

Towards a Kent Sectors Strategy

Supporting Growth in the Low Carbon Technologies and Renewable Energy Sector



October 2009 (Draft)



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1. Introduction

1.1 Low carbon technologies and renewable energy are recognised as a growing business sector and one in which Kent has tremendous scope to develop new markets and business opportunities linked to addressing environmental issues. It has been widely acknowledged by politicians and business leaders that investment supporting the development of a low carbon economy will be one of the key elements in a return to economic stability.

1.2 Moving to a low-carbon economy will involve a technological revolution. Traditionally this sector has included solutions for problems such as air, noise, pollution and contamination, as well as activities such as environmental analysis, waste management and recycling. More recently, the definition of the sector has been enlarged to reflect the drive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move towards a low carbon economy. It now includes renewable energy technologies as well as low carbon goods and services designed to reduce emissions.

1.3 The Regional Economic Strategy for the South East has recognised the potential of the sector in the region and has adopted progressive targets for renewable energy generation to support growth. Similarly, Kent Prospects, the economic strategy of the Kent Partnership, identifies as one of its priorities increasing sustainable enterprise capacity. The contribution that the sector can make to regeneration has also been recognised by the County Council in its own framework for delivering regeneration¹.

1.4 Kent has an established and growing eco-enterprise community of over 600 firms² and the county is well placed to grow green supply chains and benefit from new market opportunities. However, the capacity of eco-enterprises and supply chains needs further support and development reflecting that many businesses fall into the SME category. Nevertheless, there is strong potential to grow in areas such low carbon and renewable energy, water and energy efficiency, sustainable construction, waste management and allied to these areas manufacturing opportunities. The County's strategic position in relation to both London and Europe suggest Kent businesses can also capitalise on significant nearby markets for sector goods and services.

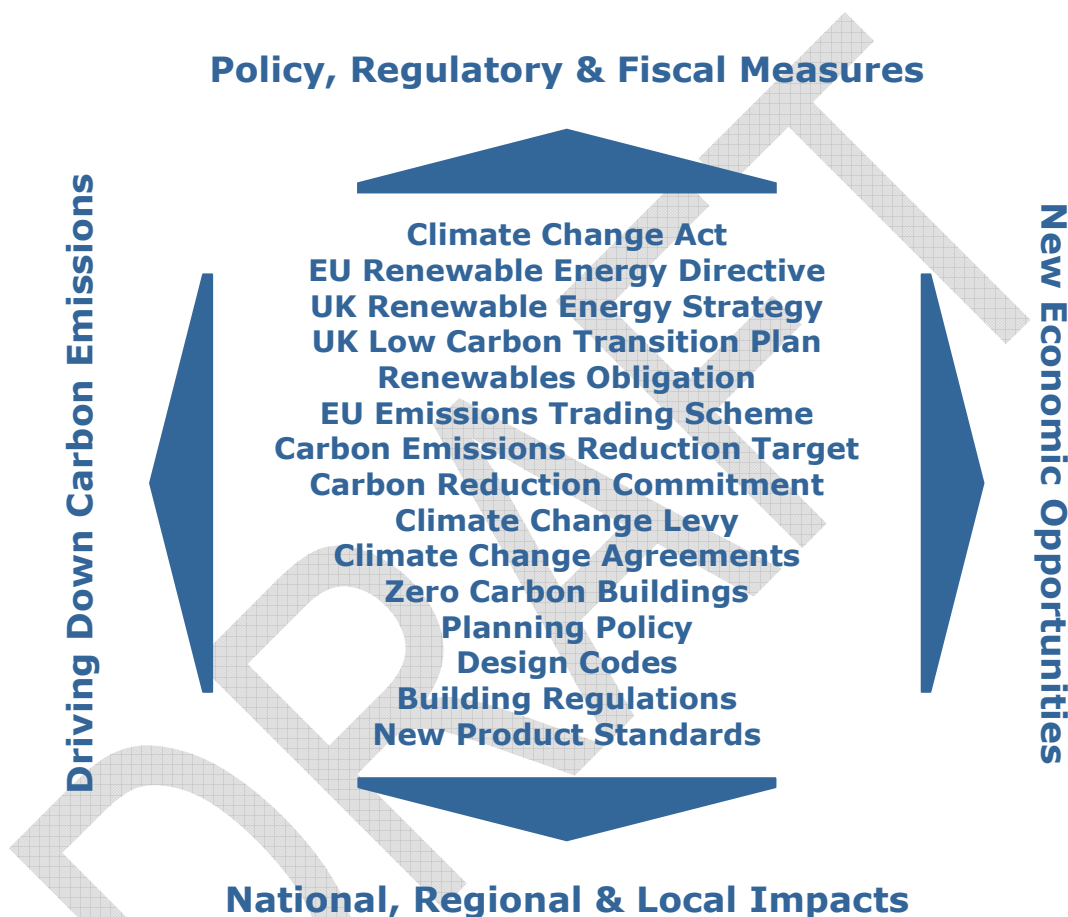
1.5 The County Council is keen to promote Kent as a great place for the sector to develop and back Kent business. Through this piece of work the County Council has identified seven key actions that it can take to assist growth and support new investment.

