade associations that were identified during the previous assessment, with the aim of tracking their advocacy positions and encouraging further alignment with the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

SSE is committed to responsible climate advocacy. To ensure transparent disclosure of SSE's key climate advocacy, this report also summarises SSE's direct climate advocacy activities undertaken during 2024/25.

Reinforcing the need for accelerated action to limit global warming to 1.5°C

The year, 2024, marked a sobering milestone as the hottest year on record, capping a decade that now includes the ten warmest years since global temperature records began. This trend reflects an alarming acceleration in the concentration of planet-warming greenhouse gases, which increased at an unprecedented rate over the past year. These developments pose a significant threat to the objectives of the Paris Agreement, particularly the goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Extreme weather events underscored the tangible impacts of a warming climate, with widespread wildfires in California, severe flooding across Europe, and intense storms affecting the UK and Ireland. These events serve as stark reminders of the growing risks associated with climate inaction.

Scientific assessments increasingly suggest that the 1.5°C target is becoming more difficult to achieve. According to the World Meteorological Organization, there is now a 70% probability that the global average temperature for the period 2025 to 2029 will exceed the Paris Agreement threshold. Despite this narrowing window, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) continues to stress the critical importance of immediate and ambitious climate action to mitigate the most severe consequences of surpassing the 1.5°C limit.

In this context, the role of policymakers is more vital than ever. Accelerated and coordinated policy action is essential to drive the systemic changes required to decarbonise economies and build climate resilience. The UK Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan serves as a leading example of such ambition. The plan outlines a clear pathway to achieving a clean power system by 2030, aiming to meet 95% of Great Britain's electricity demand with clean energy sources. It addresses key challenges such as infrastructure development, energy security, and investment mobilisation, while supporting the broader goal of reaching net zero by 2050. However, for the Clean Power Plan to succeed, further policy intervention on grid upgrades, renewable and low carbon flexible generation will be required. Openly discussing these issues signals to stakeholders, particularly policymakers and regulators, the necessary policy interventions to achieve net zero at both company and system levels.

SSE's commitment to net zero

SSE's business activities are inherently linked to climate change, both in terms of their current contribution to climate change, and their potential to drive decarbonisation. The company identifies climate change as a principal risk, recognising the potential misalignment of SSE's strategy with national and international decarbonisation pathways, and the possibility that its strategy may lack the resilience required in a climate-impacted world. As such, climate change is considered highly material to SSE's long-term strategy, influencing investment decisions, operational resilience, and stakeholder expectations. SSE's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enabling electrification across sectors underscores its role as a key enabler of the net zero transition.

SSE plans to invest £17.5bn over the five-year period to 2027, with approximately 60% allocated to the development and enhancement of its electricity networks. A further 30% will support the construction of new renewable energy assets, while the remaining 10% will be directed towards other strategic business areas. In total, around 89% of this investment is aligned with the EU Taxonomy and supports a 1.5°C climate pathway, reinforcing SSE's commitment to a low-carbon future.

While SSE's capital investment programme inherently supports the transition to net zero, a credible Net Zero Transition Plan must clearly articulate both its ambition and the specific actions being taken. SSE's plan outlines the concrete steps required to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from its electricity generation activities, operations, and value chain by 2050 at the latest, in a way that is both fair and manageable for the communities it serves.

The Plan details the 18 key actions to reduce emissions. These include expanding offshore wind capacity, electrifying operational processes, engaging suppliers to adopt science-based targets, and ensuring a just transition for workers and communities. The Company has set a target to reach net zero for scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2040, and for scope 3 emissions by 2050 at the latest. These targets are supported by interim goals, including an 80% reduction in scope 1 carbon intensity by 2030 compared to 2017/18 levels and an absolute reduction in its scope 1 and 2 emissions by 72.5% in the same period. Aligned with the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and the UK Government's Transition Plan Taskforce (TPT) Framework, the plan provides the basis for monitoring SSE's progress towards net zero.

SSE's climate policy engagement

Governing political and regulatory engagement

Responsibility for SSE's political advocacy lies at the highest levels of the organisation, with the Board approving SSE's Political and Regulatory Engagement Policy and overseeing corresponding advocacy priorities. The Board monitors supporting engagement activity, including dialogue with regulators, to ensure that strategic, financial, investment and operating frameworks align to the external landscape.

The Group Executive Committee (GEC) is responsible for discharging strategic, political and regulatory engagement activities and the communication of SSE's advocacy priorities, working closely with management across SSE's Business Units in doing so.

Supporting the Board and GEC, SSE has dedicated Public Affairs, Policy, Regulation, Legal and Compliance departments which lead constructive engagement with regulators, politicians, officials, and other stakeholders on a regular basis. These teams provide advice, guidance and assurance to each of SSE's Business Units regarding the interpretation of political, regulatory and legislative change.

The Group Corporate Affairs, Regulation and Strategy teams oversee core advocacy priorities for the Company. These Group advocacy priorities are focused on cross cutting policy issues as well as policy issues which are specific to SSE's Business Units and are aligned to delivering investment in net zero infrastructure. There is regular engagement with the Board and GEC on political and regulatory developments which may impact SSE's operations or strategy. This is in addition to regular updates on advocacy priorities and policy outcomes resulting from advocacy activity, provided by the Group Public Affairs team.

Government and regulators are identified as one of SSE's six key stakeholder groups, and updates on engagement activities and priorities are provided in SSE's Annual Report each year.

Ensuring SSE's political and regulatory engagement is Paris-aligned

To ensure that SSE's approach to regulatory and political engagement is transparent and has integrity, the company has a publicly available Group Political and Regulatory Engagement Policy. The policy holds the company to the highest standards of probity and respect in its dealings with regulators, non-departmental public bodies and the institutions of government, recognising their key role in the sector in which SSE operates.

Within this policy, **SSE commits to only conduct lobbying and advocacy activity that is in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement and its own net zero strategy, both aligned to limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C.** This commitment includes SSE's direct advocacy activities and advocacy that the company conducts through its trade association memberships. This policy is applicable to all jurisdictions in which SSE operates.

SSE's Climate Advocacy Statement

SSE advocates for fair, just and accelerated actions to achieve net zero through working with policy makers, trade associations and other key stakeholders.

SSE commits to conduct its policy advocacy activity in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement and its own net zero strategy, both aligned to limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

SSE's approach to climate advocacy and its policies apply to all jurisdictions in which it operates.

Framework for addressing misalignment

As set out in SSE's Group Political and Regulatory Engagement Policy, SSE is committed to ensuring that all aspects of its climate policy engagement are fully aligned with the goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, in accordance with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

This review evaluates the alignment between SSE's trade associations and its climate policy engagement commitments, ensuring adherence to SSE's Group Policies as outlined within its System of Internal Control (SOIC). This is maintained in accordance with the requirements of the UK Corporate Governance Code, to support the business in meeting its objectives. Overseen by the board, the effectiveness of SSE's System of Internal Control is reviewed annually by the Managing Directors of SSE's Business Units and the Directors of corporate functions. The Board confirmed SSE's System of Internal Control continued to be effective in 2024/25 and was in line with the requirements of the FRC Guidance on Risk Management, Internal Control and related Financial and Business Reporting.

