

162. In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should expect new development to:

- a) comply with any development plan policies on local requirements for decentralised energy supply unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant, having regard to the type of development involved and its design, that this is not feasible or viable; and
- b) take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption.

163. When determining planning applications ⁵⁷ for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should:

- a) not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to significant cutting greenhouse gas emissions;
- b) approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable ⁵⁸. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.”

Dorset Climate Action Network’s response to the policy paper

DCAN’s plan is to identify sites as soon as possible for small turbines. Ideally these will be sub EIA (i.e. don’t require Environmental Impact Assessments). Developers can then make a screening request to the planning authority (Dorset Council) to check whether a potential application falls within that definition. In terms of finance, if the project is viable, Community Energy Companies and others can access grants to cover development costs and can crowdfund to cover installation costs. Landowners will be paid a commercial rent for leasing the site for at least a 25 year period.

This Council’s response to the change

Members are asked to identify potential sites for small turbines at windy locations in the local area and identify landowners who might be willing to sign up (initially to a Heads of Terms agreement to enable site evaluation). Ideally these will be within 2-3 miles of a decent grid connection or substation.

I am happy to be a local contact for queries and follow-up .

Henry Lovegrove

henrylovegrove@btinternet.com

Tel 07970 376640