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Intersection of Poetry and Science – Energy Futures

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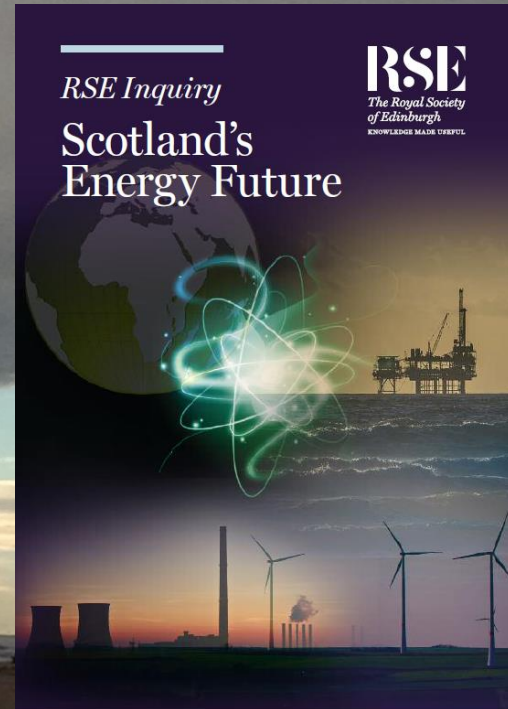
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Intersection of Poetry and Science – Energy Futures

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- Introduction
- Match Poets and Energy Futures Topics
- Terza Rima poem Structure
- Some Energy Terza Rimas





Energy – Hot Topic



The logo for the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) is displayed in large, white, serif capital letters. The letters 'R', 'S', and 'E' are prominent, with the 'S' being particularly stylized. The background behind the letters is a dark, semi-transparent globe showing the continents of North and South America.

RSE

*The Royal Society
of Edinburgh*

KNOWLEDGE MADE USEFUL

A composite graphic representing energy and the future. On the left, a glowing green and blue atomic symbol with orbiting electrons is superimposed over a landscape. In the background, several wind turbines stand on a grassy field under a sunset sky. To the right, an offshore oil or gas platform is visible in the ocean. The entire scene is overlaid with a faint, white grid pattern.

