
From: Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member - Environment, Highways & Waste
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To: Environment, Highways & Waste Cabinet Committee

Date: 4 July 2012

Subject: A Renewable Energy Action Plan for Kent

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

On recommendation of Kent County Council's Renewable Energy Select Committee and as a key priority within the Kent Environment Strategy, Kent County Council commissioned a renewable energy resource and opportunities study for Kent. The study was developed with input from stakeholders across the public, private and voluntary sectors as well as a number of community groups. This provided us with the best insight to date of our significant opportunities across Kent and has resulted in the development of the *Renewable Energy Action Plan for Kent: Delivering Opportunities (Annex 1)*.

Recommendation:

The Committee are asked to review the plan and endorse next steps for wider consultation.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Kent partners have already developed significant opportunities in Kent for renewable energy deployment across public, private and voluntary sectors. Kent currently produces 640GWh of renewable energy annually and this is set to increase by 39MW (6%) of installed capacity in the near future due to planned installations.
- 1.2 It has been estimated that 19,600 people in Kent are currently employed in renewable and low carbon technology related industries, with this sector growing nationally at around 5% per year.
- 1.3 In 2010, the Renewable Energy Select Committee made a series of recommendations to build on these successes and maximise Kent's significant potential in the delivery of renewable energy opportunities. The first recommendation was that KCC work with Kent partners to agree a Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Strategy for Kent.
- 1.4 This recommendation also forms a priority of the Kent Environment Strategy, where a series of actions to enable energy efficiency are clearly defined. In order to avoid duplication, focus has been given to the development of an action plan on renewable energy; the *Renewable Energy Action Plan for Kent: Delivering Opportunities*.
- 1.5 The first step of the process has been to develop an evidence base for Kent and AECOM were commissioned to develop a resource and opportunities study as well as provide some recommendations for key actions to be addressed (see background documents).

1.6 This work has been funded through ClimactRegions, an Interreg IVc project looking at the development of strategies and actions for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. www.climactregions.eu

1.7 Consultation on the study (February 2012) asked stakeholders a series of questions as to what they see as the priorities for Kent and where there may be gaps or risks to delivery. This feedback has resulted in an update of the study (April 2012) and the development of the draft *Renewable Energy Action Plan for Kent: Delivering Opportunities*

2.0 The Action Plan

2.1 The draft plan (**Annex 1**) details actions divided into a series of seven work packages:

WP1: Skills and Training	WP5: Community Energy
WP2: Public Sector Leadership	WP6: Wind Energy
WP3: Planning and Development	WP7: Bioenergy
WP4: Business and Innovation	

2.2 It has been identified that delivery of activity with the plan across partners could result in emissions savings of around 10%, a significant proportion of the Kent Environment Strategy target of a 34% reduction overall by 2020.

2.3 Renewable Energy Awareness events were held on 15th June for Elected Members and planning officers. Initial feedback gathered at this event will be integrated prior to wider consultation along with a summary of resources already in place.

3.0 Next Steps

3.1 The proposed next steps for the Renewable Energy Action Plan will be a consultation with stakeholders including:

- An Online survey for stakeholders on actions identified, partner leads and potential risks
- Updates to key forums and networks including Kent Forum, Kent Environment Champions Group, Kent Environment Strategy Executive Officer Group, Kent Planning Officers Group and the Kent Climate Change Network

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Members are asked to review the plan and endorse the proposed next steps for consultation.

5.0 Background Documents

AECOM (2012): [Renewable Energy for Kent Part 1: Overview and Action Plan](#)

AECOM (2012): [Renewable Energy for Kent Part 2: Underpinning the Vision](#)

Kent Forum (2011): [Kent Environment Strategy](#)

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