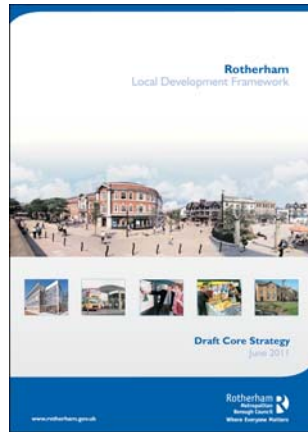


Introduction

This note provides an overview of the draft energy policy for Rotherham. The information presented is based on a review Rotherham Draft Core Strategy (June 2011)¹.



Policy CS27 Renewable Energy Generation

Include renewable energy in developments

All significant developments will be required, unless this can be shown not to be feasible or viable, to

- provide a minimum of 10% of their predicted energy needs on-site; and
- generate further renewable or low carbon energy, or incorporate appropriate design measures, to reduce the development's overall predicted carbon dioxide emissions by 20% [including the requirements to satisfy (a)]

Where it is not appropriate to incorporate such provisions within the development, an off site scheme, or contribution to such may be acceptable.

Developments that produce renewable energy

We will encourage development that produces renewable energy as long as there are no significant harmful effects on:

- Residents living conditions and quality of life

- The character and appearance of the landscape /surrounding area
- Biodiversity, geodiversity and water quality
- Historical and archaeological features
- Highway safety and infrastructure

Any proposals will be accompanied by supporting information to clearly show how the surrounding environment will be protected and how site restoration will be carried out when production ends.

Policy CS27 - Reasoned justification

Paragraph 8.454 states that renewable energy generation technologies offer an effective means of mitigating climate change. The main sources of renewable energy are wind, solar, moving water, and heat extracted from the air, ground or water. These are all sources that are continuously replenished by nature. The Climate Change Act has committed the government to reducing gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, and reducing CO2 emissions by at least 26% by 2020, set against a 1990 baseline. A regionally commissioned report 'Low carbon and renewable energy capacity in Yorkshire and Humber' (currently in draft form) is intended to provide an evidence base to assist sub-regions and local authorities in the preparation of their own targets and strategies for renewable energy development at the sub-regional and local levels. The low carbon and renewable energy technologies that have been considered in this study are:

- District heating and Combined Heat and Power
- Large scale wind energy;
- Hydro energy (small scale);
- Biomass (including use in co firing and energy generation from dedicated energy crops,

¹

http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/856/local_development_framework/2083/core_strategy/1

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managed woodland, industrial wood waste and agricultural arisings, or straw);

- Energy from waste (including slurry, food and drinks waste, poultry litter, municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste arisings, landfill gas production and sewage gas production);
- Microgeneration (including small scale wind energy, solar, heat pumps and small scale biomass boilers).

Paragraph 8.455 identifies that for Rotherham the study concluded that the town centre has sufficient heat density to support heat networks and the borough has significant potential for commercial scale wind power - potentially an additional 65MW above the current capacity. Other potential resources included hydro, solar, heat pumps, biomass and energy from waste.

In order to meet the Government's carbon-cutting ambitions, both higher levels of energy efficiency and much greater use of renewable energy is required. The recently published Consultation on Planning Policy Statement (PPS): Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate (2010) reviews and consolidates the Planning Policy Statement (Planning and Climate Change) and Planning Policy Statement 22 (Renewable Energy). The consultation encourages local authorities to plan for low carbon and renewable energy on a strategic level through the development of planning policies that encourage the introduction of decentralised energy systems served by low carbon and renewable energy supplies.

Paragraph 8.457 - identifies that the suggested carbon emission target reduction on new developments of 20% is to be partly achieved by a 10% renewable energy generation, which reflects national policy and the Regional Strategy (RS). The

overall target, expressed in terms of reduced carbon emissions, is considered feasible with current technology and is in line with the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3, which requires residential developments to achieve a 25% reduction on Part L of the Building Regulations (2006). Significant development applies to both new-build and conversions of 5 or more dwellings, or more than 500 sq m gross internal floorspace.

Paragraph 8.458 recognises that increased development of renewable energy resources is vital to facilitating the delivery of international and national commitments on both greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy.