¹ Unlocking Kent's Potential KCC's Framework for Regeneration 2009-2020

² Kent Prospects 2007-2012

2. Growing a new technology based sector

2.1 Lord Stern's landmark Review in 2006 set out the economic case for action on climate change and for investment in a low carbon economy. The Government has acted on the advice by putting in place policy, regulatory and fiscal measures to reduce carbon produced by households, business, transport and power generation. A number of the measures are designed to incentivise change and give business the confidence to invest in low carbon technologies and bring new products and services to market. The key measures are highlighted in the diagram below and summarised in appendix 1.



2.2 The transformation in the way we manage carbon emissions offers the potential for new businesses to be created, for existing businesses to exploit new opportunities and for this to both create new jobs and support existing ones. The Government has said that reaching the 15 per cent renewable energy target by 2020 will require new investment of around £100bn. The UK low carbon and environmental goods and services sector was worth £107 billion in 2007/08 representing 7.4% of GDP. The sector is now growing fast employing over 881,000 people with renewables and low carbon industries accounting for 78% of this number. The sector is forecast to grow at 4-5% per annum over the next 8 years and create 400,000 new jobs over that period, many of these in renewable energy and emerging low carbon industries³.

³ Figures from The UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy – Dept for Business Innovation & Skills/Dept of Energy & Climate Change, July 2009

Defining the low carbon technologies and renewable energy sector

2.3 The sector covers a diverse range of products, services and processes which broadly aim to provide superior performance at lower costs, reduce or eliminate negative ecological impact, and, improve the productive and responsible use of natural resources. Sector activity can be categorised under the following three classes:

Low carbon:

- Building technologies
- Alternative fuels
- Additional energy sources e.g. nuclear
- Carbon Capture and Storage
- Carbon finance
- Energy management

Renewable energy:

- Wind
- Biomass
- Solar
- Ground and air source
- Wave and tidal
- Hydro
- Renewable consulting

Environmental:

- Air pollution control
- Environmental consultancy
- Environmental monitoring
- Noise and vibration
- Contaminated land remediation
- Waste management
- Water supply and wastewater treatment
- Marine pollution control
- Recovery and recycling

2.4 In the South East the sector is represented by 6600 companies employing 113,000 persons and generating total sales of £13 billion in 2007/08. The largest sector industries in the South East are renewable energy, alternative fuels and building technologies. Renewable energy is the highest growth area based on employees and market value with wind, biomass, ground source and solar performing strongly. Overall the sector grew in the South East by 5% in 2007/8 with exports accounting for 11.6% of total regional sales⁴.

2.5 There is a strong local dimension to the sector that reflects the characteristics of individual regions. Geographical location, natural resources, infrastructure, industrial base, supply chain and proximity of demand will influence development and provide a competitive advantage. A key challenge for Kent is to identify the potential it has to build confidence amongst investors.

