

Evidence base for sustainability policies

Project

Identify the potential for large-scale renewable energy and decentralised energy generation in the borough and provide justification for sustainability policies for new build.

Client

London Borough of Hounslow

Key recommendations

Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4
BREEAM Excellent
20% renewable energy

An evidence base to meet PPS1a requirements

Hounslow Council commissioned CEN alongside BDP (a multi-disciplinary practice including planning consultants) to conduct a study providing evidence, as required by PPS1a Planning and Climate Change, to underpin their local CO₂ emissions reduction targets and identify opportunities for decentralised, renewable and low carbon technologies.

Identifying strategic opportunities for renewable energy technologies

Following a detailed analysis of the borough's opportunities and constraints for renewable energy technologies, the potential for large-scale wind turbines and biomass heating was assessed, along with the potential for using existing energy sources (e.g. biomass CCHP plant in Osterley) or creating new decentralised energy systems in growth areas. In addition, CEN undertook technical and financial modelling of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies to define Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM levels that could realistically be achieved for different development types.

Our findings

The policy recommendations resulting from our study were:

- Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 for residential, up to Code Level 5 for developments located in one of the three growth areas where decentralised energy systems could be integrated



- BREEAM Excellent for non-residential developments
- 20% 'Merton Rule' style policy requiring a proportion of the energy to be produced by on-site renewable energy technologies
- Opportunities for the installation of large-scale wind turbines in Brentford

Increasing targets were recommended for after 2013 including Code Level 5 for dwellings and BREEAM Outstanding for non-residential developments.

Other successful evidence base projects have been undertaken for several local authorities, amongst which London Borough of Richmond, London Borough of Bexley, and Tonbridge & Malling.

Want to know more?

To find out more about our evidence base work or to discuss your own project, call CEN on 020 8683 6617 or email energy@cen.org.uk