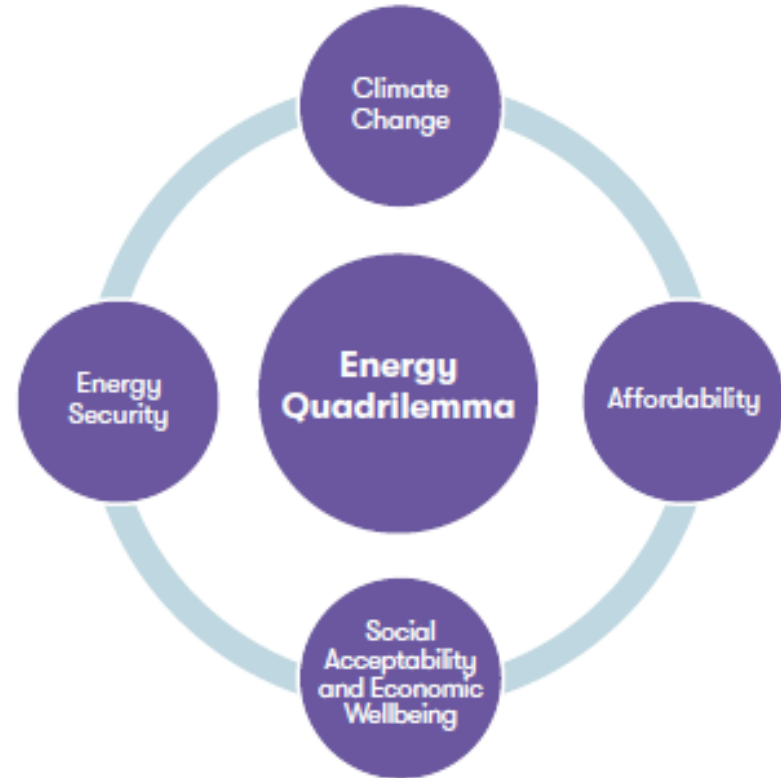
SCOTLAND'S
ENERGY FUTURE

RSE Energy Inquiry

#RSEEnergyInquiry

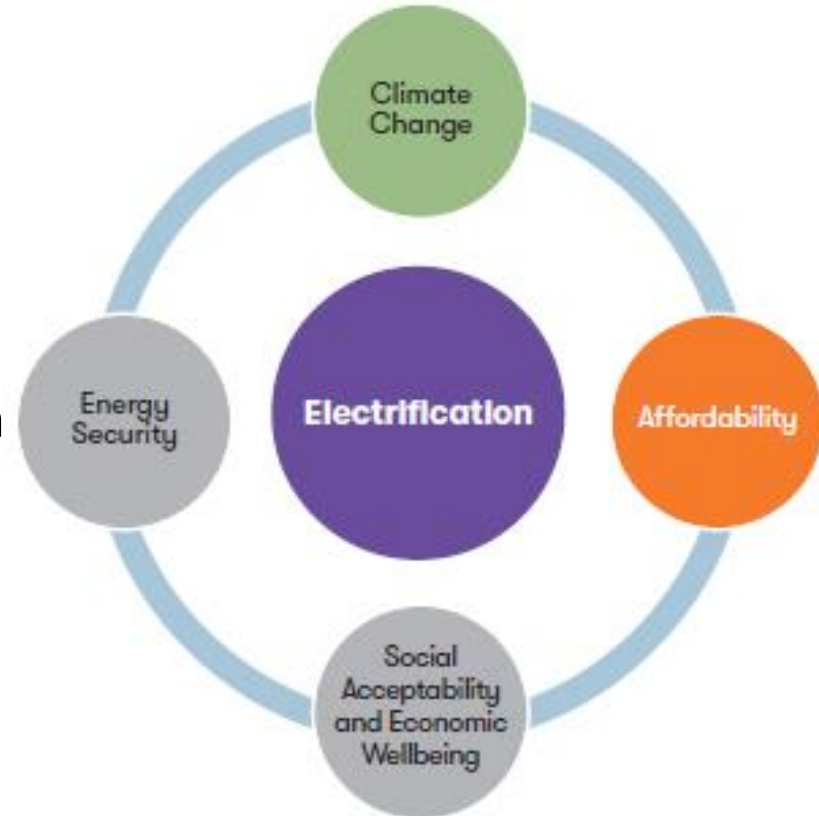
Objectives and Approach

- No policy will solve all problems and paradoxes of energy supply and use.
- Must address competing issues of the 'energy quadrilemma'.
- Decision makers need to be honest
 - What is achievable?
 - Changes must be made



Example: Electrification

- Electrification of transport and heat could significantly reduce carbon emissions
 - Only if generated from low-carbon sources
 - Lithium and Cobalt for batteries major issue
- Requires significant increase in generation
 - Current transport demand equivalent to electricity demand
 - Heat demand twice ~50% of total
- Substantial new infrastructure required to facilitate electrification





Understanding Trade-Offs

- Future Scottish energy policy relies on various decisions made by government, industry, communities and members of the public.
- Difficult choices require trade-offs
 - need to be understood, discussed and accepted by all

Intersection of Science and Poetry – Energy Futures

What can Poets do?

- Reduce demand – a personal response
- Engage as experts and public in the decision-making process
- Help communicate the challenges
- Help communicate the opportunities
- Express how do people feel about their Energy Future

Getting to know the audience today

- Now many poets?
- How many scientists?
- What areas are of most interest?
- Grouping folk by energy area
- Harness the energy in the room!

Options for Meeting Scotland's Energy Needs

- The report examined the following options:

Carbon Capture and
Storage
District Heating
Electrification
**Energy Efficiency &
Demand Reduction**
**Domestic Oil & Gas
Production**

Geothermal
Hydrogen
Importation
Nuclear
Bioenergy
Solar

Wind
Wave and Tidal
Hydropower
Smart Energy
Systems
Energy Storage

Terza Rima

- Structure
- Some energy examples
- Possible anchor lines

Terza Rima Structure

- The literal translation of *terza rima* from Italian is "third rhyme". *Terza rima* is a three-line stanza using [chain rhyme](#) in the pattern ABA BCB CDC DED. There is no limit to the number of lines, but poems or sections of poems written in *terza rima* end with either a single line or [couplet](#) repeating the rhyme of the middle line of the final [tercet](#). The two possible endings for the example above are DED E, or DED EE. There is no set [rhythm](#) for *terza rima*, but in [English](#), [iambic pentameter](#) is generally preferred

Carbon Enlightenment – Patrick Corbett

Look on with a new-found enlightenment;
Populated by the youthful addition,
Down-played by the seniors' parliament

We are all in a time of transition,
Close to a public tipping point, very
Near three and a half percent volition

Looking out for our climate canary
Waiting for a key piece of the puzzle
TV image that is really scary

Who is it they wish to mug or muzzle?
Are we all in a catatonic state
As usual business will glug and guzzle

Left alone to feel the heat, to a sure fate,
When you leave home, sigh and shut the gate

Fractured Water - Sam Illingworth

Within the hidden pores of ancient rock,
Clandestine remnants of our past lie trapped
And whisper of the future they unlock.

As these seductive murmurs leave us rapt,
We penetrate the soil with straws of steel
To drink from fresh reserves we find untapped.

But first we need to break the stony seal,
And flush synthetic tracts with dirty tears
That cause the earth to wince and flare and wheal.

As each new fractured fissure cracks and clears,
The backwash from the pores begins to flow
And leaves the land in aqueous arrears.

To drain these sediments from deep below,
The water that we use we must forgo.

Sam Illingworth, PhD, is a Senior Lecturer in science communication at Manchester Metropolitan University, in the U.K., where his research involves using poetry to enhance dialogue between scientists and non-scientists.

“the real power of poetry comes in its capacity to develop meaningful dialogue between scientists and non-scientists, and how it can give voice to the previously underheard and underserved.”

“Poetry can help to break down this notion, creating a platform through which all voices are given equal space and weight. By writing and sharing poetry together, non-scientists are given permission to express their opinions, and scientists are given permission to express their emotions”

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/how-poetry-can-help-communicate-science/>

Terza Rima Anchor Lines

Hydro: the glitter of water falling
Solar: light falling on blue glass
Thermal: heat from mines out of mind
District heating: fanning pipes we all share
Wind: great blades tumbling through sun and showers
Tidal: the endless moon-tugged waves

On the Thorns of a Quadrilemma – Patrick Corbett

Where should we get our energy?
When we want it almost free

To the north we have acceptability
To the west is bare affordability
To the south lies sustainability
To the east - security - need to keep the lights on

Scotland is world beating
In its demand for heating

Its targets are challenging
How are we managing?

Doing better than most!