

Energy, Economy, Employment and Education Benefits Statement

Appendix 1 – Sustainable Energy Policy

National Policy

The following sets out the overarching policies of the UK Government which relate to energy:

Securing the Future²¹

Securing the Future is the UK's Sustainable Development Strategy (March 2005) which sets out the principles for sustainable development with a focus on environmental limits. Four priority areas were identified; consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities.

UK Strategy for Sustainable Construction²²

In June 2008, the Government released a Strategy for Sustainable Construction. The Strategy, developed in collaboration with the Strategic Forum for Construction, is aimed at *"providing clarity around the existing policy framework and signalling the future direction of Government policy"*.

The Strategy for Sustainable Construction is a joint industry and Government initiative intended to promote leadership and behavioural change. The final Strategy was released on 11th June 2008.

Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development²³

PPS1 sets out the Government's overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. It includes the key principle that local planning authorities should ensure that development plans promote the development of renewable energy resources. It also sets out that development plan policies should seek to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the use of renewable resources, and that local authorities should promote small scale renewable and low carbon energy schemes in developments.

Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change Supplement to PPS1²⁴

In December 2007, the Government published Planning Policy Statement – Planning and Climate Change, a supplement to PPS1. This document gives an indication of the issues to be taken into account in attempting to achieve sustainable development as a contribution to addressing climate change.

Key planning objectives include:

- Enabling new development, securing the highest viable standards of resource and energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions;
- Delivering patterns of urban growth that secure sustainable transport movements;
- Securing new development resilient to the effects of climate change; and
- Sustaining biodiversity.

PPS1 supplement on Planning and Climate Change requires Local Authorities to mitigate and adapt to climate change through appropriate location and patterns of development. It states that spatial strategies should abide by the principle that *"new development should be planned to make good use of opportunities for decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy"*. The Supplement, therefore, strengthens the

²¹ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/publications/uk-strategy/>

²² <http://www.bis.gov.uk/sustainableconstructionwww.berr.gov.uk>

²³ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicystatement1>

²⁴ Communities and Local Government (2007) *Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change* [online] available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/ppscclimatechange.pdf>

requirement for planners to acknowledge a national need for renewable and low carbon technologies. Planning Authorities should provide a framework that promotes and encourages renewable and low-carbon energy and supporting infrastructure and develop positive policies towards that end.

The Supplement sets out several other measures intended to increase uptake of renewable energy in new development including to: promote consistency with PPS22; encourage the identification of suitable areas for renewables and supporting infrastructure; provide a proportion of energy supply for new development from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy sources. Further measures are set out through Local Development Orders (LDOs) including: selecting land for development; local requirements for energy supply to new developments; sustainable design of buildings; and impact of proposed development on renewable energy supplies.

Web-based Practice Guidance²⁵ has been developed to assist with the implementation of the PPS on Climate Change and to secure good practice. It draws upon the principles in PPS 22: Renewable Energy.

Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate Supplement to PPS1 (Consultation)

In March 2010 the Government published for consultation Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate. This consultation document brings together and will replace the 2007 Planning and Climate Change supplement to PPS1 with the 2004 PS22 on Renewable Energy into a new draft PPS on Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate. It is proposed that this document will become a consolidated supplement to PPS1. This will support and provide an overarching framework for PPS25 on Development and Flood Risk and emerging planning policies on green infrastructure.

Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy²⁶

PPS 22 on Renewable Energy sets out UK National Policy on renewable energy. It includes a requirement for local authorities to allocate specific sites for renewable energy and to encourage developers to provide on-site renewable energy generation as appropriate. It requires Local Planning Authorities and developers to consider opportunities for the incorporation of renewable energy into all new developments. Accordingly, Local Authorities should encourage renewable energy schemes through their inclusion in Local Development Documents.

Climate Change Act²⁷

The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions through action in the UK and abroad of at least 80% over 1992 levels by 2050, and reductions in emissions of at least 26% by 2020 against a 1990 baseline. As part of the package of measures to achieve this, Government has set a target to generate 20% of the UK's energy demand from renewable sources by 2020. The Climate Change Act, passed in November 2008, and PPS 22 set out the Government's policies and targets on carbon emissions and renewable energy. These are primarily to:

- Reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions to 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012;
- Reduce UK CO₂ emissions to 26% below 1990 levels by 2020, with a long term target of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050;

²⁵ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/planningpolicystatements/ppsclimatechange/practiceguidance/>

²⁶ ODPM (2004) *Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy* [online] available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps22>

²⁷ The Climate Change Act 2008 is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/legislation/>

- Meet 10% of UK electricity demand from renewable energy by 2010 and 20% by 2020;
- Have at least 10 GW (gigawatts) of combined heat and power (CHP) capacity in the UK by 2010; and
- Comply with the system of binding five year “carbon budgets”, with requirements set out for the Government to report every 5 years on their progress against these and on other climate change impacts and policies.

The April 2009 Budget included a proposal to amend the Climate Change Act to include an interim target for the period covering 2018 – 2022 and increase the 26% reduction in emissions to 34%.

UK Renewable Energy Strategy²⁸

Published in July 2009, the UK Renewable Energy Strategy aims to tackle Climate Change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and setting guidelines and targets to increase the renewable energy supply in the UK. It sets out the path for the UK to meet its legally-binding EU target to ensure 15% of its energy comes from renewable sources by 2020; this is almost a seven-fold increase in the share of renewables in scarcely more than a decade.

Planning & Energy White Papers²⁹

The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy (2001) set out how the Government proposes to ensure affordable warmth for all households. The subsequent Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (2003) includes the key energy policy goal to “ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated” and the aim “in England, within reason, for no household to be in fuel poverty by 2016”. The revised 2007 Energy White Paper includes a strategy to accelerate the deployment of low carbon technologies. The 2009 Energy White Paper: *The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan* sets out a twelve-year plan for the UK to reduce CO₂ emissions by 18% on 2008 levels.

²⁸ http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/res/res.aspx

²⁹ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningsustainablefuture>