



Renewables Advisory Board Planning Working group comments on Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development

The Renewables Advisory Board (RAB) was established by the DTI's Energy Minister to provide him with advice on policies, programmes and measures to tackle barriers to the development and deployment of renewable energy sources within the UK.

RAB membership is comprised of key players from the industry, academia and other important stakeholders (including members from the devolved administrations). It endeavours to provide the Minister with independent, impartial and authoritative advice on all relevant issues.

The work of the Board is currently focused on ten work streams that address the key issues and barriers to the achievement of Government renewable energy targets, of which Planning is one.

This document presents RAB's Planning Working Group's (RAB PWG) response to Scottish Executive's consultation on Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development.

GENERAL COMMENTS

RAB Planning Working Group (PWG) welcomes this new guidance on planning and sustainable development: for sustainable development to be achieved it needs to be embedded in the planning process as in all policy areas. RAB PWG considers that renewable energy supply is an essential part of sustainable development in Scotland, offering wider benefits: industry and economic opportunities and increased security of energy supply; as well as reductions in carbon emissions. In this way renewable energy supply can help Scotland both live within environmental limits and achieve a sustainable economy; two of the principles of sustainability. We ask that this document should be amended to strengthen support for renewable energy.

The recent (9th March 2007) agreement of the European Council of a binding target of a 20% share of renewable energies in overall EU energy consumption by 2020 sets a high level of ambition for all countries within the EU. RAB PWG believes a planning system which actively supports the development of good quality renewable energy schemes will be essential to deliver this.

Particular comments are below.

COMMENTS

RAB PWG would think that renewable energy is a central consideration when planning for sustainable development and would suggest the following changes and support the following sections:

Para 10 – add a bullet point after the 2nd (low and zero carbon buildings)

- Promote the development of low and zero carbon energy sources

Para 35:

- 3rd bullet point, **promote rural development and regeneration**, making the text more explicit as follows: “To this must be added high environmental standards; developments should incorporate high standards of energy efficiency and incorporate generation of energy from renewable sources”.
- 5th bullet point, **encourage use of existing buildings where possible**, add “taking into account the carbon impact of the building, once the scope for refurbishment to increase energy efficiency and include low or zero carbon energy sources has been considered.”
- 12th bullet point **consider energy systems on a strategic basis** – strongly support this

Para 37, 2nd bullet point **Energy efficiency** - strongly support seeking greater use of low and zero carbon sources

RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM: *Draft Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development*

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

NB responses in italics

Name: *Fiona Brocklehurst, AEA Energy & Environment, on behalf of the Renewable Advisory Board's Planning Working Group*

Postal Address: *The Gemini Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell, Didcot, OX11 0QR*

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)
(b) **on behalf of** a group or organisation go to Q3 and then Q4

ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

3. Your name and address of your organisation *will be* made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on Scottish Executive website). Are you content for your response to be made available?

Yes

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

4. We will share your response internally with other Scottish Executive policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future for consultation or research purposes?

Yes