⁴ Figures from Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services: An Industry Analysis – Innovas for Dept of Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform, March 2009

Local knowledge about the energy efficiency of housing stock, information on sustainable building plans and the opportunities for low carbon and renewable energy generation can play an important role in influencing the sectors growth.

2.6 Reducing our dependency on high carbon fossil fuels, maintaining security of supply and affordability together with the need to replace redundant plant are putting the sector at the forefront of the UK's transition to a low carbon economy. In the future a far greater proportion of our energy will come from low carbon sources with the mainstay of supply coming from renewable energy, new nuclear power and carbon capture and storage. Kent is uniquely linked to all three of these sources with major developments under construction or in planning. This offers the County good prospects for new businesses and jobs linked to sustainable energy technologies (*see section 3*).

2.7 The buildings we live, work and socialise in account for high proportion of the UK's carbon emissions, 27% in the case of our homes. Taking action on energy efficiency will create demand for low carbon goods and services. Increasing the energy efficiency of our buildings will reduce exposure to volatile fossil fuel prices, address fuel poverty issues and help meet carbon reduction targets. It will also benefit households and businesses alike by increasing disposable income and profit respectively to the advantage of local economies.

Case Study 1: West of England Carbon Challenge

The West of England Carbon Challenge aims to help organisations reduce their CO₂ emissions in line with national targets. It challenges public, private and third sector organisations across the region to commit to making annual cuts in emissions to reduce their carbon footprint by at least 10% over the next four years.

The Carbon Challenge aims to help organisations reach this target and put them on track to comply with regulatory requirements like the CRC, prepare themselves for a low-carbon future, and play their part in addressing climate change. Signing up to the Carbon Challenge offers organisations:

1. Access to cutting edge, strategic thinking and practical advice on approaches to carbon reduction, making members well-placed to manage long term risks and respond to upcoming legislation;
2. The opportunity to make savings in energy, waste and money, based on rigorous assessment of their own carbon usage; and
3. The opportunity to position themselves at the forefront of an emerging low-carbon economy.

Any organisation can join the Carbon Challenge for free, provided they commit to making 10% CO₂ reductions over four years and have one or more sites in the region. Members record monthly data on their site energy usage in a secure account on the Carbon Challenge website.

Launched on 1st May 2009, the Carbon Challenge is being delivered by Forum for the Future in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy, GWE Business West and Business in the Community.

See www.westofenglandcarbonchallenge.org for further information.

3. Sector opportunities in Kent

3.1 The global market for low carbon goods and services is worth £3 trillion, and this is projected to grow to over £4.3 trillion by 2015⁵. The Government has committed £10.4 billion of investment over the next three years designed to support the low carbon economy and provide the foundations for strong growth of the sector in the future⁶.

3.2 Kent has good potential to capitalise on this projected growth and is uniquely placed to offer businesses a wide range of opportunities and markets. These opportunities reflect the County's strategic location, the availability of natural resources such as wind and biomass, its designation as a growth point for housing and employment, connecting infrastructure and its network of well developed communities. The opportunities can be categorised by scale into national and regional development, community infrastructure and solutions for buildings.

National and Regional Development

- Offshore Wind Farms

3.3 The UK has Europe's largest offshore wind resource and one of the largest markets for development in the world. The Thames Estuary is one of three initial areas where projects are being developed around the UK coast and where the Crown Estates have issued licences to developers. The scale of development underway in this area (2GW) is significant and indicates that there is real potential to establish a focal point for the offshore wind industry. On average, 10 full-time jobs are sustained per MW installed⁷. The Thames Estuary is at the forefront of UK growth plans, which have recently been extended to include development in deeper waters off the eastern and southern coasts of England.

3.4 Kent's strategic position alongside the southern half of the Thames Estuary means that it is well placed to benefit from project development and the growth of a new technology led industry. The County has a well developed electricity grid for power connections and has been able to meet the need for port services to support construction. Kent ports are also able to provide bases for new operations and maintenance facilities representing a long term investment in the County and the creation of more than 100 new jobs. The value of this investment to Kent has been estimated at £544 million over the next 20 years⁸ From this starting point there could be potential to grow related business and services particular around new skills and training but also component manufacturing to support the industry's growth in the UK.

