



# The Renewable Energy Strategy

A Strategy to Promote the Generation  
of Energy from Renewable Sources

Aberdeenshire Council  
December 2004



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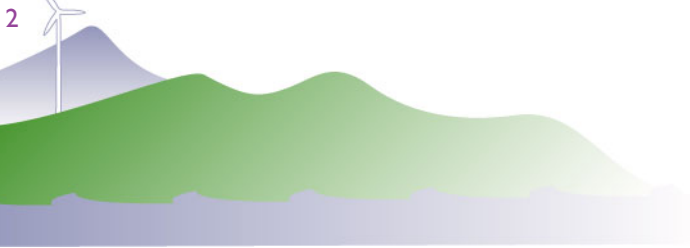
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# I Introduction

- 1.1 The generation of heat and electrical energy from “renewable” sources has considerable potential in Aberdeenshire. The generation of renewable energy is increasingly being seen as a necessary component of strategies to address climate change, fuel poverty and in promoting sustainable development. This strategy can help facilitate these developments. The Scottish Executive has set ambitious and realistic targets, requiring 18% of all electricity to be produced from renewable energy resources by 2010, and up to 40% by 2020. Aberdeenshire must play its part in contributing to these targets to secure a reduction in fossil fuel use and carbon emissions.
- 1.2 The renewable energy strategy considers the generation of energy from renewable sources, and not energy efficiency in isolation. While the conservation of energy has an important role to play in reducing energy use, and contributes to sustainable development objectives in this way, measures to promote energy conservation are well developed. It is not a function of this strategy to duplicate work already undertaken by a wide variety of bodies on this front.
- 1.3 At present, there are only a few major sites in Aberdeenshire that use renewable energy technologies. These include a wind farm at Glens of Foudland, several small scale hydro plants, and a sewage treatment works near Inverurie, which uses anaerobic digestion to breakdown municipal waste, and uses the gas produced to generate electricity. Planning permission has been granted for a biomass fueled power plant near Kintore. A demonstration and educational project in Garioch is in the early stages of development, and will be totally dependent on renewable energy. While a large number of domestic properties are heated by wood burning appliances and could thus be said to be “biomass” powered, domestic use of other renewable energy technologies is substantially less common. Within Aberdeenshire there are examples of individual domestic renewable energy installations including solar panel water heating, small wind turbines and ground source heat pumps.
- 1.4 The North East has huge potential to develop the renewable energy sector both in terms of generating energy and providing manufacturing, research and development opportunities for new technologies. With its large timber resource Aberdeenshire is particularly well placed to exploit the biomass energy sector, using forest residues to generate heat, electricity or biodiesel. With 25% of Scotland’s arable land Aberdeenshire also has considerable potential to grow biofuel crops, for which there could be significant future demand. Some waste streams, particularly from the livestock industry, also constitute a biomass resource which could be exploited for energy generation.
- 1.5 Likewise a 250km coastline provides largely unexplored opportunities for offshore wind (such as that being evaluated by Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group), wave and tidal stream devices. Fuel cell technology and the opportunities for making future use of the Gas pipeline network for the transportation of hydrogen fuel generated in the North East also offer a long term potential for the area.
- 1.6 Embracing renewable energy generation requires a step change in the way that we think about energy generation. It requires careful consideration of short term or aesthetic impacts in relation to long term or global impacts and a revision of the way that we consider the resources that we have in Aberdeenshire. Existing consumption patterns are reliant on the abundance of the concentrated mineral wealth of oil, coal and gas, while alternative technologies are reliant on diffuse sources: wind, sunshine, waves and plant material. Such diffuse energy resources may often require large land requirements and may have a significant impact on land use.



