



Professor Graeme Reid
Scottish Funding Council
Apex 2, 97 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh, EH12 5HD

30 August 2016

Dear Professor Reid,

Support for Scottish Renewables call for a Sustainable Energy Innovation Centre

Scottish Environment LINK is a network of over 35 environmental NGOs in Scotland. Members of LINK would like to offer support for the call by Scottish Renewables for a Sustainable Energy Innovation Centre, as detailed in the Scottish Renewables letter to you of 5 August, 2016.

LINK members would like to highlight the need for innovation that is primarily driven by decarbonisation objectives, to be compatible with broader sustainability objectives and needs. Innovation in sectors such as energy storage and marine renewables are understood to offer significant opportunities to support a low carbon transition in Scotland, and require significant investment, but these technologies must be developed sustainably in order to ensure their viability and public support, and avoid perverse consequences such as loss of biodiversity.

A Sustainable Energy Innovation Centre, with the role of strategic direction and leadership, would be well positioned, and should be mandated to ensure that design and roll out of new technologies encompass the need to minimise impact on our ecosystems.

We would be very happy to discuss this further with you.

Kind regards,

Matthew Crighton
Convenor of LINK's Economics Group

LINK members supporting this letter:
Friends of the Earth Scotland
Froglife
North East Mountain Trust
Nourish
RSPB Scotland
Royal Scottish Geographical Society
WWF Scotland