

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION



CEREDIGION County Council

Ceredigion Local Development Plan Draft Policy 11: Energy

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Environment and Climate Change – Energy Policies

Overview

The Wales National Energy Statement 2010 proposes a whole range of measures to tackle global warming and climate change. Energy efficiency measures are dealt with in the Built Environment Section.

The Wales National Energy Statement reinforces the emphasis in Wales on focusing on delivering renewable energy as a national priority. It advocates assessing the range of resource and supports research and pilot projects for alternative delivery methods to unlock that energy resource.

In Ceredigion, onshore wind energy is likely to be the main source of additional renewable energy within the plan period, though anaerobic digestion, biomass, micro-hydro and tidal stream technologies are also likely to feature among the range of sources. It seems unlikely that offshore wind energy will feature in the plan period in relation to the Ceredigion coast. Microgeneration technologies are encouraged with changes to Permitted Development Rights.

Policies in this section seek to deal with local matters that are not sufficiently covered by national guidance relating to Energy. In addition to these local policies therefore, national guidance will also need to be considered when proposing or considering any land use proposals relating to Energy. Relevant national guidance includes:

- Planning Policy Wales Edition 2 (WAG, 2010);
- TAN 8 – Planning for Renewable Energy (WAG, 2005)
- Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy, EN-1, Part 2 Government Policy and Energy Infrastructure Development.
- Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS)-EN3 sets out the policy basis for decisions by the Infrastructure Planning Commission on nationally significant infrastructure planning (>50MW installed capacity) – including wind energy and biomass energy most likely to be appropriate to Ceredigion.
- Wales National Energy Statement (WAG 2010) sets out Wales aims and intentions including detailed targets for a range of renewable and other non-fossil fuel generating sources, which will be material to planning decisions.
- Most offshore renewable energy developments will require consent from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) established under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
- Statutory Instrument (SI No.2193 (W.185) - The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2009) – currently subject to consultation in Wales but already the basis for householder guide on Domestic microgeneration permitted development

Matters for which only national guidance should be relied upon:

- Assembly Government renewable energy targets
- Facilitation of additional grid network infrastructure
- Large scale renewable energy development in internationally or nationally designated areas
- Development control for renewable energy
- Nature conservation and landscape considerations arising from renewable energy proposals
- Minimising detrimental effects on local communities arising from renewable energy

Please note that new guidance and reviews of guidance will occur during the plan period. Please check with the Planning Department and/or the LDP website for the most up to date list.

Objectives

Objective 9:

To ensure development minimises Ceredigion's greenhouse gas contribution, both singularly and cumulatively; and to seek a reduction wherever possible. To ensure that all developments are adaptive and resilient to the changing nature of climate and work toward reducing the risk from flooding.

[Key Issues: KI 4, KI 7, & KI 12]

Objective 10:

To seek a balance between renewable energy generation and environmental conservation, in particular in relation to wind energy and in determining the role of other renewable energy technologies.

[Key Issues: KI 4, KI 8 & KI 12]

Strategic Policy EN1: Energy sources

The LDP will facilitate the development of additional renewable energy generating capacity and associated reduction in carbon emissions, where that resource delivery has been assessed as an effective and viable option and where adverse impacts of the particular technology can be mitigated in line with natural heritage objectives.

Reasons:

Natural heritage objectives is a term referred to and explained in terms of expectations of impact of wind farm development, in TAN 8 Annex D para 8.4.

SPG will be developed which contains descriptions of the range of potential renewable resources and technologies capable of realistic exploitation in Ceredigion using the Renewable Energy Audit toolkit but for the time being an interim SPG with currently available information about sources of and potential feasibility of exploiting renewable resources will be made available. There will be a need to demonstrate that the choice of renewable energy generation development is made on the basis of comparing viable alternatives and their impacts. For example, the LPA may encourage the installation of

district heating and/or electricity generating schemes if it would be feasible and more efficient in new development than to employ microgeneration technology on each property.

The LPA generally supports the proximity principle whereby renewable energy is used close to its point of generation or processed close to where the resource is available (See also Policy W3, criterion 5 on energy from waste), and maintains a positive approach to new technologies as an overriding principle, with a positive approach to seeking solutions for mitigation of impacts appropriate to the status of the locality. (See in particular Policy L3, Special Landscape Areas).

