

GREEN ENERGY

NPF 4 supports all forms of renewable energy development and storage, and new and replacement transmission and distribution infrastructure. The planning system should support new and emerging technologies in order to reduce our carbon emissions and contribute to a green, fair and resilient economic recovery.

Local Development Plans should:

- seek to ensure that the area's full potential for electricity and heat from renewable sources is achieved;
- support opportunities for new renewable energy development, and extensions and repowering of existing renewable energy developments.

Development proposals:

- for all forms of renewable energy and low carbon fuels, including transmission and distribution infrastructure and energy storage, should be supported in principle;
- for wind farms in national parks and national scenic areas should not be supported;
- for new wind farms outwith national parks and national scenic areas and recognising the sensitivity of any other national or international designations, should be supported, unless the impacts (including cumulative) are unacceptable;
- for repowering, extending and expanding existing wind farms should be supported, unless the impacts (including cumulative) are unacceptable;
- for small scale renewable energy generation technology should be supported;
- for major applications for energy generation from low carbon sources for manufacturing or industrial developments should be accompanied by a decarbonisation strategy to demonstrate how greenhouse gas emissions are to be abated;
- for negative emissions technologies and carbon capture should be supported in principle;
- for solar arrays should be supported where they would not adversely affect residential amenity, road safety, historic environment assets or aviation;
- specific considerations will vary relative to the scale of the proposal and area characteristics but development proposals for renewable energy

developments must take into account a range of development management criteria as set out in the draft NPF4.

Responses to the Position Statement

There was support for the emphasis on renewables as part of a focus on tackling issues relating to climate change, and it was suggested that NPF4 should create an enabling framework for rapid deployment of a diverse energy mix across Scotland including wind, solar and tidal generation and a range of storage solutions.

Respondents suggested a range of additional policies and ideas to contribute to the target of net zero emissions, including a publicly owned energy generation company, tidal stream generation, heat networks, a ban on any new fossil fuel developments, a presumption against oil and gas extraction, no further development of incinerators and ending the expansion of the road network.

It was also proposed that NPF4 should bring the various strategies together, to make it clear to communities how their efforts are contributing to the country's emission targets.

Policy changes

The proposals in NPF4 build on the aspirations expressed in SPP and NPF3 aimed at reducing the country's carbon emissions and adapting to climate change. The new guidance for planning authorities and developers demonstrates a new focus on transformative change to a more sustainable way of generating energy, which is a key element on the journey to a sustainable future.