

Sustainability and Climate Change

- 6.21 The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change commissioned by the Government in 2006 clearly identified the impact that human activity is having upon the global climate and highlights the urgency for producing policies that support the development of a range of low – carbon and energy efficiency technologies.
- 6.22 The supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 – ‘Planning and Climate Change’ states that to deliver sustainable development a full and appropriate response to climate change is required. The guidance states that local planning authorities should consider the opportunities in the core spatial strategy to amplify policies and proposals as set out in Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 6.23 The guidance contained within the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Revision proposes a dual approach to addressing climate change by enabling and promoting measures to reduce emissions, and ensuring new developments are adaptable to the changing climatic conditions likely to be experienced during their lifetime.
- 6.24 Renewable energy generation and the increased energy efficiency of new development have an important role to play in reducing CO² emissions and addressing global warming and they are directly linked to strategic aim SA18.

Policy CSP3 – Sustainability and Climate Change

Development which positively addresses the impacts of climate change and delivers a sustainable approach will be encouraged.

The highest standards of energy and natural resource efficiency will be achieved by securing the following targets: -

1. All proposals for non-residential developments of 1,000m² or more, and new residential development of 10 or more dwellings, to incorporate onsite renewable energy production so that it results in a 10% reduction in the predicted carbon emissions.
2. All new development reduces energy consumption by ensuring that all new homes meet at least level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes and considering the potential for securing higher standards of energy efficiency for new homes at level 4 before 2013 and zero carbon level 6 before 2016. Offices and other non-domestic buildings should aim for 10% below the target emission rate of the current Building Regulations by 2016;
3. Ensuring the use of construction methods which minimise the use of non – renewable resources and which maximise the use of recycled and locally sourced materials;
4. All development meets the highest standards of water efficiency and conservation by ensuring all new homes meet or exceed the water conservation standards in level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, that offices meet the BREEAM offices scale,

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and that other buildings achieve efficiency savings of at least 25%;

5. **All proposals for non-residential developments of 1,000m² or more, and new residential development of 10 or more dwellings to incorporate the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SUDS), unless it can be demonstrated that it is not practicable to do so;**
6. **Developing habitat systems which are resilient to climate change in accordance with latest best practice;**
7. **Supporting local initiatives to address climate change such as the North Staffordshire Warm Zone and other initiatives that may emerge;**
8. **Implementing such other best practice standards as may emerge.**

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6.** The 'predicted carbon emissions' refers to the carbon emissions from the operation of the development that would occur if the renewable source was not specified. The methodology for working this out is provided within the Government's approach the Code for Sustainable Homes Technical Guide (October 2008). This may be superseded by other best practice standards that will emerge.

6.25 Whilst the level of new development is relatively small in comparison to the level of existing development, this approach will make a significant contribution towards meeting national targets on increasing energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.

6.26 This approach conforms to both national guidance in Planning Policy Statement 22 – Renewable Energy, and emerging policies in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Revision.

6.28 This provides the overarching strategic spatial planning policy for sustainability and climate change and further guidance will be provided by both authorities in Development Control Policy documents and supplementary guidance.

Deleted: 6.27 . The proposed review of the level of on site generation will ensure that in the early stages of the plan period, the financial burden upon new developers will not be excessively onerous. It is envisaged that increased public awareness, technological advances and economies of scale will enable higher targets to be set in the latter parts of the plan period without impacting upon the economic viability of most development. ¶