Public views of Scotland’s path to decarbonization

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Headline Findings

- Citizen juries in Scotland reveal support for nationalization of energy resources
- Strong support for continued diversification of Scotland’s energy portfolio to include more renewable energy sources, even in Aberdeen, the current hub for oil and gas
- Participants supported further exploration of low-carbon emission technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS)
- Almost all focus group participants in Peterhead were unaware of the Shell project let alone its cancellation
Motivation

• Most resource-rich economies tend to be laggards on climate action (Burck et al., 2018) and resource-rich regions (ex. West Virginia in the US or Saskatchewan in Canada) have often acted to restrain or undermine national ambitions (Rabe, 2008; Besco, 2018; Carter, 2018; Hunter, 2019)
Why Deliberate?

• Deliberative processes seen as offering one (of many) mechanisms for enhancing democracy by encouraging:
  – Greater engagement with policy process
  – Direct interactions with experts
  – Recommendations for
  – Opportunities to validate and/or shift policies

“debate and discussion aimed at producing reasonable, well-informed opinions in which participants are willing to revise preferences in light of discussion, new information, and claims made by fellow participants”

- Chambers (2003)
Forms of Deliberative Engagement

- **Numbers of participants**
  - Citizens' summits: 1000s
  - Deliberative stakeholder events: 100s
  - Deliberative citizens' panels: 100s
  - Small scale continuing liaison groups, e.g. local partnerships: 10s

- **Length of process**
  - One-off: 10s
  - Several months: 100s
  - Ongoing: 1000s

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Focus Groups

• Focus groups provide opportunity for group discussion and can yield a range of ideas and opinions in a more natural setting than one-on-one interviews.

• Potential downsides of focus groups are that discussion may be relatively superficial, and dominant individuals may influence some of the responses of other group members.

• Four focus groups conducted in January 2017 with 36 citizens.

• Two focus groups in Peterhead (n=10 and n=9), one in Aberdeen (n=8), and one in Edinburgh (n=9).

• Participants recruited by Ipsos MORI.
Citizens’ Juries

Brexit on Trial
Join the pop-up citizens' jury on the future of food

10am-5pm | 12th May
The Duke of Cambridge, London N1 8JT
Register here: http://bit.ly/1SJLVSp
Citizens’ juries aim to provide policymakers with recommendations from individuals representative of the general public.

A group of 15 - 20 citizens are presented with information from experts, complete a series of deliberative activities, and then produce recommendations,

By keeping the group moderate in size, perspectives can be explored in depth through group discussions.

The opportunity to perform a variety of activities over the course of several days provides advantages over focus groups or surveys by offering extensive opportunity for deliberation.

Two citizens' juries held in January and February 2017 following the initial focus groups with participants recruited by Ipsos MORI

Juries took place over two consecutive Saturdays in Edinburgh (n=19), and Aberdeen (n=19).
Focus Group Recruitment

**Peterhead 1:**
- Gender: Equal split of males and females
- Age: at least 3 people aged 18-24, at least 3 aged 25-54 and at least 3 aged 55+
- A mix of working full time, working part time and not in employment
- At least 4 people who feel climate change is an immediate/urgent problem; and at least 4 who feel it is more of a problem for the future, not really a problem, or are not convinced climate change is happening
- Social Class: Only ABC1

**Peterhead 2:**
- Same as Peterhead 1 but only C2DE

**Aberdeen and Edinburgh:**
- Same as Peterhead 1 but equal split of ABC1 and C2DE social grades
- Educational attainment: 4 people with either HNC, HNC, degree, or postgraduate; 4 people with either O Grade, Standard Grade, A level or Higher; 2 people with no formal qualification
Citizens Jury Recruitment

- Equal split of males and females
- A mix of ages: at least 6 people aged 18-24, at least 6 aged 25-54 and at least 6 aged 55+
- Equal split of ABC1 and C2DE social grades
- A mix of working full time, working part time and not in employment
- Educational attainment: 8 people with either HNC, HNC, degree, or postgraduate; 8 people with either O Grade, Standard Grade, A level or Higher; 4 people with no formal qualifications
- At least 7 people who feel climate change is an immediate/urgent problem; and at least 7 who feel it is more of a problem for the future, not really a problem, or are not convinced climate change is happening
Role of Experts

• *Focus Groups*
• General introduction to energy in Scotland with a focus on explaining the potential role of CCS

• *Citizens Jury*
• Speakers offer views how the energy system in Scotland has changed dramatically over just the last five to ten years, the role for low-carbon options such as CCS and current Scottish policy and proposals
Expert Speakers

- Kirsty (Anderson) Lynch (Global CCS Institute)
- Stuart Gilfillan (University of Edinburgh)
- Stuart Haszeldine (University of Edinburgh)
- Jelte Harnmeijer (University of Edinburgh)
- Alex Kemp and Euan Bain (University of Aberdeen)
- Keith Bell (University of Strathclyde)
- Leslie Mabon (Robert Gordon University)
Focus Group Results

- **Scotland’s Declining Oil and Gas Industry**
  - “...it's not just been that industry, for example, my lass works in a nursery near [area] and they have to get rid of their staff because their kid’s parents have lost jobs and so have had to move” (Peterhead).

