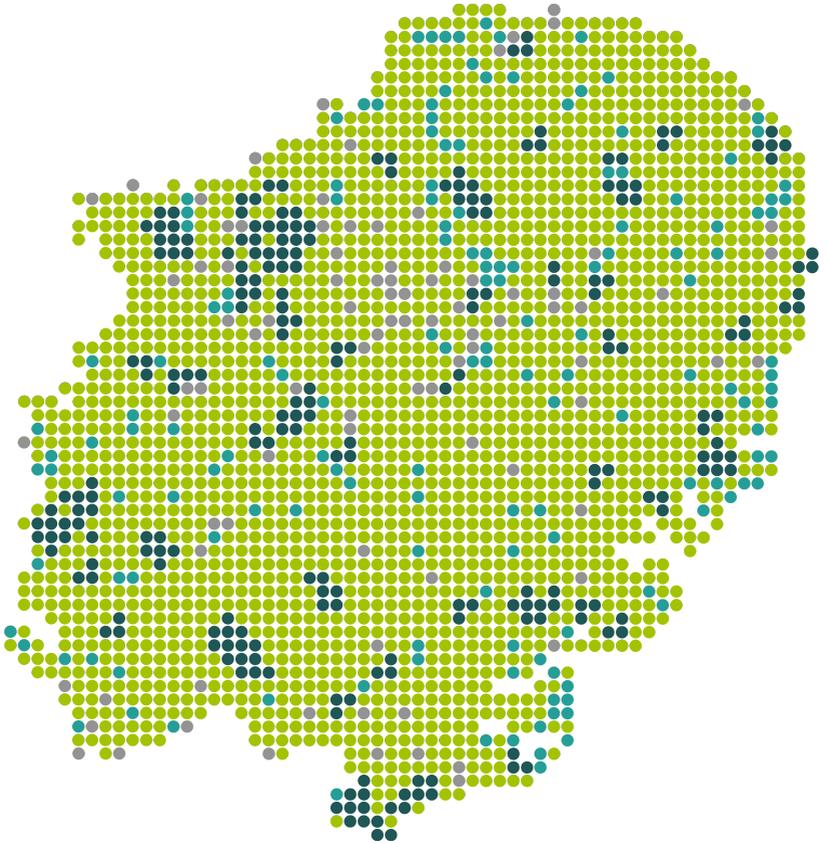




A Introduction for Councillors to the East of England Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Capacity Study



How Councillors can address:

- Rising global energy prices
- Increasing fuel poverty
- Binding carbon emissions targets
- Increasing energy demand from new and existing development

This leaflet is here to help you address these issues



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THE DRIVERS



The UK is **committed** to meeting the carbon reduction and renewable energy targets agreed by the European Union. The UK Climate Change Act (2008) set legally binding targets for reducing UK carbon emissions by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050, with an intermediate target of 34% by 2020.

The energy crisis in the UK is driven by:

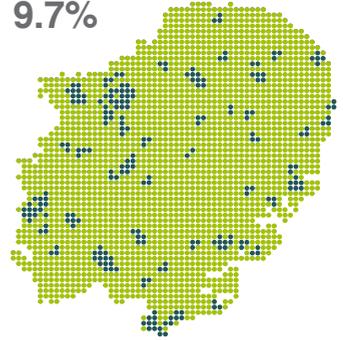
- Rising international energy prices;
- Net imports of gas from sometimes volatile regions;
- Decommissioning of old coal and nuclear power stations; and
- Rising energy demand from new and existing development.

The consequences of the energy crisis are:

- National fuel insecurity;
- Risk of electricity brownouts in this decade;
- Increasing fuel poverty;
- Impact on business costs and economic growth.

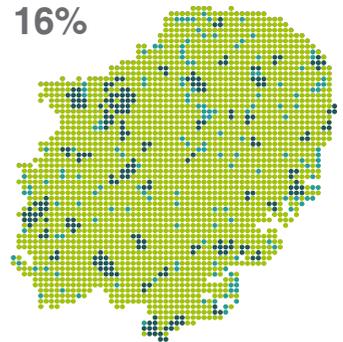
The need for renewable and low carbon energy offers the East of England and the communities within it enormous economic, social and environmental **opportunities** and will require careful consideration at the local and regional levels. Local Authorities, regional stakeholders and communities must **overcome the barriers** that are currently preventing the provision of essential infrastructure to generate the additional green energy required. They will then enable everyone to reap the potential **benefits**.

9.7%



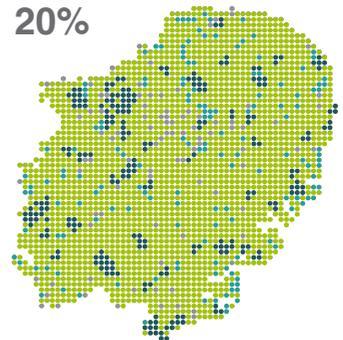
Where we are going by 2020

16%



Where we need to be by 2015

20%



Where we need to be by 2020

These infographics visually represent progress towards targets. Please see full report for the Energy Opportunities mapping.

A NEW TOOL FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES



What is it?

