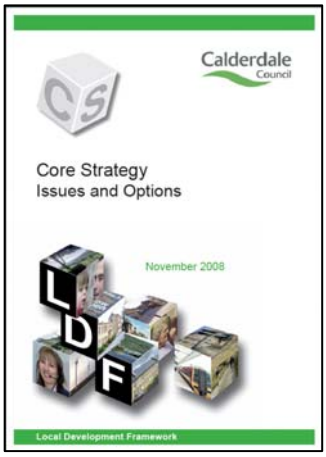
climatechangeskills for planners

Introduction

This note provides an overview of the draft energy policy for Calderdale. The information presented is based on a review of the Calderdale Core Strategy Issues and Options Report (June 2011)[1].



Overview of Core Strategy

Paragraph 2.31 – identifies reduction of fuel costs from energy efficient buildings as an emerging opportunity through the changes in temperature through climate change.

Paragraph 2.32 - identifies reducing carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases and improving energy efficiency of homes and businesses as key climate change issues for the Core Strategy to address.

Renewable Energy

Paragraph 2.37 – identifies that the LDF should promote and encourage the development of renewable energy resources, in order that the government's renewable energy targets are met. The UK Government signed an agreement with the EU that 20% of the EU's overall energy consumption must be from renewable energy sources by 2020, the UK's proposed share of this target is 15%. The RSS includes Indicative targets for installed grid connection renewable energy, by 2010 the target for Calderdale is set at 19 Megawatts (MW), and by 2021 this figure is 53 MW.

Paragraph 2.38 – recognises that there are a number of different ways in which renewable energy can be generated, these include biomass, energy from waste, small hydro, solar electricity, solar heating and wind. The main generator of renewable energy in Calderdale is Ovenden Wind Farm, which has an operating capacity of 9.2 MW

Paragraph 2.39 – states that micro-generation and the cumulative effect of many small installations will form a crucial part in meeting national and regional targets. Generating energy at the point of use is the most sustainable form of generation, with the added benefits of the security of supply and reducing energy losses that occur in the transmission and distribution system.

Paragraph 2.40 – identifies that the main planning pressure continues to be energy generation from wind, reflecting the topographical characteristics of the area and its wind resource. However, it is important that all potential renewable energy resources are encouraged including wind.

Paragraph 2.41 – The Replacement Calderdale Unitary Development Plan (RCUDP) has a requirement that developments of 1,000 square meters or more, or 25 dwellings, are subject to a requirements to incorporate on site renewable energy generation providing at least 10% of predicated energy requirements up until 2010, 15% up until 2015, and 20% up until 2020. The paragraph identifies the RSS has having an interim policy requiring new development over a certain size (1,000 square meters or 10 dwellings) to provide 10% of their energy from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources.

The core strategy then sets out a key question for renewable energy:

- Are there particular areas in Calderdale that should be identified for renewable generation?

[1] http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/environment/planning/development-framework/core-strategy.html

- Taking the RCUDP as a starting point, what future levels if on site renewable energy generation should the Core Strategy set?

Paragraph 2.48 - identifies that the landscape and biodiversity of Calderdale is under pressure from a variety of sources, including commercial and housing development, traffic increases, leisure and recreation, rural diversification, and some forms of large scale renewable energy generation. The paragraph goes on to state that the Core Strategy will need to achieve a balance between conservation and development.

Paragraph 2.58 – identifies that in 2006/07 out of a total of 88,981 tonnes, 680 tonnes of waste was used for energy recovery.

Paragraph 2.86 – addresses Fuel Poverty and recognises that the Council's 'Affordable Warmth Strategy' as a key mechanism for addressing this, but also the role of the Core Strategy is affecting energy efficiency of dwelling stock through programmes of dwelling demolition and replacement.

Paragraph 4.2 – identifies that the Core Strategy must follow the principles of sustainable development in the location and design of all new and refurbished development to ensure the minimisation and recycling of waste and the maximisation of renewable energy.