Transparent advocacy for net zero power sector policy frameworks

SSE understands the imperative to decarbonise electricity systems in developed economies by 2035. As set out in SSE's Net Zero Transition Plan, SSE seeks to be a constructive partner with governments and will advocate for the following key developments in energy policy:

- **Decarbonisation of flexible power generation:** SSE will advocate for policies that support carbon capture and storage (CCS) and hydrogen fired power generation.
- **Accelerating offshore wind deployment:** SSE will promote policies that drive progress in establishing offshore wind as the backbone of the UK's energy system and will support ambitious capacity targets in the upcoming CfD auctions rounds, notably Allocation Round 7 of the Contracts for Difference (AR7).
- **Strategic network expansion:** SSE will advocate for strategic network planning to support investment in the expansion of the grid in order to connect new sources of clean power and support electrification of the wider economy.
- **Responsible phased reduction of unabated gas generation:** SSE will engage policymakers to progress the reduction of unabated thermal generation output in a measured and controlled way at an industry level in order to ensure security of supply as the energy system decarbonises
- **Advancing pumped storage hydro:** SSE will continue to support policy makers to deliver a practical and workable mechanism that will enable the deployment of long-duration electricity storage projects.
- **Pathway for decarbonised heat:** SSE will champion the development of investable policy frameworks that enable a cost-effective transition to low-carbon heating technologies.

Direct climate advocacy during 2024/25

As summarised in SSE's Sustainability Report, over the past year SSE has engaged the new UK and Irish Governments and regulators to support the delivery of clean power systems. SSE continues to promote transparent climate policy engagement and reviews the climate positions of its trade associations each year. On the global stage, SSE attended COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, to help drive widespread climate action.

In 2024/25, SSE welcomed the publication of the new UK Government's Clean Power Mission and Clean Power 2030 Action Plan. The Mission and Plan should help develop the clean, homegrown energy the UK needs to drive economic growth, support families, and lead the world in tackling climate change by cutting emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

SSE has helped inform the Clean Power Plan's development, so that policies, regulation and market design support infrastructure investment. SSE contributes to the policymaking process through responses

to consultations, calls for evidence and Parliamentary enquiries. CEO Alistair Phillips-Davies has been part of the Government's Net Zero Council.

SSE has engaged regularly with Ofgem and the newly created National Energy System Operator (NESO), including hosting visits to SSE's Coire Glas, Blackhillock and Foyers sites. SSE also hosted its Business of Leading the Energy Transition event in London, which was attended by Head of Mission Control Chris Stark, Energy Minister Michael Shanks MP, and other business and climate leaders.

SSE's indirect climate policy engagement

Climate advocacy through trade associations

Being a member of trade associations is an important way in which SSE advocates for accelerated progress towards net zero. Trade associations act as a representative body for industries, by putting forward the collective view and position of its members to government, regulators, and the media. They also provide their members with products and services, including training and educational materials, technical advice, and the opportunity to shape standards and guidance for their industry. Participation in these associations allows SSE to collaborate with its industry peers and provides a means to engage with key policy makers and other stakeholders.

As well holding regular membership for these trade associations, SSE is often represented on the boards and committees of key trade associations.

SSE does not contract organisations to undertake lobbying activity for the purposes of influencing public decision making and regularly reviews its trade association memberships to ensure that they are still relevant for SSE's business activities.

SSE seeks to ensure that the trade associations of which it is a member also undertake advocacy that aligns with the goals of the Paris Agreement and its own net zero ambitions, both aligned to 1.5°C. It works closely with these trade associations, engaging with them on a continuous basis, and as a result, they are usually well aligned.

Principal trade associations

SSE identifies principal trade associations as outlined in its Political Engagement Statement. In 2024/25, the SSE Group was a member of 12 principal trade associations in its home markets of the UK and Ireland.

The SSE Group is a member of eight principal trade associations in Great Britain: Energy Networks Association, Energy UK, Renewable UK, the Confederation of British Industry, Scottish Renewables, the Carbon Capture and Storage Association, Hydrogen UK and Solar Energy UK. It has representatives on the Boards of each of these organisations to support good and transparent conduct by these trade associations. Each of these organisations has established committees to oversee their advocacy activities, and SSE is also represented on each of these committees.

In Ireland, SSE is a member of four principal trade associations: Electricity Association of Ireland, Wind Energy Ireland, Irish Business and Employers' Confederation and RenewableNI. SSE employees participate with each of these organisations at either a Board or committee level, thereby ensuring that SSE has oversight of the advocacy activities of these associations.

SSE's current Political Engagement Statement can be accessed through its Group Political and Regulatory Engagement Policy, available at [sse.com/sustainability](https://www.sse.com/sustainability).

Defining climate change standards for alignment

To assess the alignment of trade associations with the Paris Agreement and SSE's net zero strategy, SSE established five key principles to reach net zero. These principles were drawn from SSE's Climate Change Policy, which aligns with the goals of the Paris Agreement, and further public statements of principle. SSE, itself, upholds these measures and advocates for others to embed them too. All trade associations included in the scope of the review were assessed against these five key principles. See Appendix A for the full scope and methodology of this trade association review.

1. Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change

SSE recognises the serious threat that climate change poses to the natural world and, therefore, to people and the economy. Physical impacts, such as increased extreme weather, could have an adverse impact on SSE's operations and interrupt the supply of energy to its customers. SSE expects the organisations it is a member of to recognise the serious threat that a climate changed world presents.

2. Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement

SSE welcomed the landmark agreement in 2015, which aims to combat climate change and to accelerate the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. SSE supports the overarching aims of the agreement and specifically calls on its trade associations to endorse Article 2.1a to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and Article 4.1 which aims to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.

3. Supports a strong carbon price

SSE has long advocated for robust carbon pricing, believing it is one of the most effective tools to support the decarbonisation of the UK and Irish economies. SSE has publicly urged the UK Government to commit to a carbon pricing trajectory that will incentivise negative emissions. Given the critical importance that a price on carbon makes to enabling climate action, SSE expects relevant trade associations to advocate for a strong carbon price.

4. Promotes innovation

The scale of SSE's investment in net zero requires continuous innovation, and its approach is to partner with others to develop the technologies, experience and skills that it needs to accelerate projects in support of net zero. SSE is involved in a number of key innovation projects that are helping to trial new technologies and demonstrate their potential business applicability, including smart grid demonstrations and zero-carbon clusters. Trade associations play a very important role in fostering innovative practices at an industry level and, as a result, SSE expects its trade associations to play an active role.

5. Seeks a just transition to net zero

SSE is actively seeking to manage the social impacts of the transition to net zero. In November 2020, SSE published its Just Transition Strategy – 20 principles to support the transition to net zero in a way that is fair to working people, communities, and consumers. The 20 principles sit under five pillars: good green jobs, consumer fairness, building and operating new assets, looking after people in high-carbon jobs and supporting communities. In 2024, SSE refreshed its Just Transition Strategy, committing to developing a 'place-based' approach, recognising how important it is that the transition is grounded where it will happen and informed by the views of the people who will be most affected. This is an area of significant importance to SSE, and it believes trade associations provide an excellent framework from which industries can collaborate to bring about fair social outcomes for consumers, working people and communities.