- 1.7 It must be recognised from the start that there are other elements of energy use which can have as great, if not greater, impact on carbon emissions and the threat of climate change, than is likely to be achieved in the short term by a strategy to encourage renewable energy generation. Strategies to reduce fuel consumption, particularly through energy efficiency measures and policies to increase the efficiency of fuel used in transport through reducing travel distances and promoting public transport complement this strategy. No matter how successful we are in reducing energy consumption it remains a important principal that as far as possible what energy we do use is generated from renewable sources.
- 1.8 While the ability of Aberdeenshire Council to influence the commercial and technical decisions which govern the development of renewable energy technologies is limited, it is imperative that the actions of the Council as a regulator of land use do not unduly inhibit the development of renewable energy generation. Furthermore, the Council, as one of the largest employers and property managers in Aberdeenshire can act as an exemplar in the use of renewable energy generation technologies within its own buildings, can positively promote it wherever appropriate and can promote the business opportunities that may exist for renewable energy generation. Finally, Aberdeenshire Council has a role in informing and educating the public about both the global benefits from embracing renewable energy and the potential cost savings which can accrue from domestic application of these technologies. These latter roles are limited in influence, but a positive planning framework is a significant step in pursuit of the goal of increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewables.
- 1.9 It is the purpose of this strategy to:
- ◆ reaffirm Aberdeenshire Council's commitment to renewable energy generation in forms that are in keeping with the need to maintain sustainable communities and protect our special environment;
  - ◆ provide guidance for other strategies being developed by the council and outside bodies in terms of renewable energy generation; and
  - ◆ promote actions, principally through the land use planning system, which will promote an increase in the use of renewable energy in Aberdeenshire.
- 1.10 The strategy has been developed by a process of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, within both the community and the renewable energy industry and after careful consideration of renewable energy projects being submitted to the planning authority. Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) is a key player in this respect. It is stressed that the strategy is seeking to promote a step change in the way that renewable energy is considered in Aberdeenshire, particularly in the scale of renewable energy developments promoted (from large scale to individual and community orientated), and seeks to promote forms of renewable energy developments that are not commonly seen within Aberdeenshire at the current time, such as biomass/biofuels.



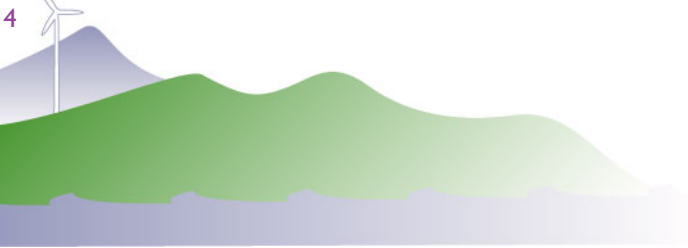
## 2 The Vision

- 2.1 The future promoted by the renewable energy strategy is one where, over time, renewable energy production makes an increasingly significant contribution to the support and development of sustainable communities, environmentally, socially and economically.
- 2.2 Environmentally, the strategy aspires to reduce the global impact of communities' energy use through the generation of carbon neutral energy and a reduction in the reliance on "fossil" fuels. The ideal is to ensure that all the energy used in Aberdeenshire is generated from local renewable sources.
- 2.3 Socially, the strategy aims to promote fair access to energy for all, whether for their own needs or as a means of generating income. It promotes community energy schemes which strengthen communities through common purpose and interest. The ideal is one where communities meet all their own energy needs from a variety of locally based sources.
- 2.4 Economically the strategy seeks to promote economic development opportunities, which are emerging in the field of renewable energy generation, in terms of producing, processing or harnessing the raw energy resource at all scales, and providing the support industries to maintain that infrastructure. The ideal is for the manufacture, installation, management and maintenance of renewable energy facilities to contribute significant employment to the area and to provide opportunities for the development of related industries, and create a robust regional economy, which has a high level of self-sufficiency and has eliminated fuel poverty.

- 2.5 These principles are encapsulated in the following vision statement:

**Aberdeenshire Council will encourage the Aberdeenshire community to work towards generating its own energy requirements using renewable energy technologies, and to make a net contribution to national and global energy needs through the use of renewable energy sources, for the benefit of the environment, the economic health of the area and to promote sustainable communities.**

- 2.6 This vision statement is consistent with the Aberdeenshire Community Plan which promotes quality of life and identifies a sustainable environment, jobs and the economy, and community well-being as three of four principal themes of the plan.
- 2.7 It is also consistent with the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan "North East Scotland Together" (NEST), which includes responsible management of natural, built and community resources and the need to benefit existing and future generations within its vision, supported by specific aims and objectives. In particular these seek to minimise the use of non-renewable resources, to use renewable resources within their carrying capacity and to satisfy the needs of a competitive economy and viable community before individual wants. Most significantly in this context, NEST also has as an aim the need to give long term and global cumulative effects greater weighting than purely short term and local effects.
- 2.8 Aberdeenshire Council has, as part of its Sustainability Charter, committed itself to making itself a carbon neutral authority by 2050 through purchasing renewable energy, reducing energy use and offsetting the carbon emissions of the Council.



