

- 10.1.19 The Environment Agency advises that areas identified as ‘Serious’ in the Water Stress Area Classification 2021<sup>6</sup>, should be designated as ‘Areas of serious water stress’ for the purposes of Regulation 4 of the Water Industry (Prescribed Condition) Regulation 1999 (as amended). This includes the areas covered by both water supply providers, therefore Bassetlaw is an area of serious water stress. This means there is pressure on drinking water resources and implications for water quality, particularly in drought conditions. Anglian Water has identified a risk to long term supply and demand in the strategic grid from 2020.
- 10.1.20 Severn Trent Water’s Water Resource Management Plan 2019<sup>7</sup> identifies that ‘measures such as local flow support, river restoration measures to improve environmental resilience, catchment and partnership solutions or localised demand management will help us mitigate against the risk of deterioration’.
- 10.1.21 Undoubtedly requiring water efficiency measures District wide will have a positive outcome on climate change adaptation, future water supplies, effects of abstraction and prevent future deterioration from occurring.
- 10.1.22 On that basis, Policy ST48 includes the tighter optional water efficiency requirement for residential development: of 110 litres per person per day, including five litres for external water use.
- 10.1.23 Residential developments must therefore be designed to be more water efficient, through the installation of water efficient fittings, appliances and integrated water management systems, which can help reduce water consumption. Capturing and re-using rain water and grey water (i.e. waste water generated from households from streams without faecal contamination) on-site should be considered. These measures can also secure significant benefits from non-residential development, which will be encouraged throughout the District.
- 10.1.24 Urban greening, such as tree planting, green roofs/ walls, plants for pollinators, rain gardens and sustainable drainage systems using natural or semi-natural features, are also considered as being an efficient and attractive green solution to introduce climate change adaptation in a distinctive but relatively cost effective way and will be supported.
- 10.1.25 Further details relating to implementation will be set out in the Greening Bassetlaw Supplementary Planning Document following adoption of this Local Plan.

## **POLICY ST48: Reducing Carbon Emissions, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**

1. All proposals, including the change of use of existing buildings and spaces, should be designed to improve resilience to the anticipated effects of climate change taking into account the design principles in the Bassetlaw Design Quality SPD and the Bassetlaw Design Code. Proposals should incorporate, where appropriate, the following measures that address issues of climate change mitigation and adaptation through:

- a) ensuring no unacceptable adverse impact on local air quality;

- b) designing layouts so that the orientation of buildings and spaces maximise opportunities for solar gain;
  - c) providing space for habitats and species to move through the landscape and for the operation of natural processes to occur;
  - d) where possible, minimising the use of natural resources over the development's lifetime, such as minerals and consumable products, by reuse or recycling of materials in construction, and by making the best use of existing buildings and infrastructure;
  - e) adapting surface materials and drainage design to reduce the risk of flooding to land, property and people as a result of more extreme rainfall in accordance with Policy ST50;
  - f) using integrated water management systems to manage runoff and provide a non-potable water supply;
  - g) providing green/blue infrastructure, and where possible, retaining existing trees and woodlands to reduce the 'urban heating effect' during warmer summers; and
  - h) using urban greening methods within the design of new buildings.
2. All new non residential development of 1000sqm floorspace or more will be required to meet the BREEAM very good-excellent standards or equivalent.
  3. All new residential development in the District should promote water efficiency by meeting the tighter Building Regulations optional requirement of 110 litres/person/day.
  4. All major development will be required to make provision for 5 trees per dwelling or per 1,000 sqm of non residential floorspace on site, or if on site provision is not practicable then an equivalent financial contribution will be sought to enable provision of new native trees and/or the protection and enhancement of ancient and veteran woodland within the District.



## 10.2 Renewable Energy Generation

- 10.2.1 The UK Government has committed to cut Greenhouse gas emissions by 78% by 2035 and to achieve net zero by 2050<sup>2</sup> in line with the Zero Carbon Strategy. Strategic planning policy can contribute towards this commitment by positively supporting forms of renewable energy developments in the District over the plan period.
- 10.2.2 The Government's National Policy Statements apply to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. As such, Policy ST49 applies only to renewable and low carbon energy development of 50 megawatts or less installed capacity. Many small scale renewable technologies are now permitted development, therefore the requirements of Policy ST49 do not apply in those cases.
- 10.2.3 Renewable energy includes two forms of energy generation:

- a) low-carbon: where technologies emit low levels of carbon emissions or no net carbon emissions are created (carbon emissions created are balanced by taking the same amount out of the atmosphere e.g. through tree planting); and,
- b) zero-carbon: where technologies emit no carbon emissions.