Action taken as a result of the previous review

Following its previous assessment, SSE undertook targeted improvements to its climate policy engagement review, strengthening its alignment with the Global Standard on Responsible Corporate Climate Lobbying and reinforcing its commitment to responsible climate advocacy. In the 2024/25 review, SSE:

- Raised the financial threshold for inclusion to only assess trade associations with annual membership fees exceeding £10,000, up from the previous £5,000, to enable a more targeted review of associations with greater potential to influence climate policy. This also ensures that all principal trade associations are consistently included in the annual review.
- Introduced a detailed assessment of each principal trade association, enhancing transparency and providing stakeholders with clear, comprehensive insights into the rationale behind each evaluation.
- Broadened out the review to consider direct policy advocacy by summarising SSE's direct climate advocacy during 2024/25.
- Presented SSE's framework for addressing misalignment through its 'Internal System of Control' that will support alignment with the Global Standard on Responsible Corporate Climate Lobbying.

As a result of the revised inclusion criteria, four renewable trade associations, previously assessed as partially aligned, are no longer within the scope of the review as their annual membership fees are below £10,000. These include Unión Española Fotovoltaica, Asociación Empresarial Eólica, Associazione Nazionale Energia del Vento, and France Renouvelables, which are all renewable energy trade associations based in southern Europe. Due to limited publicly available English-language material, a comprehensive assessment of their alignment with SSE's five net zero principles was not feasible. However, due to these trade associations' focus on renewable energy, the likelihood of these associations holding positions contrary to SSE's principles was assessed as low.

Summary of findings from the 2024/25 review

The 2024/25 review provides a detailed assessment of the alignment between SSE's principal trade associations and its net zero principles. In addition to this core analysis, SSE also disclosed the alignment status of other trade associations considered to be within scope. A detailed list of all trade associations assessed during the 2024/25 review is available in Appendix B and membership costs are summarised in Appendix C.

Principal Trade Associations

During 2024/25, SSE was a member of twelve principal trade associations. Each of these associations was subject to a detailed assessment as part of this review. The full assessment of SSE's principal trade associations for the 2024/25 reporting period is provided in Appendix D. A summary of the principal trade associations' alignment to SSE's individual principles to reach net zero can be found in Table 1.

Table 1: Alignment of principal trade associations to SSE's individual principles to reach net zero.

Trade Association	Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	Supports a strong carbon price	Promotes innovation	Seeks a just transition to net zero
Carbon Capture and Storage Association	●	●	●	●	●
Confederation of British Industry	●	●	●	●	●
Electricity Association of Ireland	●	●	●	●	●
Energy Networks Association	●	●	●	●	●
Energy UK	●	●	●	●	●
Hydrogen UK	●	●	●	●	●
Irish Business and Employer Confederation	●	●	●	●	●
RenewableNI	●	●	●	●	●
RenewableUK	●	●	●	●	●
Scottish Renewables	●	●	●	●	●
Solar Energy UK	●	●	●	●	●
Wind Energy Ireland	●	●	●	●	●

● Aligned ● Partially aligned ● Misaligned

All twelve principal associations proved overall alignment with SSE's five key principles to reach net zero. They all demonstrated explicit alignment with SSE's position on climate change, supported the goals of the Paris Agreement and advocated for innovative climate solutions. In addition, each association also supported the concept of a socially just transition to net zero, by advocating for policies that also supported people and communities. However, some principal trade associations could demonstrate clearer support by providing a direct public statement or by publishing a policy that supports a just transition. While the significance of a fair and just transition is still emerging, this is an area of importance to SSE and it believes trade associations provide an excellent framework from which industries can collaborate to bring about fair social outcomes for consumers, working people and communities.

The majority of SSE's principal trade associations expressed support for linking the UK Emissions Trading System (ETS) with the EU ETS, thereby demonstrating a commitment to maintaining a strong and effective carbon price. However, some principal trade associations could demonstrate clearer support for a strong carbon price. SSE advocates that robust carbon pricing is one of the most effective mechanisms to drive decarbonisation and stimulate investment in renewable energy. Accordingly, SSE expects its trade associations, particularly those operating within the power generation sector, to adopt and promote strong policy positions in support of carbon pricing.

One principal trade association, Wind Energy Ireland, was found to lack explicit alignment with SSE's principle of supporting a strong carbon price. However, it demonstrated implicit support by emphasising the role of wind energy in displacing gas consumption, thereby reducing the need to purchase emissions allowances and delivering significant cost savings. Based on this evidence, SSE determined that Wind Energy Ireland showed partial alignment with its carbon pricing principle. This partial alignment was considered acceptable, given the association's active involvement in the expansion of wind energy. It was therefore deemed unlikely that Wind Energy Ireland would advocate against SSE's position on carbon pricing as a tool to support decarbonisation and the growth of renewables. None of the principal trade associations were found to be misaligned with any of SSE's five key principles to reach net zero.

Other Trade Associations

A further eight trade associations were considered within scope of this review. Of these, seven were considered to be aligned overall with SSE's five key principles to meet net zero, while one, Charge UK, was found to be partially aligned. The seven fully aligned trade associations all showed explicit alignment to SSE's position on climate change, supported the goals of the Paris Agreement and advocated for innovative climate solutions. However, several associations were found to lack explicit alignment with or held no position in support of SSE's principles of promoting a strong carbon price and a just transition to net zero. In such cases, SSE carefully considered the available evidence and concluded that there was sufficient basis to demonstrate implicit alignment between the trade association and SSE's net zero principles. Finally, Charge UK, was partially aligned due to limited evidence of support for SSE's five net zero principles.

A summary of alignment to SSE's individual principles to meet net zero for all other trade associations within scope can be found in Table 2. None of the additional trade associations were found to be misaligned with any of SSE's five key principles.

Table 2: Alignment of all other trade associations to SSE's individual principles to reach net zero.

Trade Association	Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	Supports a strong carbon price	Promotes innovation	Seeks a just transition to net zero
Association for Decentralised Energy	●	●	●	●	●
Association of University Directors of Estates	●	●	●	●	●
Charge UK	●	●	●	●	●
Global Wind Energy Council	●	●	●	●	●
International Emissions Trading Association	●	●	●	●	●
NedZero	●	●	●	●	●
Unión Española Fotovoltaica	●	●	●	●	●
WindEurope	●	●	●	●	●

● Aligned ● Partially aligned ● Misaligned

Conclusion and Next Steps

SSE continues to support the net zero transition through deep emissions reductions, enabling the electrification of high carbon sectors and by conducting climate advocacy that support the goals of the Paris Agreement.