## 3 The Aims of the Strategy

3.1 The strategy has at its heart six aims to attain the vision statement presented above. Not all of these aims are attainable through the land use planning system alone, although the planning system has a significant role to play if they are to be achieved. The six aims below have been designed to reflect sustainable development, which at its most basic, is concerned with the ability to carry on an activity over a long period of time without a reduction in the capital resource or the quality of the environment.

### Resources

#### Aim 1

**Efficient resource use: Make the best use of existing, unused and wasted renewable energy resources, so as to reduce reliance on “fossil” fuel and the harmful impacts of current energy production and consumption methods.**

3.2 Efficient use of existing resources, including those created as by-products from other industries, is a lynch-pin of sustainable development. Sun and wind are energy resources which are free for exploitation, but are largely unused at the present time. Plant material (biomass) captures solar energy in a manner that does not affect the existing global balance of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and can be used in the creation of biofuels.

3.3 The current energy economy promotes the centralised generation of power and its transmission as electricity, across great distances. This has a wide range of negative impacts, ranging from large scalepoint source generation of pollutants such as sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), through inefficiencies in transmission resulting in loss of power to landscape impacts from pylons and cables. Other technologies, such as natural gas, are less damaging but are not universally available and still result

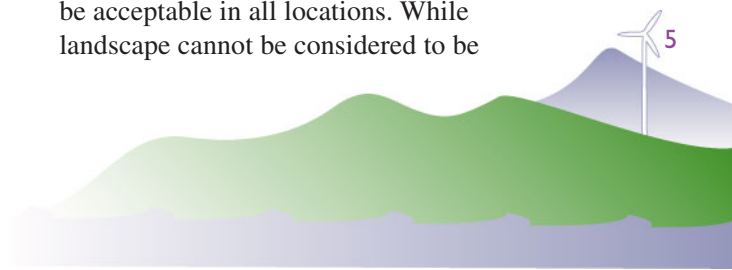
in the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

3.4 A renewable energy strategy should endeavor to overcome these disadvantages by promoting fuels which approach a carbon-neutral balance and which make use of the free power sources provided by the environment. Locally based solutions, that require neither the transformation of energy from one type (e.g. heat) to another (e.g. electricity) nor the transportation of energy across the country are likely to be sustainable solutions (with the exception of hydrogen fuels pumped through the existing Natural gas pipelines). Renewable energy solutions that make use of energy co-products from other processes, such as combined heat and power proposals or district heating schemes, should also be encouraged.

#### Aim 2

**Balanced use of land: Make the most appropriate use of land and infrastructure in the generation and transmission of renewable energy.**

3.5 There are a number of competing demands between energy generation and protecting the environment, which need to be balanced in the consideration of whether land is suitable for the generation of renewable energy (or any other development). Some aspects of “critical environmental capital” such as natural habitats or heritage may never recover from the impact of development, whereas some site characteristics are entirely aesthetic or would recover very quickly (or be unaffected), if the development were removed. Protection has to be given to those elements which would be irreparably harmed by development. Care must be taken that any new development is in scale with the existing local landscape and townscape character and that renewable energy developments are seen as part of the landscape or townscape rather than dominating it. This in turn suggests that not all renewable energy technologies will be acceptable in all locations. While landscape cannot be considered to be



irreparably damaged by development, and is not one of the elements of “critical environmental capital” referred to above, it is nonetheless important that locally valued landscapes are given protection from inappropriate development.

- 3.6 Existing structures, for example vacant buildings on brownfield land or a dwelling house or can be reused or adapted to host renewable energy technologies, or existing infrastructure exploited to facilitate power transmission and transport. Where such opportunities exist, a green energy strategy should ensure that they are optimized. Solar gain for example, can be incorporated into the design of a new or existing building, which should make a significant contribution to level of energy need, and thus be considered as a source of renewable energy. Reductions in demand can also be reflected in the scale of future transmission infrastructure.

### Aim 3

#### Minimise impact: Minimise global and long term impacts, maximising natural benefits and promoting sustainable communities through the application of local solutions to energy needs.

- 3.7 There is a trade off between the impacts of energy generation from a large single source (such as a conventional power station or large wind farm) and those of a large number of small generating facilities. In general a small contribution from a wide range of sources is likely to make better use of the diffuse nature of the renewable energy resource, and provide a more equitable solution, than single “point sources” of energy generation which may have ancillary impacts such as large scale transmission infrastructure. While large renewable energy generating facilities have their place within Aberdeenshire through employment generation and emission reductions, a large number of small scale solutions are likely to provide greater community benefits, such as a reduction in heating / electricity costs, and a better

managed environment in terms of visual or ecological impacts.

