

Policy EM3: Renewable Energy Generation

1. Proposals for the installation of renewable and low carbon energy technologies, including both building-integrated and standalone schemes will be promoted and encouraged, provided that:
 - a) any significant adverse impacts can be mitigated;
 - b) where biofuels are to be utilised, they should be obtained from sustainable sources and transportation distances are minimised;
 - c) any energy centre is suitably located and designed to a high quality such that it is sympathetically integrated with its surroundings;
 - d) all proposals are consistent with any relevant Policies in this Plan.

Renewable energy can be supplied at a national level from sources such as large, off shore wind farms, solar farms or hydroelectric schemes. Although not a source of renewable energy, nuclear power is a major low carbon source. Locally, smaller and on-site renewable energy schemes include solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, ground source and air source heat pumps and, where fuelled by biomass or biogas, district energy schemes and combined heat and power plants (CHP). Due to the lack of large areas of open space within the city, on-site and neighbourhood-scale renewable energy schemes are the most effective way for Coventry to contribute to renewable energy targets set out by the Government.

Although wind turbines are a good example of a renewable energy source, around 90% of Coventry is unsuitable for wind turbines due to insufficient wind speeds, and the density of development. This has been evidenced through a local wind mapping study carried out in 2010. As such, Policy EM3 does not apply to any proposals for wind turbines or wind farms. Instead any such proposals will be considered in accordance with the most up to date national policy.

The indications from the evidence base identify there will be a greater need to encourage and support a wider spectrum of renewable energy technologies to help deliver the energy supply that would be placed on the grid as a result of the levels of growth planned for the city. Therefore, as part of the strategic sites detailed in this Plan, any proposed development schemes will be expected to consider and incorporate, where viable, renewable energy generation technologies as part of the overall suite of energy supply.