In 2024/25, 20 associations were assessed, including 12 identified as principal trade associations. All principal associations demonstrated alignment with SSE's net zero principles, by supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement, and advocated for innovative climate solutions. They also endorsed a fair and just transition to net zero, though some could strengthen their position with clearer public statements on carbon pricing and just transition strategies.

No trade associations were identified as being misaligned with SSE's climate-related objectives. Of the other eight associations assessed, seven were broadly aligned with SSE's net zero principles but could improve clarity on carbon pricing and just transition support. Charge UK, formed in 2023 to represent the UK's EV charging sector, was partially aligned due to limited evidence of support for SSE's five net zero principles. However, its focus on decarbonising transport suggests a low risk of misalignment. SSE will seek further engagement with Charge UK to ensure that it is explicitly aligned with SSE's key principles to reach net zero.

Stakeholders increasingly expect transparency on both SSE's own climate advocacy and the positions of its trade associations. SSE acknowledges the importance of transparent disclosure of all its direct advocacy activities and sees the content in this report as an important first step in enhancing the disclosure of its direct climate advocacy going forward.

Finally, SSE will continue its engagement with all relevant associations and conduct an annual review of their alignment with SSE's net zero principles. The company will seek to strengthen this disclosure in the future and integrate this review into its suite of annual disclosures, including the Annual Report and the Sustainability Report

Appendix A: Scope and methodology for trade association review

Scope

Representatives from SSE Group (Sustainability, Corporate Affairs, Regulation and Strategy) and relevant Business Units were asked to provide details of their trade association memberships for an initial screening process. The project team screened the list of memberships and used the following criteria to determine whether to include or exclude each trade association from the review.

The criteria for inclusion were:

1. SSE was a member of the trade association between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025; and
2. The trade association was considered a 'principal trade association' as per SSE's Political Engagement Statement 2025; or
3. The annual membership fee exceeded £10,000.

All trade associations that SSE joined after 31 March 2025 will be screened for review as part of SSE's climate policy engagement review 2025/26.

The rationale for excluding trade associations with membership fees below £10,000 is that such trade associations would hold less influence when lobbying for more ambitious national climate change policy in line with SSE's net zero ambitions and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

SSE considers all principal trade associations to be within scope, as they are regarded as having significant influence over climate policy in its core markets of the UK and Ireland. SSE has employees serving on the Boards or Executive Committees of each of these organisations and is also represented on the committees responsible for overseeing their advocacy activities. Through these engagements, and informed by the outcomes of this review, SSE's Corporate Affairs department maintains oversight of the advocacy positions and activities of these trade associations. Further details on SSE's principal trade associations can be found in SSE's Political Engagement Statement which can be accessed through the SSE Group Political and Regulatory Engagement Policy at sse.com/sustainability/policies-and-assurances.

SSE has also excluded trade associations for which it has no direct membership but holds membership through national associations. An example of this is Eurelectric where SSE is a member via Energy UK, Energy Networks Association and Electricity Association of Ireland.

This review identified 49 trade associations of which SSE was a member during 2024/25. These associations are listed in Appendix A, alongside whether they were included or excluded from the review and, if included, the status of their alignment.

Methodology

For the trade associations considered within scope for this review, SSE applied a bespoke methodology to assess its associations' positions on climate change. The detail of this methodology is provided below.

Determining key principles on climate change

To assess the alignment of trade associations with the goals of the Paris Agreement and SSE's net zero strategy, SSE established five key principles to reach net zero. These principles were drawn from SSE's Climate Change Policy, which aligns with the goals of the Paris Agreement, and further public statements of principle. All trade associations included in the scope of the review were assessed against these five key principles.

Data collection and analysis

All data collection was carried out by the core project team using desk-based research methods. The team accessed open-source information available through publicly accessible websites, official publications, organisational policies, and media statements made by spokespersons. Where possible, the team attempted to find data sources which were published within the 2024/25 financial year. However, sources produced prior to 1st April 2024 were also considered for this assessment. The core team maintained all collected data in a centrally stored database, which was subsequently used to support the data analysis phase of the review.

During the research phase, the team utilised primary data sources and applied informed subjective judgement to assess each trade association's alignment with SSE's five key principles for achieving net zero. To substantiate their judgement, each researcher provided direct evidence and a link to the source text where alignment was deemed to be achieved. The links were then peer reviewed.

Scoring methodology

Once the data was collected and validated, SSE applied a weighted scoring framework to the information gathered. A higher weighting was placed on trade associations' support for the goals of the Paris Agreement. Each trade association needed to show explicit support for the goals of the Paris Agreement and meet at least two of SSE's key principles on the acknowledgement of the threat of climate change, support of a carbon price, embrace innovation and seek a just transition to be considered as aligned to SSE's climate strategy and ambitions.

Trade associations were categorised into one of the following classifications based on their weighted scoring:

Aligned

Trade associations were deemed to be aligned overall to SSE's key principles on climate change if they:

- Support the goals of the Paris Agreement; and met two of the following criteria
- Acknowledge the serious threat of climate change;
- Support a strong carbon price;
- Seek a just transition to net zero; or
- Promote innovation.

Partially aligned

Trade associations were deemed to be partially aligned to SSE's key principles on climate change if they:

- Did not explicitly support the goals of the Paris Agreement; and/or
- Did not meet the threshold to be considered aligned to SSE's principles on climate change but did not hold opposing positions.

Misalignment

Trade associations were deemed to be misaligned if they were found to be advocating in contradiction to any of SSE's five key principles on climate change.

Appendix B: SSE's trade association memberships

Trade association	Overall alignment to SSE's key principles to reach net zero	Included in scope?
Association for Decentralised Energy	Aligned	Included
Association of University Directors of Estates	Aligned	Included
Carbon Capture and Storage Association	Aligned	Included
Charge UK	Partially aligned	Included
Confederation of British Industry	Aligned	Included
Electricity Association of Ireland	Aligned	Included
Energy Networks Association	Aligned	Included
Energy UK	Aligned	Included
Global Wind Energy Council	Aligned	Included
Hydrogen UK	Aligned	Included
International Emissions Trading Association	Aligned	Included
Irish Business and Employers Confederation	Aligned	Included
NedZero	Aligned	Included
RenewableNI	Aligned	Included
RenewableUK	Aligned	Included
Scottish Renewables	Aligned	Included
Solar Energy UK	Aligned	Included
Unión Española Fotovoltaica	Aligned	Included
Wind Energy Ireland	Aligned	Included
WindEurope	Aligned	Included