- 3.8 Some forms of renewable energy actually have positive environmental benefits over and above their substitution for carbon fuels. Ancillary benefits such as biodiverse coppice crops or well managed woodlands should be maximized.

## Demands for Resources

### Aim 4

#### Promote economic development: Promote the expansion of a developing renewable energy industry, which makes use of environmental resources, encourages efficient resource management, and capitalises on the strengths of the region and its indigenous opportunities.

- 3.9 The renewable energy “industry” is one that is growing rapidly and which Aberdeenshire is well placed to capitalise on. The area has significant design, project management, financing, engineering and manufacturing expertise, as well as potential resources, which could be exploited to gain a share of global markets. However, these opportunities are, by their nature, not available to everyone and an industry which supports a wide local customer base is likely to result in real long term opportunities for local employment across the area.
- 3.10 One of Aberdeenshire’s strengths lies in its forest resource which suggests that heat and electricity production from biomass, utilising forest products and at the same time encouraging better forest management is likely to have significant potential. Development of this area builds on the existing skills base to be found in the Grampian Forest as well as creating future opportunities for the use of farmed “fuel” cash crops, again utilising existing skills within the rural community. Specific



support should be given to the biomass / biofuel energy industry.

- 3.11 Community spirit and individual self-reliance are also traditional strengths of rural Aberdeenshire and these too should be harnessed in pursuit of the vision of this strategy.

## TIME

### Aim 5

**Safeguard potential: Safeguard known sites and provide choice in the location and technologies used to generate renewable energy ensuring that land use planning decisions are made in the light of holistic consideration of lifetime energy use and all potential benefits.**

- 3.12 Some renewable energy technologies have specific locational requirements, such as land requirements, minimum environmental or built heritage impact, good physical infrastructure and proximity to resources and potential end users, which could be prejudiced by other forms of development. A green energy strategy should seek to identify areas with characteristics which make them most suitable for renewable energy and safeguard these from development for other purposes.
- 3.13 Likewise there are a range of renewable energy technologies which have been proven, and a number which are emerging. There should be no discrimination between the different types: it is highly probable that all will have a role to play in reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

### Aim 6

**Promote diversity: Encourage diversity in fuel types and access to those sustainable fuel types, for communities at all scales, meeting the need for security and continuity of**

**supply now and in an uncertain future.**

- 3.14 The relative fragility of the national grid, and the real potential for future deficits in electricity generated from traditional technologies, suggests that it is prudent to ensure communities have a variety of energy sources to draw upon. Reliance on one form is inherently risky. It should be an aim of a green energy strategy to encourage households to have a variety of energy sources from which to choose according to circumstances and reduce reliance on electricity as a source of heat as a particular priority. In some cases, this will require the early consideration of the energy needs of a development and an appraisal of the best way for providing renewable energy at the design stage of the project, with precedence given to local solutions.
- 3.15 This principle applies to communities at all scales as it does to households and Aberdeenshire has a role to play in ensuring that the national community is supplied from a variety of power sources.





## 4 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 From the aims of the green energy strategy a number of specific objectives can be identified. In order to be effective these objectives must be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound (SMART). These objectives come under three sub-headings: policy, promotion, and persuasion.

### Policy

#### Objective 1

Provide a robust and clear framework for the favourable consideration of renewable energy projects, particularly at a local level, through Development Plan policies and supporting supplementary planning guidance on the principal technologies available, by April 2005.

#### Objective 2

In association with other initiatives to promote sustainable housing construction and design, develop local plan policies to encourage and reward the incorporation of renewable energy generation potential within housing developments and formally incorporated them into the Development plan by January 2009.

#### Objective 3

Protection of the “critical environmental capital” of irreplaceable built and natural heritage through development plan policies and clear supplementary planning guidance to developers by May 2005.

#### Objective 4

Identification of locally valued landscapes and views which could be prejudiced by renewable energy development and their protection through the development plan and clear supplementary planning guidance to developers by May 2005.

#### Objective 5

Identification of areas with characteristics which make them most suitable for commercial renewable energy development or the servicing of renewable energy developments, such as large wind farms, landfalls for marine technologies or combined heat and renewable power plants, and their safeguarding through the development plan by January 2009.