Policy EN2: Large and Medium sized wind farms

Large (over 25MW installed capacity) and Medium sized (5-25 MW installed capacity) wind farms will not be permitted in Ceredigion outside the TAN 8 SSA D boundary (see Constraints Map). The development of wind farms within the TAN 8 SSA D boundary will be permitted, provided that:

- 1. it is located within the preferred area of search as defined by SPG [based on Arup Report of 2008].**
- 2. outside the preferred area of search but within TAN8 SSA D boundary, it is demonstrated that it is not feasible or there is greater detrimental environmental and/or social impact by increasing the number or upgrading the MW capacity of turbines within the preferred area of search.**
- 3. where it is not clearly within the TAN 8 SSA D boundary and not prescribed as the preferred area of search, it is subject to detailed evaluation by the developer using TAN 8 Annex D methodology submitted for consideration by the LPA as an acceptable refinement.**
- 4. it does not give rise to adverse cumulative visual impacts that are so aesthetically significant in terms of regularity of form as to outweigh the imperative for renewable energy yield. [See SPG - WF specific design guidelines]**
- 5. it has regard to national policy on noise impacts..**
- 6. It does not undermine significant tourism projects and associated income streams.**
- 7. It does not give rise to unmanageable health and safety risks for recreational users of the area within the SSA.**
- 8. Policy TT2 on Transport Assessment is applied.**
- 9. a suitable scheme is provided for decommissioning at the end of the operational design life of the infrastructure.**

Reasons:

Large Wind Farms over 25MW but less than 50 MW installed capacity fall to the LPA to determine. Proposals over 50 MW are to be determined by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), with input from the Local Planning Authority in the form of a Local Impact Report. For the latter purposes, this policy will inform the LPA response to the IPC on respective proposals.

It is not considered reasonable to develop medium sized wind farms outside SSA D in Ceredigion because there is no suitable brownfield land and it is also considered that it would undermine the natural heritage objective implicit in TAN 8 which has identified SSAs as a means to concentrate the impact of wind turbines in a relatively small proportion of the county and to maintain landscape character outside the SSAs.

Transport Assessment guidance for windfarms developments should be used as available. There are specific concerns over the cumulative impacts of abnormal delivery loads over limited available routes from ports to SSAs in Wales.

The Cambrian Mountains are locally valued as an important natural resource not only in a local sense but in a strategic sense as part of a larger ecosystem. However the selection of SSAs is not an issue the LDP can revisit. Nevertheless, the LPA is keen to ensure that negative impacts on area are limited as far as possible within the opportunities remaining to it to do so, left by national policy.

The HSE reported in 2008 that the public health and safety aspects of wind farms should be dealt with as part of the planning process and that the development of guidelines remains a joint aim of the HSE with the relevant planning authorities.

Policy EN3: Small scale or community wind farms

Small scale or community wind farms (less than 5 MW installed capacity) will be permitted within and outside SSA D provided that:

- 1. they do not give rise to significant adverse impacts or cumulative impacts in accordance with policies L1: Landscape, NC1: Nature Conservation and Ecological Connectivity, NC2: Local Biodiversity Conservation and DP1: High Quality Design and Placemaking, criterion 8).**
- 2. they are or can be served by adequate means of access for operational and maintenance purposes.**
- 3. a suitable scheme is provided for decommissioning at the end of the operational design life of the infrastructure.**

Reasons:

Small scale wind farms will be capable of delivering less than 5MW installed capacity and will be expected to be proposed as 'community wind farms'. They will normally comprise up to 3 turbines. Proposals from private individuals will be expected to benefit the local community by way of improved access to lower energy costs. Generally, private individuals will be expected to limit proposals outside the SSA to small scale single turbine developments.

Policy EN4: Small Scale Single Turbines

Small scale (up to 250 kw) single turbines will be permitted provided that they;

- 1. do not exceed 45 metres to the blade tip**

- 2. do not give rise to significant adverse impacts or cumulative impacts in accordance with policies L1: Landscape, NC1: Nature Conservation and Ecological Connectivity, NC2: Local Biodiversity Conservation and DP1: High Quality Design and Placemaking, criterion 8), include the provision of a suitable scheme for decommissioning at the end of the operational design life of the infrastructure**
- and
- 3. are operationally linked to the business unit**
- or
- 4. where they provide for Feed-in tariffs over and above linked operational use, remain proportionate in size to the existing buildings and uses on the site.**

Reasons:

This policy is intended to relate to schemes which may be associated with commercial or private enterprises which do not fit the categories described in Energy Policy EN3 and which do not fit within the description of micro-generation which is the subject of permitted development rights.

The Wales Energy Statement supports feed-in from all renewable sources. The impact of the economic incentives of 'feed-in tariffs' on development pressure could be considerable, since they represent an attractive income source for small holders as well as for larger farms and land based enterprises. In addition to this, the possibilities of lower specification, older technology based, second hand machines may have comparatively greater impacts in respect of noise than those of the latest commercial models. There is also the danger that cumulative impact of single turbines could threaten visual amenity.

'Cumulative impacts' means impacts relating to other single turbines, community wind farms and medium/large wind farms.