Trade association	Overall alignment to SSE's key principles to reach net zero	Included in scope?
Amorce	n/a	Excluded
Asociación de energías renovables	n/a	Excluded
Asociación de Energías Renovables de Andalucía	n/a	Excluded
Asociación de Promotores de Energía Eólica de Castilla y León	n/a	Excluded
Asociación Empresarial Eólica	n/a	Excluded
Associazione Nazionale Energia del Vento	n/a	Excluded
British Controls Industry Association	n/a	Excluded
Cluster de la Energía de Aragón	n/a	Excluded
Electricity Storage Network	n/a	Excluded
Energy Netherlands	n/a	Excluded
Energy Storage Ireland	n/a	Excluded
Fédération Française des Producteurs Agrivoltaïques	n/a	Excluded
France Renouvelables	n/a	Excluded
Greek Association of RES Electricity Producers	n/a	Excluded
Heat Networks Industry Council	n/a	Excluded
Hellenic Wind Energy Association	n/a	Excluded
Hydrogen Ireland	n/a	Excluded
International Hydropower Association	n/a	Excluded
Irish Solar Energy Association	n/a	Excluded
Italia Solare	n/a	Excluded
Japanese Wind Power Association	n/a	Excluded
Marine Renewables Industry Association Ireland	n/a	Excluded
Prosper	n/a	Excluded
Renewable Energy Association for Sustainable Power Supply	n/a	Excluded
Spanish Storage Association	n/a	Excluded
Syndicat de l'Energie Solaire Renouvelable	n/a	Excluded
Syndicat des Energies Renouvelables	n/a	Excluded
UK District Energy Association	n/a	Excluded
UK Emissions Trading Group	n/a	Excluded

Appendix C: Trade association membership costs

Membership cost (£)	Trade association
> 500,000	Energy Networks Association
250,000 - < 500,000	Energy UK.
100,000 - < 250,000	Irish Business and Employers Confederation.
50,000 - < 100,000	Global Wind Energy Council; NedZero, RenewableUK.
30,000 - < 50,000	Electricity Association of Ireland; Scottish Renewables; Solar Energy UK.
15,000 - < 30,000	Association for Decentralised Energy; Carbon Capture and Storage Association; Charge UK; Confederation of British Industry; Hydrogen UK; International Emissions Trading Association; Unión Española Fotovoltaica; Wind Energy Ireland; WindEurope.
10,000 - < 15,000	Association of University Directors of Estates; Renewable NI.

Appendix D: Detailed assessment of SSE's principal trade associations

Carbon Capture and Storage Association	About: The Carbon Capture and Storage Association (CCSA) is a European association accelerating the commercial deployment of carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) through advocacy and collaboration. It has offices in Brussels and London. It works with members, governments and other organisations to ensure CCUS is developed and deployed at the pace and scale necessary to deliver sustainable growth across Europe, including the UK.
Alignment:	Aligned
Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	CCSA acknowledges the serious threat of climate change and the damaging effects it has had on Europe and other regions including unprecedented loss of life, economic upheaval, and ecological destruction from severe flooding, hurricanes, wildfires and heatwaves.
Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	CCSA recognises the urgency required in tackling climate change and supports the goals of the Paris Agreement to do this. It highlights that decisive action on reducing emissions is essential to limit temperature rises to the 1.5°C threshold, in line with the Paris Agreement, and prevent further ecological and economic worldwide damage. CCSA also supported the UK's updated nationally determined contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC.
Supports a strong carbon price	CCSA advocated for the linkage of the UK ETS and EU ETS, which would stabilise carbon pricing and mitigate market volatility, removing trade barriers and encouraging investments in low-carbon technologies such as CCUS. CCSA believes that a linked EU-UK Emissions Trading System, alongside a comprehensive CBAM, would reduce the risk of competitive distortions and carbon leakage, and lower the overall cost of reaching net zero. They have also highlighted the role that linkage would have in delivering cross border CO2 storage and developing greenhouse gas removal markets. It also highlights that, in the context of the EU's CBAM, close alignment between the UK and EU on carbon pricing is vital to safeguard competitiveness and minimise trade friction. By endorsing a robust carbon pricing framework, CCUS reinforces its commitment to decarbonise the energy sector and achieve net zero emissions.
Promotes innovation	CCSA strongly advocates for the use of innovative carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) technologies, calling it essential for achieving reduced emissions targets and providing flexibility to ensure energy security.
Seeks a just transition to net zero	CCSA supports a just transition to net zero and seeks to create new low carbon jobs while protecting existing workers in industrial areas that have previously been home to high carbon sectors. CCSA strongly welcomed the DESNZ announcement to provide tailored support for oil and gas workers in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire that will help them move into low carbon sectors such as hydrogen and CCUS, by offering careers advice and upskilling opportunities. They also have a dedicated working group looking at the development of skills and the supply chain, as well as co-chairing the CCUS Council, alongside Minister Sarah Jones, which also discusses skills needed in the sector. CCSA believes that scaling up CCUS is essential for achieving climate commitments and ensuring a just transition that harnesses the deep expertise of skilled oil and gas workers, bringing them on the journey to decarbonisation and delivering a future clean energy system that is sustainable, secure, and rooted in local communities.

Confederation of British Industry	About: The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) is a prominent business organisation in the UK that serves as a voice for businesses, advocating for their interests and contributing to the formulation of economic and business policies. CBI's membership consists of a wide range of businesses from various sectors such as manufacturing, services, finance, and technology.
Alignment:	Aligned
Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	CBI recognises the severity of climate change and identifies warming global temperatures, record high sea levels and rising greenhouse gas concentrations as some of the devastating effects it is having on the planet. CBI calls the transition to net zero a strategic necessity essential for long-term sustainable growth.
Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	To avoid the devastating effects of climate change, CBI supports the UK's legally binding emissions target of achieving net zero by 2050. The association believes this ambition is needed to ensure the UK delivers on its international commitments needed to keep global warming below 1.5°C, in line with the Paris Agreement. CBI also supported increasing global ambition on climate, signing a joint statement in April 2023 calling for all countries to increase the ambition of their Nationally Determined Contributions, ahead of global stocktake of the Paris Agreement.
Supports a strong carbon price	CBI supports the linking of the UK ETS and EU ETS, recognising that alignment would boost efficiency, cut decarbonisation costs, and enhance mutual competitiveness by elevating UK allowance prices to match those of the EU. This linkage is expected to stabilise carbon pricing, mitigate market volatility, and accelerate the transition to clean energy. CBI highlights that linkage will demonstrate the role of effective carbon pricing and reinforce EU-UK leadership on climate at a global level. By endorsing a robust carbon pricing framework, CBI reinforces its commitment to decarbonising the energy sector and achieving net zero emissions.
Promotes innovation	CBI identifies innovation as crucial to achieving net zero emissions as it drives the development and deployment of new cleaner energy sources essential for the transition to a sustainable future, including hydrogen and carbon capture technologies.
Seeks a just transition to net zero	In written evidence to the Parliament responding to a Treasury Select Committee inquiry on the decarbonisation of the UK economy and Green Finance, CBI highlighted its belief that a just transition strategy must be a priority for the government as part of a collection of actions to reduce emissions and achieve net zero. It emphasised the need to support vulnerable consumers and collaborate with businesses and local authorities to bring everyone along on the energy transition. CBI also supports the re-training of workers in previous industrial roles to help them transition into low carbon jobs and believes that the economic and employment benefits of creating sustainable supply chains for decarbonisation are key to laying the foundations for a just transition.