- 10.2.4 In Bassetlaw, the preference is for zero-carbon energy generation to make a positive contribution to meeting national energy targets and to minimise the District's impact on Climate Change. Whether commercial or domestic, appropriate renewable energy developments will help contribute towards reducing the reliance on more conventional forms of energy and the use of fossil fuels facilitating an easier transition to zero carbon by 2050.
- 10.2.5 This approach will also help transition Bassetlaw from a net carbon producer (historically the District housed three coal fired power stations) to a net contributor of zero carbon and low carbon renewable energy. The green energy sector may be an appropriate part of the long term regeneration plans for the three power station sites at Marnham, Cottam (see Policy ST4) and West Burton because of each site's ability to provide direct connectivity to the national electricity grid via existing energy switching and/or transmission infrastructure. In these locations, proposals that are consistent with Policy ST9 where relevant and Policy ST49 and the wider development plan will be supported, however, this should not preclude the consideration of other uses, where consistent with other relevant policies in this Plan.
- 10.2.6 Proposals should consider a diverse mix of renewable energy technologies. This will help facilitate a secure, reliable, affordable net zero energy system that is resilient in 2050 and that is not overly reliant on any one technology.
- 10.2.7 Large scale ground mounted proposals for solar farms are capable of contributing substantially to total solar power generation nationally, and the District is currently experiencing an increase in interest for such schemes, particularly in the countryside. This has the potential for adverse impacts, so in accordance with the UK Solar Photovoltaics Strategy<sup>8,9</sup>, the preference is for future expansion of solar photovoltaics to be on commercial and industrial roof-space. Nevertheless, large scale ground mounted proposals may be acceptable subject to meeting the criteria in Policy ST49.
- 10.2.8 The National Planning Policy Framework emphasises that a positive strategy should be adopted to promote energy from renewable energy sources, with policies designed to maximise the development of renewable energy and heat.
- 10.2.9 Given the national and local recognition of the need to transition to a low carbon future, the Local Plan encourages wind energy within the district's energy mix, most notably to serve local communities.
- 10.2.10 Reflecting national policy, applicants for wind energy development involving one or more turbines will be expected to demonstrate how the local community has been involved in developing proposals, that the planning impacts identified by the community have been addressed, and that the submitted scheme has their support. In the first instance, the production of Neighbourhood Plans provides a meaningful

opportunity to obtain local community support in the identification of suitable areas for wind energy as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process. The Greening Bassetlaw SPD, to be produced following adoption of this Local Plan, will also support this process.

- 10.2.11 As the number of all types of renewable energy developments across the District continues to increase, it is important that all proposals consider their impact on the affected community and neighbouring land uses. Developers should therefore demonstrate community support through an appropriate developer led pre-application consultation or through the neighbourhood planning process, where applicable. This should provide details of the community response, including that from the relevant parish/town council.
- 10.2.12 Additionally, the issue of cumulative impact will need to be carefully considered. National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>10</sup> sets out what issues should be considered for different types of renewable energy proposals. But cumulative impacts can relate to landscape and visual amenity, bird populations and other wildlife, the historic environment or any other matter. Schemes should ensure that all of the relevant planning considerations for technologies are addressed by an assessment proportionate to the nature and scale of the proposal. This should include impacts experienced through the provision of a new renewable energy development alongside existing or proposed schemes, and/or by the extension and intensification of an existing scheme.
- 10.2.13 Where planning permission is required for renewable energy projects, this shall include a planning condition requiring the removal of associated infrastructure and returning the site to an acceptable state within three years of the project becoming non-operational. The details of site restoration are to be agreed with the Council prior to the development proposal being approved.
- 10.2.14 Proposals which include the generation of energy from waste are a County matter and as such will be dealt with by Nottinghamshire County Council.
- 10.2.15 Policy ST49 requires developers to provide evidence based assessments of power generation based upon expected yield rather than installed capacity. This is to be used for monitoring purposes only and is considered necessary to enable the Council to have a robust understanding of the district's contribution towards national zero carbon targets some of which will come from small scale projects. Further details are found in the Local Plan's monitoring framework.
- 10.2.16 More detailed guidance relating to the provision of renewable energy or local carbon technology development will be set out in the Greening Bassetlaw Supplementary Planning Document following the adoption of the Local Plan.