

Delivery Policy ES2

Renewable or low carbon energy generation

Decentralised renewable and low carbon energy schemes will be supported and encouraged, and will be approved where their impact is, or can be made, acceptable.

In determining applications for renewable and low carbon energy, and associated infrastructure, the following issues will be considered:

- a) the contribution of the proposals, in the light of the Council's pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030, to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonising our energy system.
- b) the impact of the scheme, together with any cumulative issues, on landscape character, visual amenity impact, water quality and flood risk, heritage significance, recreation, biodiversity and, where appropriate, agricultural land use, aviation and telecommunications.
- c) the impact on users and residents of the local area, including where relevant, shadow flicker, air quality, vibration and noise.
- d) the direct benefits to the area and local community.

Ground-mounted solar energy developments are more likely to be supported in areas identified as suitable in principle as set out on the Policies Map. Outside these areas, applicants will need to provide a clear justification for the suitability of the chosen development site for solar development at the relevant scale.

Proposals for R-renewable energy proposals within the AONB will be encouraged. H, however, where development proposals will affect the AONB, the benefits of development must demonstrably outweigh any harm adverse impacts to the designated area or its setting.

Additionally, proposals for wind energy development:

- should be located within a suitable area as indicated on the Policies Map;
- are more likely to be supported if they fall within Landscape Character Areas of lower sensitivity to the relevant development scale;
- may also be suitable in principle if they are:
 - 1) located in large new development sites, existing industrial estates or if they are proposed in neighbourhood plans or through community energy schemes; and
 - 2) it can be clearly demonstrated that the scale of the development is appropriate to the site;
 - 3) the benefits of the development outweigh any harm to the local community; and
 - 4) that the development complies with the relevant criteria in Policy ES2.

Where appropriate, provision should be made for the removal of the facilities and reinstatement of the site should it cease to be operational.

Particular support will be given to renewable and low carbon energy generation developments that are led by, or meet the needs of local communities.

Comment [1]: Our DM colleagues have suggested impact rather than amenity

Comment [2]: Should there be a discussion on what constitutes major development, where such proposals require an additional word "significant". (NPPF fn 55)

Comment [3]: There is a potential circular logic here.

If a proposals fails within a suitable area for wind (as defined on the policies map), then is that not already saying the location is suitable? Has appendix B not already covered these constraints?

It isn't clear if appendix B is an opportunities map or a suitability map. It would help to clarify this point and possibly make some reference in the policy / appendix.

Comment [4]: Vague. Sub-clause bullets 2 to 4 largely duplicate clauses (a) to (d)

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Comment [5]: Can a proposal successful achieve this? Clause b appears to cover the main issues in any case.

Comment [6]: Is this consistent with NPPF footnote 49 and para 172 (public interest)?

NPPF fn 49 requires the backing of local communities. The policy doesn't address how this will be dealt with.

Comment [7]: The policy refers back to itself – it would help to make clear what are the relevant criteria (e.g. a to d).