Energy Networks Association	About: The Energy Networks Association (ENA) is the industry body for energy network operators in the UK and Ireland. It supports members to meet the challenge of delivering energy to communities across the UK and Ireland safely, sustainably and reliably.
Alignment:	Aligned
Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	ENA recognises the serious threat of climate change and its potential impacts on the electricity networks in the UK and Ireland. ENA highlights increased incidences of high winds, flooding and heat as direct consequences of climate change and stresses the importance of investing in infrastructure with climate resilience and adaptation in mind.
Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	ENA is committed to accelerating progress towards delivering the low-carbon technologies needed to meet the UK's Clean Power 2030 and wider 2050 net zero targets, supporting the Paris Agreement's goal to limit global temperature rises to 1.5°C to reduce the impacts of climate change.
Supports a strong carbon price	Whilst the ENA is in the process of developing its official position on the potential linkage between the UK Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the EU ETS, the prevailing view among its Member Companies is broadly supportive of such a linkage. It recognises that alignment would lower GB wind curtailment and reduce trade barriers, particularly by avoiding carbon-related tariffs on electricity exports from the UK into the EU under the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. This linkage is expected to stabilise carbon pricing, mitigate market volatility, and accelerate the transition to clean energy. By endorsing a robust carbon pricing framework, ENA reinforces its commitment to decarbonising the energy sector and achieving net zero emissions.
Promotes innovation	ENA believes that innovation has a key role in the transition to net zero and that innovation projects using new technologies can help to tackle the challenges faced within the energy industry. It encourages collaboration between its members to share ideas on innovative solutions to sector wide problems. ENA also provides a guide for stakeholders on how innovation projects can be delivered through its Energy Networks Innovation Process.
Seeks a just transition to net zero	While ENA doesn't explicitly use the term just transition, it states the importance of the energy transition for unlocking benefits for consumers, businesses and society. It works with local authorities to ensure that the energy transition is inclusive and regionally tailored. This aligns with the ideology of a just transition, demonstrating a commitment for fair social outcomes for people and communities.

Energy UK	About: Energy UK represents companies leading on modernising and decarbonising the whole system to those focused on developing better products and services for consumers. It supports members from growing start-ups to major electricity suppliers, helping to drive change across power, heat, transport and flexibility.
Alignment:	Aligned
Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	Energy UK acknowledges the serious threat of climate change and outlines the detrimental effects it is having on public health and the environment. It highlights the impacts on air pollution, rising sea levels and global warming. It advocates for the urgent need to tackle climate change through increased government cooperation with businesses and society.
Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	Energy UK champions the government's Clean Power 2030 and net zero by 2050 targets explicitly calibrated to limit global temperature rises to 1.5°C, in line with the Paris Agreement, and contribute to enabling a decarbonised economy that protects biodiversity.
Supports a strong carbon price	Energy UK highlights its support for robust carbon pricing, calling it a powerful tool in enabling the progress to-date in reducing emissions and attracting investment in clean energy. Energy UK also advocated for linking the UK ETS and EU ETS, recognising that alignment would drive down the cost of electricity by elevating UK allowance prices to match those of the EU. This linkage is expected to stabilise carbon pricing, mitigate market volatility, and accelerate the transition to clean energy in the UK. By endorsing a robust carbon pricing framework, Energy UK reinforces its commitment to decarbonising the energy sector and achieving net zero emissions.
Promotes innovation	Energy UK promotes innovation in the energy industry by supporting the development of low carbon technologies such as electric vehicles and low carbon heating systems that will transform the transport and heating sectors, respectively. It views this an exciting journey and strives to lead conversation around overcoming barriers to deliver net zero in a cost-efficient way.
Seeks a just transition to net zero	Energy UK advocates for a fair and just transition to net zero, leaving no body behind. It stresses the importance of protecting consumers, tackling inequalities and providing additional support for those that need it. Energy UK also highlights that the transformation to decarbonised heat and transport will have a positive impact on the lives and livelihoods of everyone involved, through more stable energy bills, improved homes and buildings that are warm and safe, and better health.

Hydrogen UK	About: Hydrogen UK supports organisations across the UK to develop, scale up and deploy hydrogen solutions, providing the UK opportunity to decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors and delivering secure resilient energy systems.
Alignment:	Aligned
Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	Hydrogen UK promotes the use of low-carbon hydrogen within traditionally carbon-intensive industries to reduce their environmental impacts; help deliver a roadmap to net zero for such companies and lead the charge against climate change.
Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	Hydrogen UK supports the UK government's Clean Power 2030 commitment and mandated net zero by 2050 ambition, which are both aligned with the Paris Agreement. It highlights the role that electrolytic hydrogen can play in supporting the roll out of renewables to achieve the government targets, by reducing curtailment and system balancing costs. Hydrogen UK also advocates that the use of hydrogen will enable the decarbonisation of hard to abate sectors including industry, heavy transport and dispatchable power.
Supports a strong carbon price	Hydrogen UK supports a strong carbon price through the introduction of the CBAM. It believes effective carbon pricing is a key tool to accelerate decarbonisation and ensure polluters pay the price of their emissions. It highlights that the CBAM would stop carbon leakage and ensure that industries do not move to areas with weaker climate policy, in turn, incentivising the switch to low-carbon energy such as hydrogen. By endorsing a robust carbon pricing framework, Hydrogen UK reinforces its commitment to decarbonising the energy sector and achieving net zero emissions.
Promotes innovation	Hydrogen UK advocates for the rapid deployment of hydrogen technologies to support the UK's clean energy transition. It urges the UK Government to prioritise hydrogen to unlock its full potential and position the UK as a global leader in clean energy innovation. In its 2025–2030 manifesto, it urges the government to accelerate investment in hydrogen, particularly through the development of first-of-a-kind power stations that can pave the way for a national hydrogen-to-power fleet. It also calls for updates to the Clean Maritime Plan and the inclusion of maritime emissions in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme to drive the adoption of hydrogen-based fuels in shipping. In the heating sector, Hydrogen UK stresses the need for clear policy direction to give industry and investors confidence in the future role of hydrogen in domestic heating.
Seeks a just transition to net zero	Hydrogen UK emphasises the wealth of economic opportunities that hydrogen solutions bring including job creation and skills development. It believes the development of hydrogen hubs will rejuvenate local economies with strong industrial heritage and highlights the high degree of transferability for workers in previous fossil fuel roles into low carbon hydrogen, supporting upskilling and a just transition to net zero.

