

SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
SEA Gateway
Scottish Executive
Area 1 H (Bridge)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

PART 2

An SEA Screening Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

Supplementary Planning Guidance: Reducing Energy Demand of New Developments and Promoting Renewable Energy

The Responsible Authority is:

Aberdeenshire Council

COMPLETE PART 3 or 4 or 5

PART 3

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that:

- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects **or**
- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects **or**
- an SEA is not required** because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects

PART 4

The PPS does not require an SEA under the Act. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, because this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 28 day timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

PART 5

None of the above apply. We have prepared this screening report because:
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PART 6

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PART 7

Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	
Date	03/04/07

SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority	Aberdeenshire Council		
Title of PPS	Supplementary Planning Guidance: Reducing Energy Demand of New Developments and		
Purpose of PPS	To reduce energy required from new developments in Aberdeenshire and set targets for achieving required energy from renewable sources.		
What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	National Planning Guidance and Aberdeenshire Councillors desire to reduce carbon emissions from new developments.		
Subject (e.g. transport)	Energy		
Period covered by PPS	2007-2012		
Frequency of updates	Regularly as required		
Area covered by PPS (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	Whole of Aberdeenshire		
Summary of nature/ content of PPS	The SPG covers a background, project objectives, project definition, scope, and background, known risks, outline business case, constraints, and project deliverables.		
Are there any proposed PPS objectives?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Copy of objectives attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Date			

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Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of **[insert PPS title]** is set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

<p>TITLE OF PPS</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance: Reducing Energy Demand of New Developments and Promoting Renewable Energy</p> </div>		
<p>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Aberdeenshire Council</p> </div>		
<p>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p>likely to have significant environmental effects?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES/NO</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</p>
<p>1(a) the degree to which the PPS sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>The guidance will set the framework for future new developments. It will set standards to minimise carbon emissions and to reduce demand for energy use through efficient energy design for all new developments.</p>

1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy	NO	
1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	YES	The principal goal of the SPG is to promote sustainable development by setting design standards that will minimise energy demand. It will also require a proportion of energy demand to be met from renewable energy.
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS	YES	Developments over recent years have been of a poor quality and incorporate little renewable technologies. As a result their energy requirements are large which in turn lead to greenhouse gas emissions. This SPG will address this issue. Because the SPG will also promote renewables including energy from wind farm, some environmental problems from the development of wind farms could be problematic.
1(e) the relevance of the PPS for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, PPS linked to waste management or water protection)	YES	Some relevant EC legislation includes European Framework on Sustainable Development and EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings is relevant to this strategy.
2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	YES	Once the SPG is operational it will have a long-term positive effects on the environment in terms of limiting energy consumption. This will also lead to a long-term reduction in CO2 emissions. Where wind farms are developed there is high probability of long-term effects on landscapes and of birds if proper mitigation actions are not taken.
2 (b) the cumulative nature of	YES	Since the SPG will influence all future developments, falls in CO2 emission from all future developments can

the effects		combine to have positive cumulative effects. On the other hand if the wind farm development is not properly implemented significant negative effects on landscape and biodiversity are likely.
2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	YES	In so far as carbon emissions are not restricted to the authorities geographical boundaries.
2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	Yes	Although there are no expected risks to human health and the environment arising from the implementation of the SPG, there is a possibility of risks arising from the development of wind farms
2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	YES	The Planning Guidance will cover the whole of Aberdeenshire
2 (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to- (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use.	YES	Some renewable technologies such as wind turbines may not fit with the character of natural characteristics or conservation areas.

<p>2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Some renewable technologies such as wind turbines may have significant impacts on areas or landscapes, which have a recognised national Community or international protection status.</p>
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SEA SCREENING REPORT

A summary of our considerations of the significant environmental effects of [name of PPS] is given below.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Aberdeenshire Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance: Reducing Energy Demand of New Developments and Promoting Renewable Energy is designed to tackle energy consumption and promote energy efficiency. It will form the basis for standards for new buildings across Aberdeenshire. It is relevant for the integration of environmental considerations. It is intended to set the framework for development consents for projects. It will drive the standards for the design/construction of all buildings. The positive effects have potential for enhancement through the SEA process. Similarly, the potential negative effects from the SPG will have to be mitigated through the SEA process. For these reasons the effects from the implementation of the SPG are likely to be significant and we propose to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

