

## **EXECUTIVE NOTE**

### **THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSES (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2009 SSI/2009/75**

The above instrument varies section 153(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to enable Scottish Ministers to give financial assistance for the purpose of the grant programme known as the Scottish Government's Communities and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES).

#### **Policy Objectives**

The Scottish Ministers wish to maximise the benefits for communities from renewable energy. Support to help communities develop renewable projects is currently delivered through the community strand of the Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative (SCHRI). However from April 2009, SCHRI will be refocused to support projects that contribute towards community cohesion, skills development, local economic development and harness the potential of locally produced renewable heat, especially in off gas grid areas. A new grant programme, CARES will be introduced from April 2009 and be delivered across Scotland by a new contactor.

The objectives of the scheme will be broadly similar to SCHRI, which are: to fund technical assistance studies, the purchase of renewable energy systems including associated infrastructure, installation of community district heating plants, and other relevant activities to help communities develop renewable energy projects.

As a consequence of this change, the amendment which this instrument makes to section 153(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990(b) will ensure that the necessary powers are in place to allow the new contractor to award grants.. This is purely a technical measure.

#### **Consultation**

The Scottish Government undertook a consultation on A Renewable Energy Framework for Scotland between October 2008 and December 2008. The consultation sought views on the intention to refocus community renewable towards those projects which maximise direct community benefit.. The responses to the consultation welcomed the change.

#### **Financial Effects**

A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared as this instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business.

Scottish Government, Business, Enterprise and Energy Directorate  
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