RenewableUK	About: RenewableUK is the established, influential voice of the UK's renewable energy industry, providing news, insights and data on developments in offshore wind, onshore wind, energy storage, green hydrogen, wave and tidal power. It actively collaborates with its members to advocate for policies that address challenges, drive awareness and unlock investment in renewable energy.
Alignment:	Aligned
Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	RenewableUK recognises the harmful effects that climate change can have on wellbeing, the natural environment and the economy and stresses the importance of decarbonising the energy system to protect these areas.
Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	RenewableUK encourages increased investment in clean energy projects to act against climate change as a matter of urgency. It has publicly backed the UK government's pledge to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions by at least 81% on 1990 levels to contribute towards its goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C, in line with the Paris Agreement.
Supports a strong carbon price	RenewableUK advocates for the linking of the UK ETS with the EU ETS, recognising that alignment would elevate UK allowance prices to match those of the EU. This linkage is expected to stabilise carbon pricing, mitigate market volatility, and accelerate the transition to clean energy in the UK. Additionally, RenewableUK supports this approach as a means to reduce trade barriers, particularly by avoiding carbon-related tariffs on electricity exports from the UK into the EU under the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. By endorsing a robust carbon pricing framework, RenewableUK reinforces its commitment to decarbonising the energy sector and achieving net zero emissions.
Promotes innovation	RenewableUK supports the development of new, cutting-edge energy technologies, such as floating offshore wind technology, and encourages investment in such innovations to seize global opportunities and meet the needs of consumers in a low carbon way. Furthermore, RenewableUK launched its own Innovation Awards to celebrate and promote emerging technologies in the offshore wind industry, expanding on its commitment to showcasing breakthrough renewable energy solutions.
Seeks a just transition to net zero	RenewableUK has established a framework for showcasing good practice to its members in relation to the themes of people, place and planet through its Just Transition Tracker. This framework demonstrates that RenewableUK recognises the energy transition is about more than just providing low carbon energy and reducing emissions - it also has a profound impact on people and society. Therefore, it states that efforts must be taken to ensure that this impact is a positive one.

Scottish Renewables	About: Scottish Renewables is an organisation dedicated to growing Scotland's renewable energy sector and sustaining its position as a leader in the global clean energy industry, delivering investment, jobs and social benefits while reducing carbon emissions. Its members work across all renewable energy technologies, in Scotland, the UK, Europe and around the world.
Alignment:	Aligned
Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	Scottish Renewables calls Scotland a globally recognised leader on climate action as it was the first country in the world to declare a climate emergency. Scottish Renewables emphasises that accelerating renewable energy, upgrading electricity networks and decarbonising heat are all essential to meet Scotland's climate ambitions and combat climate change.
Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	Scottish Renewables supports the goals of the Paris Agreement and calls for a clear plan of action on securing net zero and keeping the 1.5°C limitation within reach.
Supports a strong carbon price	Scottish Renewables supports the linkage of the UK ETS and EU ETS, recognising that alignment would bring significant advantages for both regions in the pursuit of a clean and secure energy system. This linkage will elevate UK allowance prices to match those of the EU, which is expected to stabilise carbon pricing, mitigate market volatility, support industrial competitiveness and remove barriers to UK-EU trade. By endorsing a robust carbon pricing framework, Scottish Renewables reinforces its commitment to decarbonising the energy sector and achieving net zero emissions.
Promotes innovation	Scottish Renewables' advocacy work ahead of the Scottish Government's 2024/25 draft budget for green hydrogen and heating called for infrastructure, investment and innovation to be at the heart of the clean energy transition in Scotland. It supports the development and accelerated roll out of innovative low-carbon solutions such as heat pumps and new green hydrogen export and storage technologies to maximise renewable resources and decarbonise heat networks.
Seeks a just transition to net zero	Scottish Renewables actively seeks a just transition to net zero and aims to grow the renewable industry while benefitting local communities, protecting the environment, and delivering prosperity for current and future generations. It has called for the Scottish Government to publish an Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan and to establish a nationwide Just Transition Fund to support workers looking to upskill from high carbon roles into low carbon roles in the renewables sector. Scottish Renewables also promotes a variety of training and supportive resources on its website that aid workers looking to make this green transition.

Solar Energy UK	About: Solar Energy UK represents the interests of businesses operating in the solar energy sector in the UK, including solar PV and energy storage technologies. The association has a diverse membership that includes solar energy companies, manufacturers, installers, developers, and other stakeholders involved in the solar and energy storage value chain. Solar Energy UK engages in advocacy and works with policymakers to influence energy policies and regulations and advocates for a supportive policy environment that encourages the growth of solar and energy storage technologies.
Alignment:	Aligned
Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	Solar Energy UK acknowledges the climate crisis and emphasises the race for clean, homegrown power and a shift away from imported, polluting and expensive fossil fuels.
Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	Solar Energy UK supports the UK Government's Clean Power 2030 and net zero by 2050 targets, which are aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement. In 2024, Solar Energy UK called for the Government to be more ambitious in its 2030 targets for solar energy by setting a target range of 50-60GW of solar energy by 2030, as well as ensuring any associated grid connections reforms do not threaten viable, consented projects, in order to accelerate the drive to clean power.
Supports a strong carbon price	Solar Energy UK, signed an open letter alongside other major renewable energy associations, calling for closer alignment between the UK and EU on carbon pricing mechanisms, including the EU ETS and the EU CBAM. Solar Energy UK advocates for coordinated carbon markets to enhance investment certainty, reduce administrative burdens, and support the decarbonisation of energy systems across Europe. This alignment is seen as essential to unlocking the full potential of cross-border renewable energy cooperation and accelerating the transition to net zero.
Promotes innovation	Solar Energy UK champions innovative solar technologies, including energy storage and electric vehicles (EVs), actively shapes innovation policy through research and development and advocates for Solar's central role in achieving net zero. It estimates that equipping 4.4 million homes with solar, battery storage, and smart energy controls could eliminate electricity demand spikes. It also highlights that the increase in use of EVs will drive up demand for electricity. However, greater system flexibility, through solar storage and grid exports, can reduce reliance on high-carbon energy.
Seeks a just transition to net zero	Solar Energy UK seeks a just transition to net zero and supports workers from fossil fuel based industrial backgrounds through the energy transition. It acknowledges the need to upskill these workers to enable them to contribute to the delivery of a low carbon future using solar power. Solar Energy UK also supports government schemes, such as the Modern Slavery Act 2015, Procurement Act 2023 and the Modern Slavery Assessment Tool, that aim to tackle modern slavery in supply chains and strengthen protections to reduce the risk of the exploitation of workers, ensuring that solar panels in the UK are modern slavey free.

Electricity Association of Ireland	About: The Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI) is the representative body for the electricity industry and gas retail sector operating within the Single Electricity Market (SEM) on the island of Ireland.
Alignment:	Aligned
Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	EAI recognises the growing urgency for climate action to protect the economy and natural environment. It states that failure to act early will create future regret and emphasises the need for a greater focus on emission reduction to achieve effective decarbonisation.
Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	EAI supports the Irish Government's ambition to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and its interim commitment to reduce emissions by 51% by 2030 compared to 2018 levels to limit the impact of rising temperatures in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.
Supports a strong carbon price	EAI advocates for the linking of the UK ETS and EU ETS to strengthen the integrity of, and confidence in the carbon market, benefitting both parties by allowing them to reach net zero faster and more cost-effectively. This linkage is expected to stabilise carbon pricing, mitigate market volatility, minimise the risk of carbon leakage. By endorsing a robust carbon pricing framework, EAI reinforces its commitment to decarbonising the energy sector and achieving net zero emissions.
Promotes innovation	EAI supports the introduction and roll out of innovative low-carbon technologies such as electric vehicles and heat pumps that will help to lower emissions and reach net zero goals. It encourages wide promotion of such technologies and strives to provide continual support to enable consumers to retrofit their homes.
Seeks a just transition to net zero	EAI supports a clean, green, just and secure energy transition and highlights the importance of ensuring vulnerable customers and communities are supported along the way. For example, it promotes the phase out of fossil fuel boilers in residential homes in favour of electric heat solutions where viable and encourages grants and a public information campaign to remain in place until all homes have been upgraded, to ensure a just transition.