### Promotion

#### Objective 6

Provide specific support and encouragement for the biomass / biofuel sector through the provision of on-going business support and development of a number of specific projects to assist in the creation of a commercial biomass fuel industry Aberdeenshire by 2006.

#### Objective 7

Promote the development of renewable energy at the local scale through the provision of accessible advice leaflets on the options available for the incorporation of diversity of domestic heat and



electricity sources in both new build and renovation by May 2005.

#### Objective 8

Promotion, as a specific issue, of the early consideration of renewable energy potential of new developments through site development briefs for all major land allocations as and when development briefs are prepared with a priority given to local solutions

#### **Persuasion**

#### Objective 9

Promote the use of renewable energy sources to meeting energy demands in public buildings, especially the Community Plan partners by 2005.

#### Objective 10

Lobby for the creation of an economic environment which supports the development of renewable energy, the development of the infrastructure to serve such developments and a regulatory framework which encourages its growth at all levels by 2006



## Green Energy Strategy

### Draft ACTION PLAN

Summary of strategic objectives	Action no.	Action	Lead	To be completed by	Comments
<b>Promotion</b>					
<b>1. Provide support and encouragement to the Biomass sector by 2006</b>	1	Prepare 5 development briefs for the development of biomass / biofuel powered district heating schemes to demonstrate practical feasibility.	Alison Hogge, Structure plan Team Planning Policy and Environment	December 2005	These briefs would include detailed alternative energy proposals developed in partnership with private sector commercial companies
	2	Promote the development of a biomass fuel industry through facilitating the implementation of 2 new developments using wood fuel by 2006.	Roddy Matheson, Economic Development, Transportation and Infrastructure	December 2006	
	3	Promote the use of biomass fuel through provision of business advice and contact information from experience across Europe.	Roddy Matheson Economic Development, Transportation and Infrastructure	Ongoing	
	4	Promote the development of a biomass fuel industry through the evaluation of the potential to convert Aberdeenshire's Council's own buildings to wood fuel or other biofuels.	Graham Beresford, Transportation and Infrastructure	Ongoing	Opportunities to be evaluated as part of an ongoing programme of assessing energy efficiency. Contract let for first biomass conversion.
	5	Encourage significant heat using companies and industries to carry out conversions from fossil fuel burners to using biomass/biofuels.	Roddy Matheson Transportation and Infrastructure	Ongoing	
	6	Raise community awareness of the benefits of the biomass sector through representation at exhibitions, and participation in events.	Roddy Matheson, Economic Development, Transportation and Infrastructure	Ongoing	

<b>2. Promote householder development of renewable energy</b>	7	Production and distribution of a promotional leaflet identifying the opportunities and costs of installing renewable energy technologies into new and existing domestic buildings	Alison Hogge, Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	May 2005	To be developed from the "householder and small business " supplementary planning guidance on renewable energy
	8	Production and distribution of a promotional leaflet identifying the opportunities and funding opportunities for "community" renewable energy projects.	Alison Hogge Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	July 2005	Leaflet to focus on examples of best practice in community renewable energy development
	9	Provide useful links and information on the Aberdeenshire Council's website for "community" and household renewable energy projects.	Graham Beresford, Energy Efficiency Team, Transportation and Infrastructure. Alison Hogge P&ES	December 2006	Some links already exist but this information could be improved through the provision of more information, derived from both the SPG's and research for the leaflet.
	9	Promote the incorporation renewable energy topics within the primary and secondary School curricula	Education and Recreation Service, Planning policy and Environment service.	Ongoing	Renewable energy topics are given consideration across the curriculum and particularly in relation to projects developed by the "eco-schools" initiative
<b>3. Promotion of early consideration of renewable energy potential</b>	10	Amend existing guidance for writing development briefs to include advice on the consideration of renewable energy technologies in new sites.	Alison Hogge, Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	December 2004	This would build upon the technical advice given to staff on the formulation of development briefs in general
	11	Incorporate the potential for renewable energy technologies in the preparation of future development briefs.	Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	Ongoing	This would build upon action 10 above
	12	Encourage the development of new and emerging technologies, such as solar, (hydrogen) fuel cells and marine technologies through identification of manufacturing, research and development opportunities.	Roddy Matheson Economic Development, Transportation and Infrastructure	Ongoing	