3.5 There are three key developments that are beginning to give Kent an important link with the industry and from which the County could build up its credibility with the industry.

⁵ Figures from The UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy – Dept for Business Innovation & Skills/Dept of Energy & Climate Change, July 2009

⁶ Building Britain's Future: Investing in a Low Carbon Britain – Dept Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform, April 2009

⁷ Dept of Energy & Climate Change press release 30th March 2009

⁸ Rationale for Kent County Council investment in the Port Ramsgate and the Offshore Wind Farm Industry – BBP Regeneration Ltd, April 2008

Kentish Flats Wind Farm – A completed development of 30 turbines serviced from Whitstable Harbour.

Thanet Offshore Wind Farm – A development of 100 turbines now under construction and using the Port of Ramsgate as its construction base and site for operations and maintenance.

London Array – A development of 271 turbines now proceeding with construction having started on major new substation at Graveney. They also plan to use Port of Ramsgate in conjunction with construction and as a base for operations and maintenance.

3.6 The scale of development, both offshore and onshore has made wind the fastest growing of the renewable energy industries in the UK. Capacity is a real issue for the supply side of the sector with turbines and key components almost wholly supplied from mainland Europe. The UK Government is keen to redress this situation and stimulate the growth of a UK industry to meet future demand. The role of the Thames Estuary as a lead growth point for offshore wind has created opportunities for Kent to host new industries. This potential has been recognised in a study for SEEDA looking at the impact of the London Array and other wind farms on the South East⁹. Locate in Kent has been working to promote the sector opportunities in Kent to European and International turbine supply companies.

- Nuclear Power

3.7 Kent hosts one of the UK's nuclear power stations at Dungeness. The existing station is expected to continue operating until 2018 and is one of 11 sites nominated for the construction of a new station. If selected the construction of Dungeness C power station is expected to take in the region of 5 years. Depending on the design selected between 1350 and 2500 jobs will be created during the construction phase. The power station would be expected to operate for 60 years with a workforce of 400-600 staff. The total number on the site is likely to be in the region of 1000 taking into account the operation and decommissioning of the A and B Stations. EDF currently run four year apprenticeships at Dungeness with 20 persons on the scheme. The estimated value of Dungeness to Kent is currently put at £30 million per annum¹⁰ but this could increase with a new station and bring new business opportunities to the County.

- Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

3.8 The energy company E.on has proposed the replacement of their existing coal fired power station at Kingsnorth on the Isle of Grain with a new one designed to utilise CCS. This is a new technology to mitigate the contribution of fossil fuel emissions to global warming by capturing carbon dioxide at point of source and then permanently storing it away from the atmosphere. A study by E.ON has identified the potential for a cluster network connecting major emitters of carbon dioxide in the Thames Estuary. A central pipeline would carry the carbon dioxide to old North Sea gas fields where it would be stored.

⁹ London Array: The Big Picture – Briefing paper to SEEDA on the potential for the development of the offshore wind energy in the UK and South East region by BBP Regeneration Ltd with Douglas Westwood and MDS Transmodal, November 2007

¹⁰ British Energy

3.9 CCS technology is in the very early stages of development but if utilised and proven could lead to new sector businesses being started in the area. A recent study estimated that CCS technology could bring between £2 and 4 billion a year into the UK economy by 2030, and support between 30,000 and 60,000 jobs¹¹. A decision on whether to proceed with a CCS enabled power station at Kingsnorth has been deferred for up to 3 years as a result of the economic downturn and a reduction in the demand for electricity. Current thinking is that the power station would be needed by 2016.

Community Infrastructure

- Combined Heat and Power/District Heating

3.10 Developing community scale heat and power plant is a way of reducing the emissions associated with fossil fuels. It typically involves generating or utilising an existing source of energy locally and supplying it to homes and businesses via a heat main and/or private wire network. This may involve developing purpose built plant to run on low carbon or renewable fuel sources, or it could involve making use of waste heat from power stations, industrial processes or incineration plant.

