

# renewable energy planning and delivery

Successive governments have committed the UK to reducing carbon emissions and tackling climate change as a key environmental priority. The planning system has been identified by government as a primary mechanism for this, and for achieving sustainable means of energy production.

The Climate Change Act 2008, established enforceable, legally binding targets for the UK, for reductions in green house gas emissions of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO2 emissions of at least 26% by 2020. Government, as a matter of policy, is working towards a target of delivering 20% of electricity in the UK from renewable sources by 2020, though the recent Renewable Energy Strategy has suggested that this figure should rise to 30%.

Achieving a sustainable development framework has long since been a corner-stone of the planning system, as expressed in successive policy statements. Added to this now, is the priority given to both securing sustainable energy sources and ensuring energy efficient developments. The challenge, faced by all, is to implement and secure these aims, in appropriate and practicable locations, and in line with increasingly rigorous standards.

## Meeting our Obligations

Local authorities, in response to government policy statements, have moved to embrace national minimum targets in development plan policy, and most development schemes now need to demonstrate how they can deliver sustainable buildings, and where appropriate, on-site renewable energy provision, so as to reduce carbon emissions.

DLP, through its planning, transport, design and environment teams, have a well established track record in all aspects of sustainable development delivery. DLP have established a professional team of planners, transportation engineers designers and environmental professionals, who advise on all aspects of sustainable energy development and building technologies. DLP can also source, through partnership arrangements with linked specialist companies, detailed assessments of the energy requirements and carbon emissions implications of development. Working in

conjunction with expert energy analysts, DLP can specify energy generation options which ensure that schemes are designed to meet, and exceed, energy policy objectives, and can prepare the necessary Energy Statements that are required to accompany applications for residential and commercial development schemes.

## Wind Generation

Commercial scale wind power schemes are the government's preferred option for sustainable power generation. It recognises however, that community consent is vital, and that planning applications need to be considered in the light of the possible impact on the local environment, in all its forms, and demonstrate appropriateness.

DLP Planning Ltd and DLP Transportation Ltd have wide experience of acting for promoters of on-shore wind farms. We provide a site sourcing and appraisal service for wind farm developers, where development options can be tested against a range of constraints, as well as managing all aspects of the delivery process, from the preparation and conduct of Environmental Impact Appraisals, to community consultation, planning applications and, where they have proved necessary, planning appeals.

DLP has also provided expert advice to community groups and other stakeholders, including local planning authorities, on the appropriateness of proposals, as well as providing independent assistance in the consideration of planning applications.



# renewable energy planning and delivery

## Photo-voltaics

England has a broadly similar *irradiance profile* to other European countries, in particular Germany, which already has over 4000MW of installed photo-voltaic capacity, compared to a target of just 250MW in England.



DLP Planning Ltd, DLP Transportation Ltd and DLP Design Ltd are all actively involved in promoting photo-voltaic solutions which can enable both local communities to deliver sufficient 'green' energy to make them genuinely self sufficient, and allow individual buildings to become self dependant, or exporters of energy. Through careful presentation and design, we have been able to overcome the initial concerns of many individuals and local communities about the potential impact of this new technology on the local environment. Working with specialist, external companies, DLP Design and DLP Planning can advise on the use of PV in all forms of development, and incorporate these technologies into the built fabric.

## Anaerobic Digestion

Anaerobic digestion can take many forms, using waste food products or raw crops such as maize, as the substrate material from which gas can be produced. Whilst this gas is capable of being 'cleaned' and fed into the gas network, a more efficient use is as the fuel for an associated heat and power generator - combined heat and power (CHP).

CHP plants are generally small and efficient, and can produce sufficient hot water and electrical power for an increasing scale of new housing and commercial developments.



DLP, through its planning and design teams, and working together with external specialist companies, has broad experience in assessing and testing the viability of CHP in new developments, and their promotion as part of integrated, sustainable development schemes from the master planning stage through to detailed site layouts.

## Finding the optimum solution

The renewable energy sector presents numerous opportunities to deliver sustainable sources of power generation to communities on a commercial basis, and as part of the steps needed to meet the nation's obligations to the future. DLP, through its constituent companies and its technology partners, have both wide experience and a proven track record in advising on, and negotiating for, planning consents which enable these objectives to be realised, and to discharge conditions.

Commercial power generation is but one aspect of meeting our obligations, and it is necessary for each individual development, irrespective of size, to play its part in reducing energy consumption, carbon emissions, and wherever possible feeding surplus energy back into the national grid. DLP Planning can help define optimum solutions and present appropriate solutions in each and every case that will provide an economic and effective way of addressing national and local policy objectives.