PERSUASION					
<b>4. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources in public buildings</b>	13	Promote the development of renewable energy technologies in public owned buildings, especially those belonging to the Community Plan partners.	Community Plan partners	September 2005	This entails leading by example and promoting the shared vision of the GES to Community Plan Partners. Commitment should be sought for other community plan partners to look at their own energy use and evaluate whether it could be generated from renewable sources.
<b>5. Lobby for support for the renewable sector.</b>	14	Promote local support for the renewable energy sector by council members and local representatives in the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments	Aberdeenshire Council	Ongoing	The Strategy requires to be given a high profile, now and in the future. Presenting the strategy to area committees promotes understanding and a degree of commitment from all members
	15	Ensure that the Scottish Executive (SE) are aware of the commitment to and support within Aberdeenshire to renewable energy and to the SE targets for renewable energy generation.	Aberdeenshire Council (Prepared by Piers Blaxter PES)	December 2004	Representations have already been made to the Scottish Executive regarding their lack of any "strategy" for wind turbines
	16	Ensure that the SE and HM Treasury are aware of the fiscal measures that are required to promote renewable energy developments in Aberdeenshire, particularly biomass/biofuels.	Aberdeenshire Council (Prepared by Roddy Matheson T&I)	December 2004	
	17	Ensure that the SE are aware of the need for investment in the national grid and its capacity to accommodate renewable energy generation in line with, and beyond, the targets which they have set.	Aberdeenshire Council (Prepared by Piers Blaxter PES)	December 2004	
	18	Lobby the SE to offer benefits to individuals who feed electricity into the grid.	Aberdeenshire Council (Prepared by Piers Blaxter PES)	December 2004	

<b>POLICY</b>					
<b>6. Provide a clear framework for the favourable consideration of all types of renewable energy projects</b>	19	Approval of robust development plan policies governing the overall approach to renewable energy developments in Aberdeenshire.	Aberdeenshire Council	September 2005	This Action is dependant on the successful conclusion of the Aberdeenshire Local Plan Local Public Inquiry and the adoption of ALP by members
	20	Development of supplementary planning guidance to assist the industry and provide consistency with interpretation of development plan policy on wind energy developments.	Alison Hogge Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	March 2005	Guidance is at an advanced stage of preparation
	21	Development of supplementary planning guidance to assist developers and provide consistency of interpretation of development plan policies on biomass energy developments.	Alison Hogge Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	March 2005	Guidance is at an advanced stage of preparation
	22	Development of supplementary planning guidance to assist developers and provide consistency of interpretation of development plan policies on provision of domestic energy, such as solar, wind and biomass.	Alison Hogge Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	March 2005	Guidance at a preliminary stage of preparation.
<b>7. Promote sustainable housing design</b>	23	In association with architects and developers, develop planning policy that incorporates renewable energy technologies in housing design to supplement energy efficiency measures achieved through better siting and design	Andrew Carruthers, Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	Ongoing. Incorporation into next generation of Local Plan	
	24	Encourage architects and house builders to incorporate renewable energy technologies in addition to energy efficiency measures into the design of residential developments and individual houses	Andrew Carruthers Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	Ongoing	Part of the "New Scottish House" Project
	25	Raise the awareness of using renewable energy technologies in schools, university and college courses.	Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	Ongoing	Principally through Liaison with the Scott Sutherland School of Architecture

<b>8. Protect “critical environmental capital”</b>	26	Approval of robust development plan policies identifying and protecting irreplaceable built and natural heritage in Aberdeenshire.	Aberdeenshire Council	May 2005	Depends on adoption of the Finalised Aberdeenshire Local plan
<b>9. Protect Valued Landscapes</b>	27	Identify valued views that would be adversely affected by. large-scale renewable energy projects.	Piers Blaxter, Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	May 2005	Early discussions on a research project to identify landscape capacity for windfarm proposals with Scottish Natural Heritage and other partners
	28	Develop planning policy and supplementary planning guidance to provide these areas with a greater level of protection from injurious developments.	Piers Blaxter, Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	August 2005	Production of Supplementary Planning Guidance and Incorporation into next generation of Local Plan
<b>10. Identification of suitable locations for commercial renewable energy developments</b>	29	Identify, in association with the industry, those locations that should be safeguarded from inappropriate development other than for renewable energy.	Alison Hogge Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	January 2006	Work already underway to identify key renewable energy sites. Contract let to identify those areas with the greatest potential for major windfarm development
	30	Develop planning policy to provide these areas with strategic protection from other forms of development that may prejudice their future development as renewable energy sites.	Alison Hogge Planning Policy and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council	January 2006	Initially published as supplementary guidance