The East of England Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Capacity Study has been prepared to **assist** Local Authorities and local communities to address the challenges of the energy crisis and to **respond** to climate change issues. It is a tool to help Councillors, planners and other officers **assess** the scope for green energy generation and to **identify** and assist local infrastructure providers.

What does it offer?

Regional and county level assessments of the potential resource available for green energy generation

- An assessment of broad constraints and opportunities for the development of green energy at the local scale
- Data on the potential for green energy generation at the local level to meet green energy targets through planning policy and planning permissions but also strategic policy.

What next?

Local Authorities will need to consider whether they need to undertake more detailed **local case studies**, such as those highlighted below, to supplement the broad regional assessments. The study assessed regional capacity for generating green energy using national and regional data and a national methodology approved by the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

Case studies:

Cambridgeshire Renewables Infrastructure Framework (CRIF)

Will act as a key part of the infrastructure evidence base for the county and also enable renewables to be planned and delivered effectively, producing a pathway to meet the need for renewables as part of a low carbon future. The development of a CRIF can support Cambridgeshire's transition to a low carbon economy.

Cambridgeshire Community Energy Fund (CEF)

Cambridgeshire Horizons is examining the scope for a Community Energy Fund to finance investment in renewable energy and low carbon infrastructure across the county. The CEF could form part of Cambridgeshire's approach to fund infrastructure that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is a way of collecting investment from a range of different sources, including developers and private investors.

A TOOL FOR LOCAL PLANNING



How can it help?

The East of England Renewable and Low Carbon Capacity Study provides an **overview of the relative potential** of different green energy resources and where they could be exploited effectively across various parts of the East of England.

It is an assessment that provides data and evidence upon which Councils can base their decisions about policies and future action. It is **not a plan** and **does not prescribe** what should be developed or where. It just shows what green energy resources are available in each local authority area. It is up to individual local Councils to decide how to use the data in their policy and decision making.

The study will **help** you in preparing strategies, policies and targets for the development of renewable and low carbon energy generation in your area. The general potential for green energy generation across each Council area should therefore be tested in detail at the local level as part of the usual plan making procedures.

How will it be used?

The analysis and evidence provided by the study will be used by your planning policy officers to help formulate future planning policy to help meet climate change and carbon reduction **targets**. The revised policies will in turn be used by your development management officers and planning committee members to determine planning applications for development proposals to **utilise** these energy resources and **test** whether new development is making the best use of the identified energy **opportunities** (e.g. wind turbines to use wind energy to generate electricity). The results of the study will be a material consideration requiring due regard in making all relevant planning **decisions**.

Case studies:

Investigating Decentralised Energy in Bury St Edmunds

The strategic aim of the project was to develop sustainable, affordable, low carbon energy supplies for Bury St Edmunds over the next twenty years. The outcome of the Initial Phase will be fourfold: an energy map of the town, an appraisal of the technology options, a specific evaluation of a district heating option and recommendations for preferred options.

Suffolk Coastal & Waveney Renewable Energy and Sustainable Construction Studies

An evidence base and opportunities plan to inform the development of sustainable construction and renewable energy policies to be included in local Development Management DPDs.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM STUDY



2% - The amount by which total energy demand for the East of England is expected to go up by 2020 of which 69% is for heat and 31% is for electricity.

2.3% - the proportion of total regional energy demand currently met through energy generation from operational green energy plants. If those that are in-construction and consented but not yet operating are included, then this rises to **4.0%**. The highest level of green energy development already built in the region is in wind turbine generation. This is closely followed by energy generation from biomass, landfill gas and energy from waste.

9.7% - the proportion of total future energy demand by 2020 provided by green energy that will actually achieve planning permission based on current trends.

58% - the total green energy contribution if only 10% of the potential wind resource areas are developed.

260% - the maximum theoretical contribution to future energy demand by 2020 from the region's potential green energy resource. The majority of this resource will be from wind generation because that is the resource that the region has the most of.

16% - target for renewable and low carbon energy provision by 2015*

20% - target for renewable and low carbon energy provision by 2020*

These results show that the region is currently **a long way off** the regional even with the inclusion of all energy generation capacity which is currently in construction or with planning consent.

Local Planning Authorities therefore have an **opportunity** to adopt appropriate planning policies and local targets, in order to increase renewable and low carbon energy capacity in the region for the benefit of everyone.

* Referred to in the final report these targets originate from the East of England plan review to 2031 policy ENG2, the evidence for which remains material.

EU Renewable Energy Directive target for 2020 is 20%, however the National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the United Kingdom target is 15% by 2020.



DETAILS / CONTACTS



The original study was commissioned by Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) via Suffolk County Council.

The report was adapted to assist regional stakeholders and local authorities to prepare their own strategies, policies and targets for the development of renewable and low carbon energy generation.

The study and the accompanying mapping and data is available from:

www.sustainabilityeast.org.uk

Suffolk County Council and **Sustainability East** are working together through their consultants **The Landscape Partnership** and **AECOM** to promote the local dissemination of the study. They are also supporting Local Planning Authorities in translating the study results into the preparation of Local Plans, the identification and development of proposals for renewable and low carbon energy projects and the provision of technical advice for local development management decisions.

