

South West Climate Change Toolkit for Planners

www.swplanners-toolkit.co.uk



Overview

- Background
- Aims & objectives of toolkit
- Target audience
- Content and navigation for policy officers
- Content and navigation for development management officers

Background and approach

- Toolkit developed by consortium led by AECOM, with CSE and Land Use Consultants (LUC)
 - LUC led on monitoring aspects and fed into adaptation content
 - CSE led on communications/ design for web and fed into model briefs
- Toolkit “clients” both Regen SW and SW Councils: originally two tenders, brought together into one toolkit
- Steering group of LA planners, EST, SWCIP
- Funded by Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (SWRIEP)
- Part of wider package of work to:
 - develop training packages around climate change PPS
 - develop datasets on regional renewables resource – wind, heat mapping (funded by ORED)

Aims & Objectives of the toolkit

- Helping target audience understand and implement the sustainable energy **and adaptation** requirements of PPS1
- Building skills and confidence to produce robust, workable and sound planning policies
- Consistent approach to policy development and delivery and avoid reinventing the wheel/ increase efficiency
- ‘Should do’ vs ‘Could do’
- Clarifying what evidence is required for which policy objectives
- **Sign-posting to existing national and regional evidence and resources**
- Readily updatable web-based tool which is accessible to target audience and easy to navigate
- Guidance on monitoring a key element

Target audience

Policy Context

Develop Policy Objectives

Evidence Base

Evidence to policy

Development Management

Monitoring

Resources

Climate change pps

Who the toolkit is for

Navigation hints

Policy context

Policy objectives

Principles of an evidence base

Translating evidence into policy

Development management

Monitoring and reviewing

Resources

Planners' toolkit

Welcome to the South West Planners' Toolkit on Climate Change

The toolkit has been developed to provide advice on Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Adaptation based on the guidance given in the Climate Change Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (generally referred to simply as the Climate Change PPS hereafter).

The content of the toolkit is aimed at three principal groups within Local Authorities in the South West of England but may be of use and interest to anyone wanting to know more about the topic areas covered. The three target audience groups are;

- Policy Officers
- Development Management Officers
- Elected Members and other LA Officers

Content is split into a number of topic areas aimed at one or more of the target audiences. Each topic will provide a range of information designed to assist your Local Authority deliver a considered, well-informed response to the Climate Change PPS.

Content and navigation for Policy Officers - overview

Policy Context	Develop Policy Objectives	Evidence Base	Evidence to policy	Development Management	Monitoring	Resources
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Climate change pps

Policy context

Mitigation

Adaptation

What planning policy to consider

Emerging policy

Who the toolkit is for

Navigation hints

Policy objectives

Principles of an evidence base

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Policy context

Climate change is a complex issue and responding to it requires the planner to navigate the rapidly evolving landscape of information, advice, policy and legislation. By providing context and background, this section of the toolkit will help you make informed decisions about developing and implementing policy in this area.

The Climate Change PPS

The Climate Change PPS "sets out how planning, in providing for the new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities, should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and resilient to the climate change now accepted as inevitable" (Paraphrased from www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppsclimatechange)

It also states that, where there is any difference in emphasis on climate change between the policies in the Climate Change PPS and other planning policy statements in the series, the former takes precedence.

The Climate Change PPS represents a key strand in the national approach to both mitigation and adaptation. As such it should be the principal reference for policy makers in this area. It states that 'mitigation and adaptation should not be considered independently of each other', although the current emphasis is on mitigation and the content of this section of the toolkit reflects that. As national policy in this area develops, adaptation is likely to play a greater role.

This section provides an introduction to adaptation planning policy and drivers for action alongside the incentives, legislation and key strategies for mitigation.

Content and navigation for Policy Officers – policy objectives

Policy Context	Develop Policy Objectives	Evidence Base	Evidence to policy	Development Management	Monitoring	Resources
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Climate change pps
Policy objectives
Sustainable energy policy objectives
Star Difficulty Ratings
Model Briefs
SE1: Area-wide energy/carbon target for new development
SE2: Energy/carbon targets for strategic sites
SE3: Stand-alone renewable energy sites
SE4: Area-wide renewable energy targets
SE5: Sustainable building standards
SE6: Inform site allocation for sustainable energy maximisation
SE7: Sustainable energy infrastructure fund
SE8: District heating networks
SE9: Local development orders

Sustainable energy policy objectives

Objectives	Tasks	Difficulty
SE1	1 2	☆☆☆
SE2	1 2 3 4 5	☆☆☆
SE3	1 2	☆☆☆
SE4	1 2 3 4 5	☆☆☆
SE5	1 2 3	☆☆☆
SE6	SE8 Task 1 ☆☆☆ Create local Energy Opportunities Plan View task	☆☆☆
SE7	1 2 3	☆☆☆
SE8	1 2 3 4 5	☆☆☆
SE9	1	☆☆☆

The PPS requires that 'in developing their core strategy and supporting local development documents, planning authorities should provide a framework that promotes and encourages renewable and low carbon energy generation. Policies should be designed to promote and not restrict renewable and low-carbon energy and supporting infrastructure.'

