

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 January 2020 22:37  
**To:** \_WEB\_Local Plan  
**Subject:** Comments to consultation - Stroud District Local Plan Review Draft Plan for Consultation November 2019

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dear Sir/Madam,

Ref: Stroud District Local Plan Review Draft Plan for Consultation November 2019

I would like to comment on the section “delivering Carbon Neutral by 2030” – Core Policy DCP1

The overview is that the assimilation of a 2030 target has not been achieved within the plan as it lacks the need to not compromise on certain things.

Specific feedback:

On the point of minimizing travel, I would say that we need to achieve electrical carbon neutrality locally (Eg. 100% renewable energy generation to match out districts annual demand) because larger settlements in the country will need to buy in clean energy from other area's as they don't have the space to build large new energy plants like we do here in rural area. Therefore as many new installations need to be commissioned to achieve 100%, it is best that siting those renewable energy plants is done a little away from settlements and therefore not upset too many residents – i.e “minimizing travel” in siting requirements should not be a priority.

The idea that discouraging car use will lead to carbon neutrality has no substance. Carbon neutrality can only be achieved by changing the source of the energy which powers our cars and cars will always be needed for the disabled, for deliveries, for work, for the elderly etc. Instead all the resources used to reducing car use should be redirected to installing public EV charge points as this is the limiting infrastructure to a real switch towards carbon neutral driving. Eg Most houses in Horns road in Stroud have no driveways for people to charge their own EV cars in future. The council needs to install charge points for those residents across the district and reserve them in a similar way to disabled parking bays (Eg. You need a badge to be able to park and plug in)

For all our INEVITABLE failings of reaching pure carbon neutral by 2030, we will need to offset carbon by sequestration – the best current option being by planting trees. Neither our area (or the world) can fill this gap indefinitely so we are only buying time by planting trees, yet it is necessary. Your policy should actively plant trees in proportion to the additional CO<sub>2</sub>(e) Stroud area adds until true carbon neutrality is achieved. This means either encouraging private landowners to plant and become part of a scheme or compulsory purchase. Discouragement of bad use of the land resource could also be a mechanism to assist. (Eg. Taxing horses as they use vast amounts of potential sequestration land resource)

The order of the “Energy Hierarchy principle” you suggest is **FUNDAMENTALLY** wrong for the purposes of achieving carbon neutrality. To spell it out: **No amount of efficiency will lead to carbon neutrality (as you are only reducing the fossil fuel consumption)**. Vast amounts of money has been wasted on achieving slight increases of efficiency when the equivalent funds spent would of achieved carbon neutrality – had they been invested in new renewable energy power stations. It is not that efficiency doesn't help – but the title of

this subsection (DCP1) is carbon neutrality NOT carbon reduction. There is no time for tokenism. If you are serious about 2030, then the differentiation between reduction and replacement must filter through to your policies. Currently there is no way you will achieve true carbon neutrality with these draft plans. You must all understand that the actions needed , have to be more extreme now – with the 2030 deadline. This is not a game of creative accountancy with carbon budgets and numbers. Please take the issue to heart and do the job properly and stop playing games with ineffective and draft proposals which are totally unrealistic in the context of achieving carbon neutrality in the area by 2030.

If you want some serious consultation please feel free to discuss this further as I am *solution orientated* in my advice.

Yours sincerely,



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Pioneered 1<sup>st</sup> Electric Taxi in UK (on renewables) here in Stroud District 20 yrs ago.