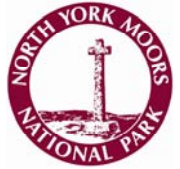


North York Moors National Park Authority



Climate Change – Core Policy D

This policy is taken from the **Core Strategy and Development Policies** document which is a key part of the **Local Development Framework**. The Local Development framework consists of several different documents to guide future development in the National Park whilst ensuring that its special qualities are conserved and enhanced.

Core Policy D – Climate Change

Activities in the National Park will address the causes of climate change and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, by:

- Reducing the use of energy and the need to use energy.
- Generating energy from renewable sources where these are of a scale and design appropriate to the locality and which contribute towards meeting domestic, community or business energy needs within the National Park.
- Requiring residential developments of 5 or more houses and other uses of 200sqm or more to generate energy on-site from renewable sources to displace at least 10% of predicted CO2 emissions.

The impacts of climate change on the National Park will be mitigated by:

- Directing development away from flood risk areas.
- Facilitating necessary coastal and flood protection works.
- Addressing the management of upland areas to assist in flood storage and carbon retention.
- Encouraging enhancements for biodiversity to buffer, extend and connect habitats.

Sustainability Appraisal

This policy will have a positive impact upon meeting sustainability objectives which seek to address the causes and effects of climate change, with beneficial knock-on effects for social and economic objectives. Some uncertainties exist with regard to the landscape and historic environment however these can be mitigated at the implementation level.

6.15 The Government is committed to reducing the causes of climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions are a key contributor to climate change and therefore targets for their reduction have been set nationally. The Authority must ensure that the causes of climate change are addressed at the local level and is working to reduce energy use and promote renewable energy around the Park. This must however be undertaken within the context of National Park purposes.

6.16 In the Park **transport** contributes significantly to climate change. Chapter 10 takes this policy forward in relation to the contribution that can be made from changing transport patterns.

6.17 The Regional Spatial Strategy sets a target for the North Yorkshire sub-region for a total of 209MW of installed grid connected **renewable energy capacity** by 2010 and 428MW of installed grid connected renewable energy capacity by 2020. It is acknowledged that the contribution of the National Park to meeting this target is likely to be relatively small as many of the installations coming forward in the National Park, due to their smaller scale, and potentially their remote location, will not be for the

purpose of grid connection but to serve a local need. The majority of the renewable energy to meet the targets is expected to be provided outside of National Parks where larger scale installations may cause less harm to the landscape, however National Parks are expected to contribute via small scale developments which are compatible with National Park purposes. Taking forward the regional targets, a study¹⁸ commissioned by North Yorkshire local authorities in 2005 examined what level of contribution could be made from microgeneration in the National Parks. For the North York Moors National Park it is considered that 1.56MW could potentially be installed by 2010 and 7.96MW by 2021 from solar water heating, ground source heat pumps, wood heat, photovoltaics and micro wind, to contribute towards the wider regional targets, although there are other technologies that could also come forward.

6.18 A further study¹⁹ was undertaken in 2005 by Land Use Consultants which assessed the sensitivity of the landscape across North Yorkshire to **renewable energy development** and concluded that large scale renewable energy developments would generally not be appropriate in the Park. Therefore, consistent with national policy²⁰, planning permission for renewable energy developments should only be granted where the objectives of the designation will not be compromised. For the purposes of this policy 'appropriate scale' is defined as:

- Wind developments of one turbine and of a height which is well related to landscape, landform, structures and buildings in the immediate vicinity;
- Other renewable energy developments where these will not have an unacceptable impact upon the special qualities of the National Park.

6.19 Where schemes are to be connected to the Grid consideration should be given to reducing the visual impact of the connection and that undergrounding may resolve potential impacts.

6.20 The Authority operates a **Community Renewable Energy Project** whereby communities are facilitated in reducing their energy use and developing renewable energy schemes to meet their energy needs. Currently the Authority is working with the Upper Esk, Appleton-le-Moors and Spaunton, and Botton communities. Targets have been set to reduce emissions from communities involved in the project from 19,405 tonnes in 2005/6 to 12,738 tonnes by 2009/10 and enabling the development of renewable energy schemes will contribute towards meeting these.

6.21 **Wind turbine developments** in particular have the potential to impact upon ecological interests, particularly birds and bats. Much of the upland area of the Park is designated as a Special Protection Area under the Habitats Directive and proposals that could have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site would not be in accordance with the Development Plan.

6.22 Proposals will be assessed on their contribution to a reduction in carbon emissions and also in terms of any community or economic benefits arising from the scheme, and a balance between this and the visual and environmental impact will form the basis of decisions.

6.23 Where meeting the energy required cannot be met through a particular technology without having an unacceptable visual or other impact it may be necessary to investigate using an alternative, or range of, technologies.

6.24 The Authority will seek to ensure that renewable energy installed under the 10% requirement will not have an unacceptable visual impact and the same considerations will be given as for any other renewable energy proposal. It is possible that there will be more than one way to meet the requirement for providing renewable energy and applicants should show how they have arrived at the submitted scheme, taking into account the visual impact of the installation. In some exceptional circumstances the

Authority may consider that the requirement cannot be met without unacceptable visual or other impact and in such cases the requirement may be relaxed.

6.25 The need to adapt and respond to the effects of climate change, such as **increased drought and flood risk** and related effects upon biodiversity, is also becoming increasingly important. Many of the actions to mitigate against climate change are being addressed by plans and programmes outside of the Local Development Framework. In particular, the Catchment Flood Management Plans set the basis for flood defence works as well as changes to land management to reduce run-off levels which has particular implications for the upland areas of the Park. The Authority is also promoting measures which will slow water flow from these areas.

6.26 One of the impacts of climate change is the continuing **erosion of the coastline** of the Park which is addressed via the Shoreline Management Plan²¹. *River Tyne to Flamborough Head SMP2 (North East Coastal Authorities Group, 2007) North York Moors Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Development Policies November 2008 40* The Shoreline Management Plan recognises that erosion will continue to take place along much of the coastline, and the underlying policy approach is to protect and maintain communities and to allow natural processes to occur in other locations. The Shoreline Management Plan also aims to both protect and enhance sites of national and international environmental value. Coastal defences can have a significant impact upon visual amenity and nature conservation interests and these impacts will need to be carefully addressed in any proposal. This is especially important as the entire National Park coastline is defined as Heritage Coast where natural assets and recreational opportunities should be protected.

Useful references:

- Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1
- Planning Policy Statement 22 - Renewable Energy
- Regional Spatial Strategy – Policies YH2, ENV1, ENV5
- River Tyne to Flamborough Head Shoreline Management Plan
- Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document
- Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document
- Development Policy 2
- WS Atkins, 2002. Warming up the region: The impacts of climate change in the Yorkshire and Humber Region. WS Atkins report no: AK2970.068.dg.013, Epsom. pp. 109.
- Delivering Sustainable Energy in North Yorkshire – Recommended Planning Guidance
- Delivering Sustainable Energy in North Yorkshire – Recommended Guidance for Developing Energy Action Plans and Strategies