Content and navigation for Policy Officers – policy objectives

- For each policy objective
 - Detailed description and rationale
 - Broken down into a number of evidence base tasks
 - Justification in climate change PPS (or elsewhere)
 - Links to relevant information, case studies
 - Consultant model brief for each task, to download as word doc
 - Model briefs are modular, can be added together to suit
 - Within each task, links to relevant regional and national datasets/ evidence

Content and navigation for Policy Officers – policy objectives

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Climate change pps

Policy objectives

Sustainable energy policy objectives

SE6: Inform site allocation for sustainable energy maximisation

SE6 Tasks overview

SE6 Task 1

SE6 Task 2

Star Difficulty Ratings

Model briefs

SE1: Area-wide energy/carbon target for new development

SE2: Energy/carbon targets for strategic sites

SE3: Stand-alone renewable energy sites

SE4: Area-wide renewable energy targets

SE5: Sustainable building standards

SE6: Inform the selection of land for new development in relation to the potential for renewable and low carbon energy supply

Description and rationale for policy objective

This policy option involves using making use of the information in an Energy Opportunity Plan to inform the selection of land for development by identifying any potential opportunities for renewable or low carbon energy on or close to those sites. Note that this policy objective is not meant to cover the allocation of land for stand-alone renewable energy developments. This is covered separately under [policy objective SE3](#).

Clearly, the potential for sustainable energy is only one of a multitude of different factors to be assessed and weighed when selecting land. The relative weight that you as a local authority should give to the sustainable energy criterion is for you to decide, based on your own priorities and political context.

You can also use this method to inform the nature of allocations that you choose to make in particular areas (i.e. the use class, or density, or whether mixed, residential only or commercial only) and how different sites may be grouped together, in order to increase the viability of an energy opportunity. For example, in areas of opportunity for district heating, you may look to set higher densities, or look for mixed development, as this will provide complementary heat loads. For areas with potential wind power opportunities, you may want to focus on commercial use classes, as this will avoid any possible issues with wind turbine noise impacting on residential amenity, as well as providing potentially large electricity base loads. Again, we recognise that energy is only one of many issues and criteria that you will need to consider in making allocations.

➔ PPS Climate Change PPS references

➔ Links to further information

Using regional evidence base – clarify local “added value”

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Climate change pps

Resources

South west resources

Glossary

National datasets

Policy

Useful websites

Useful documents

Online forums

Research

Good practice and case studies

Training support

Feedback

South west resources

Regen SW has an area of its website dedicated to supporting decision makers on driving sustainable energy in the south west. Click [here](#) to view this area of the Regen SW site.

South west renewables resources study

The Department for Energy and Climate Change has funded Regen SW to develop renewables resource assessments for the south west.

These resources include:

- A heat map of the south west - viewable at www.swheatmap.co.uk
- Wind resource/ unconstrained areas
- Hydropower opportunities - produced by the Environment Agency

The GIS data layers of these projects will be available from Regen SW for local authorities. An administrative fee of £550 will be payable for the package of layers and will include an hour of telephone consultation.

The Environment Agency has also produced a biomass resource assessment, which may be available at a later date.

Regen SW would like to develop a microgeneration potential assessment for the south west that is of use to local authorities. If you have a view on what this should contain, please contact gwaddell@regensw.co.uk

Content and navigation for Development Management Officers

Policy Context

Develop Policy Objectives

Evidence Base

Evidence to policy

Development Management

Monitoring

Resources

Climate change pps

Development management

Information in applications

Assessing applications

Feasibility

Viability

Planning conditions and enforcement

Monitoring and reviewing

Energy statement checklist

Information in applications checklist

Viability checklist

Who the toolkit is for

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Development management

The role of Development Management is broad and encompasses a full range of activities from informing site allocations to ensuring planning conditions are adequately discharged.

The information provided within this section focuses on DM's role as it applies to the delivery of policies in support of the [Climate Change PPS](#) as this is a [material consideration](#) in the determination of planning applications. In this context, the information is divided into the following section

Information and applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation checklists • Energy information that could be requested in applications
Assessing applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material considerations • Deciding if policy has been met
Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues affecting technical feasibility and suitability for a site
Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors affecting financial viability
Enforcement and conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning obligations, conditions and other enforcement mechanisms
Monitoring and review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring applications • Monitoring installation of technologies and compliance with conditions

Thank you

Try it for yourself – visit:

www.swplanners-toolkit.co.uk