3.11 Schemes of this kind are widespread in countries such as Denmark and Sweden. Community heating technologies can be more reliable than conventional household boiler systems and can offer lower bills as well as cutting carbon emissions. The Government has already put in place incentive structures to encourage partnerships between compatible heat generators and users and to encourage the roll out of community heating infrastructure to support new housing development. This technology is likely to create new business opportunities for companies involved in the supply and servicing of heat networks.

3.12 The planned level of new housing and employment development in Kent over the period 2006-26 (137,000 homes and 125,000 new jobs) suggest that there is good potential to develop local community energy infrastructure. The major growth points at Kent Thameside and Ashford are the most obvious locations but other regeneration projects at Queenborough and Rushenden on the Isle of Sheppey and Sittingbourne town centre also offer good prospects. Work to evaluate the potential for this solution to be applied in connection with these development areas is already being undertaken. In addition there is the potential to roll out smaller projects for campus style developments or large buildings in multiple occupation. For example, the NHS has recently committed to heating its new hospital development at Pembury in Tunbridge Wells using a biomass fuelled plant.

3.13 Renewable biomass resources are available throughout Kent, which is one of the most wooded counties in the UK. Biomass resources can include coppiced wood, sawdust, arboricultural trimmings, energy crops, gas from landfills, sewage treatment and biodegradable wastes. Wood based resources are often processed into wood chips or pellets to increase flexibility and the range of potential applications. The County Council is currently developing a wood based biomass project to supply locally sourced wood fuels to schools and public

¹¹ AEA Group: Future of Coal Carbon Abatement Technologies to UK Industry 2009

buildings. Through this initiative it is hoped to support the development of local supply chains and stimulate the market for renewable heat in Kent.

Solutions for buildings

- Energy efficiency retrofit

3.14 As well as making changes to national, regional and local infrastructure to develop more sustainable and secure energy supply solutions, we also need to make changes to the buildings we live in and work from. Improving energy efficiency is one of the quickest ways to improve the performance of buildings, reduce emissions and cut energy bills. It is estimated that if all UK businesses undertook cost effective energy efficiency measures a collective saving of £6.4 billion could be made, equivalent to 2% of UK profits. Significant resources are now being devoted to delivering energy efficiency. For example, the CERT energy efficiency programme is expected to lever in total investment of some £3.2 billion for home improvement in the period 2008-11¹².

3.15 The action being taken in the UK and across the globe to increase energy efficiency is creating a significant demand for low carbon goods and services. There are 10 million homes in the UK without cavity wall and full loft insulation and a further 7m homes that require solid wall insulation. The cost of upgrading these properties is estimated at in excess of £5bn. In the region of 490,000 homes in Kent are in need of insulation improvements. Factor in business premises as well together with the demand for energy efficiency goods from the new build market and it is easy to understand the potential for growth in the sector. The demand for goods and services in Kent alone will be considerable but the County's strategic location with easy access to London and Europe suggest businesses in Kent are well placed to exploit other significant markets.

Case Study 2: Kirklees warm zone

Kirklees Council's Warm Zone offers help to every household in Kirklees to improve the energy efficiency of their home, including free loft and cavity wall insulation, regardless of household income.

The initiative aims to visit and assess 170,000 houses and it is anticipated that insulation will be installed in 53,000 lofts and 35,000 cavity walls.

The programme has financial support of over £20m confirmed over the next three years from Kirklees council, Scottish Power, National Grid, the Regional Housing Board, Scottish Power Energy People Trust and British Gas Energy Trust through the CERT programme. The scheme has economic, environmental and social objectives.

To date, Kirklees Council's Warm Zone has created 80 full-time jobs and saved approximately £1m a year on household energy bills. The overall economic benefit to the area is calculated at over £50m. It has helped to contribute to the Council's target of a 30 per cent reduction in community carbon emissions per capita relative to a 2005 baseline by 2020 and reduces fuel poverty in the area.