Irish Business and Employer Confederation (IBEC)	About: IBEC is Ireland's largest business representative group. Its purpose is to lead and deliver for business success, building a better, more sustainable future for all. IBEC supports and represents thousands of businesses of every size and across sectors, helping them navigate challenges and seize opportunities. IBEC believes Irish business has the power to improve lives, solve problems and strengthen society and strives to lead and deliver business success, building a better and more sustainable future for all.
Alignment:	Aligned
Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	IBEC recognises the increasing global risks related to climate change including temperature rises and changing environments, with greenhouse gas emissions being the main driver. It states that tackling climate change is the single greatest challenge facing mankind today.
Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	IBEC supports Irelands ambitious target to reach a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and Net Zero emissions by 2050. These decarbonisation targets are aligned with the 1.5°C temperature reduction goal of the Paris Agreement.
Supports a strong carbon price	IBEC supports the linking of the UK ETS with the EU ETS. The ETS linkage would elevate UK allowance prices to match those of the EU. This is expected to stabilise carbon pricing, mitigate market volatility, and accelerate the transition to clean energy in the UK. Additionally, IBEC supports the introduction of the EU CBAM, with some exceptions specifically on lifting the minimum obligation threshold. The EU CBAM protects carbon leakage by imposing a financial adjustment on high carbon imports, accelerating emissions reduction. IBEC believes that the formal linking of the UK and EU carbon border and ETS will protect competitiveness and accelerate decarbonisation globally. By endorsing a robust carbon pricing framework, IBEC reinforces its commitment to achieve net zero. IBEC has also been very supportive of the national carbon tax regime and was an early advocate for its introduction in 2019.
Promotes innovation	IBEC supports investment in innovation and knowledge development in the energy industry and call it the key to drive sustainable economic growth for Ireland. IBEC believes Ireland must increase public investment in research and innovation to 1% of GNI by 2035. It calls for the government to set ambitious digital targets and funding across all relevant EU programmes to ensure Europe benefits from AI and other emerging technologies. It works with its members to ensure appropriate structures and support are in place to promote research and development and drive innovation to maximise the return on investment for economic and social progress.
Seeks a just transition to net zero	IBEC successfully advocated for the establishment of Irelands Just Transition Commission, which was set up in 2024 and has an IBEC representative on the commission. The purpose of the commission is to support the government in ensuring Ireland's transition to the National Climate Objective is fair and just, maximising employment opportunities and supporting people and communities that may be negatively affected by the transition. The Commission will be a public voice on planning for just transition, leading in developing a shared understanding, and identifying the challenges, solutions and opportunities for Ireland.

RenewableNI	About: RenewableNI is the voice for the renewable electricity industry in Northern Ireland. Through the development of policy, best practice and public communications, it represents those engaged in wind, solar and battery storage development.
Alignment:	Aligned
Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	RenewableNI acknowledges the serious threat of climate change, stating that the climate emergency represents Northern Ireland's most complex existential crisis. It calls for the Northern Irish Governments to prioritise tackling this with urgency.
Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	RenewableNI stresses that immediate action must be taken to prevent warming above 1.5°C, in line with the Paris Agreement. It also successfully advocated for the ambitious target of 80% renewables by 2030 as a key step towards decarbonising the power sector. This target is now a legal requirement of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and will also contribute to the UK government meeting its own 2050 net zero pledge, which is aligned to the Paris Agreement.
Supports a strong carbon price	RenewableNI supports the linking of the UK ETS and EU ETS, recognising that alignment would stabilise carbon pricing and improve market functioning. This linkage is expected to mitigate market volatility and enhance emissions reduction, accelerating the transition to clean energy in the UK. By endorsing a robust carbon pricing framework, RenewableNI reinforces its commitment to decarbonising the energy sector and achieving net zero emissions.
Promotes innovation	RenewableNI promotes innovation through advocating for ahead-of-time grid investment, development of new renewable technologies, including storage, hybrid connections and repowering, that revolutionise how we generate and use energy. In its strategic plan 2023-2028, Renewables NI also calls for a clear plan and support from the government for research and development in new technologies such as floating solar and floating wind, and collaboration with universities on research and innovation.
Seeks a just transition to net zero	RenewableNI supports a just transition to net zero and encourages the take up and showcasing of good practice of just transition principles across the government, industry and partners. It welcomed the news of a soon to be established Just Transition Commission in 2024 that will focus on developing plans to produce community benefits through community innovation projects. RenewableNI is committed to robust and meaningful community consultation and maintains that public acceptance and buy-in from the communities hosting essential renewable energy infrastructure are key features underpinning any future successful and just transition.

Wind Energy Ireland	About: Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) is committed to the promotion and education of wind energy issues and plays a leading role in policy advocacy in support for the development of wind energy on the island of Ireland. WEI is committed to promoting the use of wind energy in Ireland as an economically viable and environmentally sound alternative to thermal or nuclear generation.
Alignment:	Aligned
Acknowledges the serious threat of climate change	WEI acknowledges the enormous disruptions that climate change has on people's lives. It highlights intense storms, floods, heatwaves and biodiversity loss as some of the severe environmental consequences of climate change and calls for a change to how people live to ensure a future on the planet.
Supports the goals of the Paris Agreement	WEI supports the Irish government's legally-binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
Supports a strong carbon price	Wind Energy Ireland does not hold a formal position on carbon pricing mechanisms such as the EU ETS or Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism but implicitly supports strong carbon pricing in the EU ETS by highlighting wind energy's role in displacing gas consumption, reducing the need for emissions allowances, and delivering significant cost savings. According to its Cutting Carbon, Cutting Bills report, Wind Energy Ireland estimates that wind farms saved €748 million in imported gas and €268 million in carbon credits in Ireland, with an additional €213 million saved in Northern Ireland—delivering total all-island savings of over €1.2 billion.
Promotes innovation	WEI supports the advancement of growth opportunities using innovative technologies. In a submission to the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), WEI advocates for the integration of smart storage solutions, such as battery storage, calling them an essential piece of the puzzle that will address the intermittency of renewable energy sources and ensure a stable and reliable supply. WEI also promotes the development of smart grids to improve efficiency, reliability and resilience by enabling better demand response, integration of distributed energy and real-time monitoring and management.
Seeks a just transition to net zero	WEI supports a just transition to net zero and, as part of its strategy, WEI has set a strategic goal to build powerful communities, which highlights the importance of delivering a sustainable future for the people of Ireland. A key deliverable of this goal is to form partnerships with communities and bodies to enable a just, sustainable transition. It emphasises collaborating with local communities, educating people on how to tackle climate change and up-skilling workers for the jobs of tomorrow as key steps to enable a sustainable energy transition.