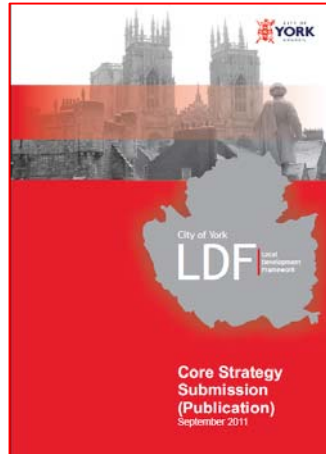


Introduction

This note provides an overview of the energy policy for York. The information presented is based on a review of the York Submission (Publication) Core Strategy¹ dated September 2011.



Strategic Objective

The Local Development Framework (LDF) will play a key role in helping to deliver the *Climate Change Framework and Action Plan (2010)* through promoting a reduction in York's carbon and eco-footprint and helping the City to adapt to and mitigate against climate change through sustainable design and construction.

Targets

Progress towards the Strategic Objective will be measured against the following targets:

- To exceed the following renewable energy targets through either on-site or offsite production:
 - 38.7 Mega Watts (MW) of installed renewable electricity capacity and 15.1MW of installed renewable heat capacity by the year 2020; and
 - 39.8MW of installed renewable electricity and 18.0MW of installed renewable heat capacity by the year 2031.

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[http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/Planning/Ldf/corestrategy/CoreStrategySubmission\(Publication\)/](http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/Planning/Ldf/corestrategy/CoreStrategySubmission(Publication)/)

Climate Change Skills Work

Module 1: LDF plan making, evidence base and implementation of the Yorkshire and Humber Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Study 2011

Activity 1: York Energy Policy

- All planning applications for new major developments (more than 10 dwellings or 1000m² non-residential floorspace), must incorporate on-site renewable/low carbon energy generation equipment to reduce predicted carbon emissions by at least 10%.
- All development proposals of 10 dwellings or more or non-residential schemes over 1000m² to meet the following minimum requirements:
 - Residential Developments: Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3^{***} (or equivalent) up to and including 2013, Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4^{****} (or equivalent) from 2014 and zero carbon standard from 2016 onwards; and
 - Non-residential Developments: 'very good' standard as set out in the Building Research Establishment, Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) up to and including 2014, 'excellent' standard as set out in BREEAM from 2015 and zero carbon from 2019 onwards.

Policy CS21: Sustainable Design and Construction

The LDF will play a key role in helping to deliver the Climate Change Framework and Action Plan through contributing to a reduction of York's carbon and eco-footprint and helping the City to adapt to, and mitigate against climate change. This will be achieved through the application of the Energy Hierarchy by ensuring York's renewable energy/low carbon potential is realised and high standards of sustainable design and construction are adopted, as set out below:

1. Renewable Energy

- i) The LDF will ensure that the following renewable energy targets are exceeded through either on-site or off-site production:
- 38.7MW of installed renewable electricity capacity and 15.1MW of installed renewable heat capacity by the year 2020; and
 - 39.8MW of installed renewable electricity and 18.0MW of installed renewable heat capacity by the year 2031.
- ii) All renewable energy proposals must be in accordance with the spatial principles SP1, SP2 and SP3.
- iii) All major developments (more than 10 dwellings or 1000m² non-residential floorspace) must submit a Sustainable Energy Statement as part of the planning application process. Unless it can be demonstrated that it is not feasible or viable, proposals must:
- incorporate onsite renewable energy/low carbon energy generation equipment to reduce predicted carbon emissions by at least 10%; and
 - as a part of that reduction, integrate CHP and district/block heating or cooling infrastructure.

Explanation

Paragraph 18.1 - *The Climate Change Act (2008)* sets a legally binding target for reducing UK carbon dioxide emissions by at least 26% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. The *Energy White Paper: Meeting the Energy Challenge (2007)* and the Energy Act (2008) (which provides the legal framework for the Energy White Paper), support these binding reduction targets and will

move the UK towards a low carbon economy by placing renewables and energy efficiency at the heart of the UK's future energy system. This aims to generate 20% of UK electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020. This is supported by *Planning Policy Statement 1 (2005)* (PPS1) which sets out how planning, in providing for new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities, should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and resilience to climate change.

Paragraph 18.2 - The latest eco-footprint data for York (2006) indicates that we need 4.72 global hectares (gha) per person to support our current lifestyles and demand for food, energy and waste disposal. The impact of our lifestyles on the global environment and climate change can also be measured in terms of carbon dioxide emissions. In York the carbon footprint is currently calculated at 12.61 tonnes per person (based on the latest Stockholm Environment Institute York Centre figures 2006). This footprint is above average for the UK, which is 12.10 tonnes per person and above the regional average which is 12.21 tonnes per person.