¹² Figures from The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan – Dept of Energy & Climate Change, July 2009

- Micro renewables

3.16 The market for micro renewables continues to grow driven by generation targets, new planning policy expectations and the application of design code standards in new development. There is also a growing demand from the occupiers of existing buildings seeking to further reduce their carbon footprint and reliance on fossil fuel sources. Kent is well placed to exploit this demand having a good range of renewable energy sources. The principle technologies where demand is growing are as follows:

Solar thermal

Solar photovoltaics

Wind

Biomass heating

Ground source heating and cooling

Air source heating and cooling

Future demand for micro renewables is likely to be further stimulated by the continued availability of financial incentives to prospective purchasers and the mainstreaming of technologies. The planned introduction of the Renewable Heat Incentive and 'Feed-in Tariffs' will be of particular benefit to smaller generators of renewable heat and electricity. Providing a local environment in Kent that promotes the opportunities for investment, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship will be crucial in taking advantage of the growing demand for renewables.

4. An action plan for supporting sector growth

4.1 The role of the County Council in providing leadership and direction for Kent can support the growth of the low carbon technologies and renewable energy sector. Taking action to set and influence strategic thinking, working on planning and regeneration initiatives, changing approach to procurement and engaging with partner organisations can all support sector growth. There are further opportunities for the County Council to make savings on the £xxx it spends each year on energy through energy efficiency measures and in doing so lead the way by example. It can also boost the demand for low carbon products and services as part of the £xxx billion it spends annually on delivering public services. Working jointly with other public sector partners in the County could multiply this effect.

4.2 In order to promote the growth and competitiveness of the sector in Kent, the County Council has identified seven key areas where it can take positive action. These action areas are set out in the table below.

Taking Action to Support Low Carbon Technologies and Renewable Energy Sector Growth in Kent	
1.	<p>Promote low carbon development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work to make low carbon solutions the mainstay of growth and regeneration programmes in Kent and the County Council’s own capital investment programme. ▪ Support the development of the sector in Kent through the County Council’s own strategies, plans and community documents. ▪ Work alongside local councils in Kent to ensure that key local planning documents signpost the opportunities for low carbon development to private sector investors. ▪ Work alongside the developers of low carbon and renewable energy projects to maximise the economic and carbon reduction benefits for Kent. ▪ Through existing and new partnerships with Kent stakeholders work jointly on the delivery of projects which grow the market for low carbon technologies and renewable energy solutions.
2.	<p>Exercise powerful leadership and demonstration effect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead the way in Kent by developing and reshaping the County Council’s services, buildings and facilities to become low carbon and resilient to climate change. ▪ Introduce a low carbon culture into the organisation that ensures the County Council’s business is carried out in a way consistent with the aims of a low carbon economy.
3.	<p>Shape innovation and markets through procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilise the County Council’s procurement power to influence

	<p>supply chains and stimulate the demand for low carbon goods and services in Kent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bring further weight to the above by facilitating a consortia of Kent councils and public sector organisations.
4.	<p>Work with employers and training providers to address skills gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify skill gaps and new training opportunities to support Kent people and businesses to meet the skills needs of the low carbon technologies and renewable energy sector.
5.	<p>Support innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with those who hold intellectual assets in Kent and are leading sector innovation to provide a stimulus for growth and to raise the profile of Kent as a preferred location for low carbon industries.
6.	<p>Stimulate the growth of low carbon businesses in Kent through community initiatives to reduce carbon emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigate the potential for the County Council to deliver a stock wide improvement programme designed to improve the energy efficiency of Kent homes and increase the take up of micro renewable energy technologies. ▪ Open the County Council's loan fund for energy and water saving projects (currently limited to its own business units) to other public sector organisations in Kent. ▪ Work more closely with organisations responsible for providing advice on carbon reduction to business, community organisations and the public to increase effectiveness and take up in Kent. ▪ Identify and bid for funding streams to support the reduction of carbon emissions in Kent including Central Government, Regional and EU initiatives.
7.	<p>Research and promotion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build business confidence through targeted research and the publication of data that supports the case for sector investment in Kent. As a starting point profile the number and range of low carbon businesses currently operating in Kent including their specialism and location as well as their capacity and capability to meet the growth in demand for low carbon goods and services. ▪ Work with organisations responsible for inward investment and business advice in Kent to ensure that there is an evidence base of up to date information and to promote the opportunities in Kent.