It will also assist in greater diversity and security of energy supply. Renewable energy can also deliver substantial economic, social and environmental benefits at the local and regional level, by creating jobs, through the manufacture, installation, operation and maintenance of renewable energy as well as providing a new impetus for rural diversification and regeneration. The council will therefore support renewable energy proposals unless they would have unacceptable adverse effects which are not outweighed by the local and wider environmental, economic and social benefits of the development.

This includes wider benefits arising from a clean, secure energy supply; reductions in greenhouse gases and other polluting emissions; and contributions towards meeting Rotherham's target for use of renewable energy sources.

Paragraph 8.459 - The RS has set targets for renewable energy generation for individual local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber. The target for Rotherham, and these are minimum targets, are 11MW by 2010 and 36MW by 2021. These figures refer to installed grid-connected capacity" and not actual energy generation since that would be

impossible to monitor with any accuracy. This policy is intended to apply to all renewable energy technologies. Such technologies can be used at different scales ranging from those which contribute to the national grid, to micro-generation schemes which serve one property. Renewable resources can be used to supply Combined Heat and Power Schemes (CHP) to serve groups of properties, existing or new, including housing schemes.

Overview of Core Strategy

Paragraph 3.24 – identifies that the challenge for Rotherham will be to mitigate the impacts of climate change by ensuring that any developments add as little as possible to the output of CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions. This will be achieved through the delivery of actions such as energy efficiency measures in new buildings, improvements to the existing built environment, and reductions in the need to travel and/or increased public transport use, and renewable energy projects.

Issue 13 - identifies the need to plan for the impact of climate change on the borough, mitigating the impact of any new developments through energy efficiency measures.

Issue 14 - states that Rotherham will need to encourage renewable energy projects.

Objective 14 - Waste management identifies that Rotherham will reduce waste levels by utilising waste as a raw material for industry and energy production and by encouraging increased recycling rates.

Objective 16 - specifically deals with carbon reduction and renewable energy. The objective states that:

'by the end of the plan period, the Borough's carbon footprint will have been reduced from current levels. Implementation of the Plan's policies will have secured an increased proportion of energy

generation via renewable and low carbon means and will have promoted energy efficiency energy conservation and the use of sustainable construction techniques'.

The draft Core Strategy sets out the Dearne Valley Eco-Vision which covers the three local authority areas – Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. The vision has been developed by the Dearne Valley Special Board, which operates with the support of the Sheffield City Region. The proposals aim to reduce the community's CO₂ emissions so that, within a decade, it will be the lowest carbon community of its type in the UK. To achieve this it will:

- Deliver more energy efficient homes, cutting fuel bills for residents.
- Put into practice Planning Policy Statement 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development) supplement on Planning and Climate Change, identifying how local energy resources could be used to meet demand and how existing buildings could be linked to new local energy networks.

Paragraph 8.125 – sets energy in the context of Green Infrastructure; and the need to identify opportunities for the provision of renewable energy as a wider package of climate change adaptation measures. Paragraph 8.128 identifies the need for Green Infrastructure to be informed by Planning Policy Statement 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development) and its supplement entitled 'Planning and Climate Change' together with Planning Policy Statement 22 (Renewable Energy).

Policy CS9 Landscape - states in point e that

'Careful consideration will be given to the capacity of the landscape to accommodate renewable energy developments, the ability to mitigate visual intrusion and the cumulative impact of individual sites'



This is in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 22 (Renewable Energy) (p19) which requires policies in the development plan to address the minimisation of visual effects arising from renewable energies (Paragraph 8.143) and meets the issues addressed in Objective 16 (carbon reduction and renewable energy).

Policy CS11 Sustainable Design – has also been developed to address Objective 16 (carbon reduction and renewable energy) through delivery of the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) (Communities and Local Government, December 2006) standards for residential development and Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) environmental performance standards for non-residential buildings. The policy aims to ensure that sustainable materials with low embedded energy. The policy has been developed to work together with CS27: Renewable Energy Generation.

Policy CS18 Transforming Rotherham's Economy - identifies Environmental and Energy Technologies as a priority sector for supporting Rotherham's economic performance.

Policy CS25 Minerals – deals with energy minerals and proposals for underground coal mine extensions (including colliery spoil disposal) and opencast mining in addition to proposals for the exploration, appraisal and production of onshore oil and gas, including the gasification of coal, coal mine methane and coal bed methane. The policy states that each source will be assessed on their merits against all material planning considerations including national planning policy.