Paragraph 18.3 - The Council has produced a *Climate Change Framework and Action Plan (2010)* for York. The Climate Change Framework covers 2010 to 2015 and will enable York to coordinate and drive forward actions to reduce Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and other emissions across the city in the long term and up until 2050. The Action Plan covers 2010 to 2013 will be a combination of two specific action plans. The plans are broken into mitigation, actions that will reduce emissions from across York, and adaptation, actions that will help York to better prepare and adapt to the predicted changes in climate.

The headline objectives are:

- to reduce York’s CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions in line with Government targets;
- to coordinate CO2 and other greenhouse gas emission reduction initiative across York;
- to coordinate actions to better prepare York for future climate change;
- to make fuller use of the potential for low carbon, renewable, localised sources of energy generation across York;
- to raise awareness and understanding of climate change throughout the Without Walls Partnership, City of York Council and within communities, businesses, organisations across York; and
- contribute to the City’s Sustainable Community Strategy and the creation of a sustainable, environmentally friendly City.

Paragraph 18.4 - The LDF has an important role in addressing this local and national context through requiring decentralised renewable/low carbon energy and high standards of sustainable design and construction.

Paragraph 18.5 - The *Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study for York (2010)* highlights York’s current and future renewable energy potential taking account of York’s unique natural and historic environment, this is illustrated in Table 18.1.

Table 18.1: York’s Installed Renewable Energy Capacity and Targets

	Installed capacity pre 2020 (Mega Watts)		Installed capacity post 2020 (to 2031) (Mega Watts)	
	Electricity	Heat	Electricity	Heat
Installed, planned and prospective	5.0	4.0	5.0	4.0
Mega Watts Targets	38.7	15.1	39.8	18.0

Paragraph 18.6 – The *Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study for York (2010)* indicates that this could be achieved by the following diverse range of technologies and provides guidance on the spatial locations factoring in York’s constraints. The range of technologies could include:

- large, medium, small and micro wind;
- hydro;
- Combined Heat and Power (CHP) (district electricity and heat);
- biomass for district heating and single building heating;
- Solar Photovoltaic;
- Solar Thermal; and
- ground/air source heat pumps.

Paragraph 18.7 - Given their nature it may only be possible to accommodate certain renewable energy technologies within the Green Belt. This may not be considered inappropriate provided they maintain the openness of the Green Belt and don’t conflict with the purposes of including land within in it; particularly the primary purpose of York’s Green Belt to protect the City’s historic character and setting. Air quality should be recognised as a potential constraint to combustion based renewable energy technologies e.g. biomass.

Paragraph 18.8 - As identified in *Planning Policy Statement 22 (2004)*, CHP is recognised as being an important source in the renewable energy mix. The *Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study for York (2010)* indicates that CHP should be explored on several of York’s key development opportunities. These include both York Northwest Strategic Allocations, and the following Major Development Opportunities; Terry’s, Hungate, Nestle and at the University of York’s Heslington East campus.

Overview of Core Strategy

Paragraph 1.2 identified the UK Sustainable Development Strategy – Securing the Future) as key documents that the York LDF should embrace. This includes climate change and energy becoming a priority for York.

Paragraph 1.7 states that

'The City must embed low-carbon economic opportunities into all of its enterprises; build on the strong bioscience and renewable research; and link this to the City's carbon reduction targets and its strategy for renewable energy infrastructure.

Paragraph 1.9 – identifies the Council's Climate Change Framework and Climate Change Action Plan (2010) as the key document for reducing carbon emissions across the City. The action plan sets targets of a 40% reduction in Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 2020 and meeting the national Climate Change Act (2008) 80% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2050. The action plan identifies sustainable energy as a mechanism for delivering carbon savings through the use of renewable sources of energy to heat buildings or power cars and buses (paragraph 1.11)

Paragraph 1.22 - identifies the need for making better use of renewable energy as being particularly important for the City. The Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Assessment for York (2010) completed by AEA indicates that York has the potential to generate 39 Mega Watts (MW) of installed renewable electricity capacity and 15MW of installed renewable heat capacity by 2020. At its maximum, York currently generates 5.5MW of renewable energy.

The Core Strategy Vision 'A Leading Environmentally Friendly City' identifies that the LDF will support reducing energy use and carbon generation, setting ambitious renewable energy targets and ensuring that future development is designed and constructed in a sustainable way.

Paragraph 16.2 identifies the Core Strategy's approach to Sustainable Design and Construction has setting out the Council's policy approach to reducing carbon dioxide emissions through renewable energy and sustainable design and construction. The paragraph specifically identified air quality as a potential constraint to combustion based renewable energy technologies e.g. biomass. Paragraph 16.3 identifies an emerging low Emission Strategy and Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as the mechanism for setting out local air quality standards