5. Summary

5.1 The forecast growth levels for the UK over the next eight years indicate that the sector can make an important contribution to the Kent economy in a time of financial and economic uncertainty. Low carbon and renewable energy generation, energy efficiency and sustainable growth provide significant opportunities for investment and sector development in Kent. They also support the drive towards carbon emission reduction and help the UK meet its targets.

5.2 The County Council recognises that it can play a key role in supporting the growth of the sector which in turn can assist Kent's transition to a low carbon economy. By exercising its powers of leadership and influence, by utilising its financial resources and by joining together with others the County Council believes it can help to achieve this goal.

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6. Appendix – Key Policy, Regulatory and Fiscal Measures

Climate Change Act

The Act requires a 26% cut in carbon emissions by 2020 and an 80% cut by 2050. These targets are legally binding and will be supported by a carbon budgeting system which caps emissions over five year periods.

EU Renewable Energy Directive

The Directive requires 20% of the EU's energy requirement to come from renewable sources by 2020, and sets each European country a specific target. The UK target is 15% of total energy requirement which in delivery terms will mean that 30% of our electricity will need to be generated renewably.

UK Renewable Energy Strategy

The strategy sets out how the UK will meet its legally binding target to ensure 15% of our energy comes from renewable sources by 2020. Key to the strategy is putting in place mechanisms providing financial support including a new Renewable Heat Incentive and 'Feed-in Tariffs' to benefit smaller generators of renewable heat and electricity. Other measures will seek to clear away barriers to development, increase investment in emerging technologies and create new opportunities for individuals, communities and business to harness renewable energy.

UK Low Carbon Transition Plan

The plan sets out how the UK will become a low carbon country through reducing emissions, maintaining secure energy supplies, maximising economic opportunities and protecting the most vulnerable. Helping to make the UK a centre of green industry by supporting the development and use of clean technologies is a key part of the plan. Many of the measures such those linked to new power generation supplies, making our homes greener and our cars less polluting will support the economic transformation.

Renewables Obligation

The Obligation requires suppliers to source an annually increasing percentage of the electricity they supply from renewables. For each megawatt hour of renewable energy generated, a tradable certificate called a Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) is issued.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS)

EU ETS is a Europe wide scheme which aims to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide in heavy industries including electricity generation. The scheme is based on allowances and a price for the carbon that can be traded.

Climate Change Levy (CCL) and Climate Change Agreements (CCA)

The CCL encourages business and the public sector to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions through a levy on the use of non-renewably sourced energy. A CCA is a negotiated agreement with the Government for additional

CO2 reduction targets. In return, businesses meeting these targets receive an 80% discount on CCL.

Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT)

The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target places an obligation on energy companies to take steps to ensure that the amount of CO2 emitted from homes is reduced.

Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)

The CRC is designed to deliver carbon emissions reduction and cost savings in the service sector, public sector and other less energy-intensive industries. The CRC is a mandatory cap and trade scheme, targeting emissions not covered by EU ETS or a CCA and includes supermarket chains, hotel chains, office-based corporations, government departments and large local authorities.

Zero Carbon Buildings

The Government wants all new homes built from 2016 to be zero carbon (zero net energy consumption and zero carbon emissions annually) with all new public buildings to follow from 2018 and non-domestic buildings from 2019.

Planning Policy

Planning policies requiring new buildings to adhere to design codes and meet a proportion of their energy demand from on site renewable energy generation are now an integral part of Local Development Frameworks.

Design Codes

Design codes such as the Code for Sustainable Homes and the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method for non domestic buildings, have been accepted nationally as the standards to guide the design and construction of sustainable buildings.

Building Regulations

Revisions to the Building Regulations are driving the adoption of new low carbon technologies and construction methods. Planned revisions at 2010 and 2013 will put the UK on the pathway towards zero carbon development.

New Product Standards

Higher product standards are being introduced. For example, incandescent light bulbs are to be phased out by 2012.