- **Climate Change**
  - “I think climate change is such an important issue. We are worried about the risks of this, but we already know the risks of climate change and we should just try and do anything that we can to make any change” (Edinburgh).

- **Renewable Energy**
  - “I think there has been quite a lot of missed opportunities in the UK especially in regards to wind, and if you look at somewhere like Germany they have really like made a real effort to support new types of energy...” (Edinburgh).

- **CCS**
  - “Is it safe stored? Obviously with the layers and everything on top, yes, but what if anything happens to it? For example, my flat is sinking slightly, apparently. What happens if the ground starts sinking and it's all released at once? That could be disastrous for the environment” (Aberdeen).

- **The Role of Individuals and Companies in Reducing Emissions**
  - “Put it back to the folk that are causing it” (Peterhead)
Citizens Jury Results

**Energy Challenges in Scotland**

– “...oil is a finite resource. No matter how much of it there is, eventually it will run out... I think it's good the Scotland is becoming more reliant on windfarms, turbine energy, solar energy. You know, basing everything on oil is quite foolhardy in my opinion” (Edinburgh 1).

– “I think cost is definitely the first thing. I'm definitely interested in the environment, but I think overall cost would have to come first.” (Edinburgh 2).

– “I mean, if all the oil companies have been making these massive profits for like 30 or 40 years are they going to be putting that funding back into decommission the rigs effectively, or are they going to do what they do in other countries and just, you know, put like a little cap over it and see you later kind of thing. If you look at what oil companies have done in other countries that have allowed them to do it, they just go in and wreck the place...” (Aberdeen 1).

– “...we're coming out of the single market, so we buy a lot of our energy from abroad, from Europe, so it's I guess a case of are they going to charge us more? Are we as a nation going to have to pay more, or are we going to invest in more renewable energy for ourselves?” (Aberdeen 2).

– “…It shouldn't be a case of not having a meal to turn the heating on.” (Aberdeen).
## Energy Challenges in Scotland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Top Three Challenges</th>
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</table>
| Edinburgh  | 1     | 1. Rising costs  
2. Declining fossil fuel resources  
3. Scotland’s energy independence     |
| Edinburgh  | 2     | Undecided, but substantial conversation centering around cost, environment, safety, and energy independence. |
| Aberdeen   | 1     | 1. Decommissioning in the North Sea  
2. Fracking  
3. Energy affordability             |
| Aberdeen   | 2     | 1. Transitioning to renewable energy  
2. Potential implications of Brexit  
3. Training the workforce to utilize new technologies |
Pre and Post Jury Assessments

Perceived Importance of Oil and Natural Gas Extraction in the North Sea

- 1 - Very Important
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - Not At All
- 6 - Don't Know

Pre-Jury
Post-Jury
Pre-Jury
Post-Jury
Aberdeen
Edinburgh
Pre and Post Jury Assessments

Acceptance of Different Energy Sources

- Solar
- Wind
- Natural Gas
- Natural Gas with CCS

Aberdeen Pre-Jury
Aberdeen Post-Jury
Edinburgh Pre-Jury
Edinburgh Post-Jury

- Don't Know
- Oppose
- Neutral
- In Favor
## Factors to Consider When Developing an Energy Policy for Scotland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edinburgh</th>
<th>Aberdeen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Political considerations</td>
<td>☐ Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Practicality</td>
<td>☐ Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Research and development</td>
<td>☐ Public awareness</td>
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<td>☐ Individual / public factors</td>
<td>☐ Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Environment</td>
<td>☐ Cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Safety and security</td>
<td>☐ Sustainability</td>
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Factors to Consider When Developing an Energy Policy for Scotland

• “Maybe better tax breaks for businesses that are using renewable energy. If somebody could see they're saving a bit of money, they're more likely to do it” (Edinburgh).

• “… if people want to put solar panels on their house or even a windmill in their back garden or whatever, I think the subsidy needs to be much more generous than they are now…” (Edinburgh).

• “Public safety is important... all the standards really need to be kept top notch for safety because they don't want either a nuclear power plant accident or Piper Alpha like accident, or even a dam bursting accident. That would be bad. So, really public safety is a top priority” (Aberdeen).
## Citizens’ Jury Recommendations for the Scottish Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
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| Edinburgh | 1) Legislation cannot be overturned  
             2) Invest in multiple energy types  
             3) Safety of CCS should be established by 2020, and a test project should be completed by 2025  
             4) Targeted initiatives for different demographic groups  
             5) Research alternative energy sources  
             5) Renationalize utilities with money generated going into research and development  
             5) Focus on renewables and clean fossil fuels |
| Aberdeen | 1) Nationalize energy  
             2) Establish an impartial authority to dictate energy futures in Scotland, ensure that more than one energy source is prioritized, and to look at cross-over energy sources  
             3) Profits made from energy production in Scotland to be fed back into communities  
             4) Public should be made aware of energy projects at the start – need consultations via many different platforms to involve them  
             5) Government should be committed to projects and not back out  
             5) Increase in ecofriendly architecture and town planning as a way of off-setting CO₂  
             5) Education in schools through personal and social education courses about different types of energy in a reader-friendly way |

Table 5. – Recommendations for the Scottish government  
* Received the same number of votes
Thanks!

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