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energy saving trust[™]

Delivering on-site sustainable energy: Planner support pack

Introduction

Climate change is widely recognised as the most significant challenge the world faces today. Increasing the delivery of sustainable energy to existing and new buildings in the UK is critical if we are to meet that challenge.

Planners have a key role to play in assisting the delivery of sustainable energy and low carbon technologies. The Energy Saving Trust is keen to support planners in this role and has produced this pack specifically for planners working in Scotland. The particular focus of this pack is on developing planning policies that encourage and improve levels of on-site sustainable energy.

This pack was originally developed by the Energy Saving Trust in partnership with the Royal Town Planning Institute and Changeworks in 2006, and was updated by the Energy Saving Trust in January 2008.

The pack comprises the following seven sections:

- **Section 1: Why promote sustainable energy?**
Why sustainable energy should be promoted and the role of planners.
- **Section 2: Defining sustainable energy**
What sustainable energy actually means and the different considerations within it, eg carbon neutrality, the energy hierarchy and an overview of potential carbon savings from different measures and technologies.
- **Section 3: Developing supportive local plan policy**
How to develop local planning policy that is supportive of improvements in sustainable energy.
- **Section 4: Who's doing what – current experiences developing policy and advice**
Examples from local authorities in the UK that have already developed supportive local planning policies.
- **Section 5: Pre-application discussions with developers**
How to work with developers and gain their buy-in to local planning policies that encourage higher levels of sustainable energy.
- **Section 6: Assessing applications**
What to look for and how to assess planning applications in terms of sustainable energy.
- **Section 7: Utilising external expertise**
Where planners can receive further information or support to help them take the sustainable energy agenda forward.
- **Section 8: Technology annex**
The annex detailing different measures and technologies – what they are, their capabilities and financial considerations.

Each section has been designed as a stand-alone resource with links to further guidance and information. Sections will be updated as necessary to ensure that contents reflect current practice.

Planners should call the Energy Saving Trust on 0870 241 2089 or email practicalhelp@est.org.uk if they require additional information or clarification. Any feedback or suggestions for the pack should also be directed to the Energy Saving Trust on 0870 241 2089 or email practicalhelp@est.org.uk.