

The Northumberland Renewable Energy Group brought together a range of public and private organisations to deliver actions for driving forwards the renewable energy and energy efficiency agenda within the County. The group published the Northumberland Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy in November 2003. This document, funded by the NSP, sought to promote and develop renewable energy and energy efficiency across Northumberland and aid the county's aim of becoming an exemplar in Renewable Energy technologies. In May 2005 the second annual workshop was held at County Hall, Morpeth. As well as highlighting a range of examples of good practice, the workshop sought to identify a range of actions that act as a focus for the group during 2005 - 2006 and beyond. This plan identifies actions that will ensure renewable energy and energy benefit local communities and the Northumberland economy whilst ensuring that the high quality Northumbrian environment is maintained.

Further information on the Northumberland Renewable Energy Group can be found at www.northumberlandenergy.co.uk

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| 1. Overview | | | |
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| Priority Aim | Action | Progress | Lead Body |
| 1.1 Embed RE&EE uptake in organisational culture | 1.1.1 Develop & deliver simple information messages for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Northumberland | Develop at least 6 downloadable information leaflets | NREG |
| | 1.1.2 Keep www.northumberlandenergy.co.uk website updated as info centre point and ensure linkages to other appropriate portals | On going with NCC design team | NCC / Northwoods / NECF |
| | 1.1.3 Make best practice normal practice as a two-way flow of information to compliment existing work by ensuring NREG is represented at a range of forums | For each meeting of the NREG share and discuss at least one example of best practice | NaREC / NREG |
| | 1.1.4 Develop RE projects within Northumberland schools from pilots to wider programme | CF involved with design team. Visit to Kingsmead school, Cheshire | NCC |
| | 1.1.5 Continue to work with LPAs to ensure that LDF policies set clear, ambitious and robust standards for new development | Provided input to all LDFs re: energy policy | LPAs |

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| 1.2 Use RE&EE as driver for raising aspirations, understanding and opportunities in Northumberland | 1.2.1 Disseminate findings of 'Renewable Energy in Employment Site Infrastructure' Study to encourage consideration of projects. | Study published in May 2005 | LAs / NREG / NEA |
| | 1.2.2 Research the market for investment in RE&EE technology, services & production facilities | Undertake research to identify procurement process for wind developers | NCC / OneNE |
| | 1.2.3 Develop opportunities within Northumberland schools to raise awareness and ambitions | Consultant appointed - report due by Jan 06 | NCC |
| 1.3 Provide high quality training on RE&EE | 1.3.1 Mainstream wind skills course for installation, connection and maintenance of wind turbines | Currently seeking accreditation for course | NAREC / TNEI / North Coll |
| | 1.3.2 Co-ordinate the provision of renewable energy training within the sub-region and ensure experience is shared with other partners | Skills steering group established | NCC / NaREC / LSC |
| 1.4 Access funding to integrate RE&EE in all areas of life | 1.4.1 Continue to develop simple, accessible portal for domestic & industrial users, including, opportunities, contacts and financial implications (building on regional toolkit) | Regional website live - Dec 05 | NEEP |

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| 1.5 Maximise leadership / delivery skills to make Northumberland global leader in RE&EE | 1.5.1 Continue to drive forward & co-ordinate NREEES strategy delivery | Appointment of Northumberland Energy Executive | NSP / NCC |
| | 1.5.2 Encourage / support innovative developments in RE&EE sector which help deliver economic regeneration to Northumberland | Identify x innovative developments | NREG |
| | 1.5.3 Promote the Northumberland renewable energy and energy efficiency approach at a regional, national and international level | Links established with Nottinghamshire, Cornwall and Aberdeenshire CCs | NREG |
| | 1.5.4 Develop and pilot a monitoring programme to demonstrate outcomes of the strategy | Infonet undertaking work to establish baseline figures | NCC |

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| 2. Domestic | | | |
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| Priority Aim | Action | Progress | Lead Body |
| 2.1 Ensure energy efficiency & renewables measures are integral in new builds, refurbishment & managements | 2.1.1 LPs adopt a positive planning approach to assist in delivery of NREEES | Provided input to all draft LDFs re: energy policy | LAs / NREG |
| | 2.1.2 LAs integrate RE &EE into development & management of public sector housing & other buildings from an early stage | | LAs / NREG / EST |
| | 2.1.3 Develop pilot programme / actions to encourage developers to go beyond existing building regulations when considering energy usage in new housing | TNEI published report | BVBC / EST |
| | 2.1.4 Develop awareness raising / training in building sector and associated industries in conjunction with regional initiatives | TNEI published report | LSC / Bus Link / GONE |
| | 2.1.5 Identify private sector champion for renewable energy and energy efficiency | | NSP / Bus Link |
| | 2.1.6 Identify & develop shared heating / CHP opportunities | | NCC |

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| 2.2 Integrate RE&EE agenda into all aspects of Public Sector delivery | 2.2.1 Carry out training / awareness raising programme for LA officers & Members, and other public sector officers | Delivered DTI advanced planning course - Nov 05 | NCC / GONE / ESTAC |
| | 2.2.2 Ensure the benefits of the Sustainable Energy Network are realised in Northumberland | Engage in dialogue with SEN to identify opportunities | NSP / NREG |
| | 2.2.3 Facilitate local authorities to meet their HECA targets, including through energy efficiency programmes to tackle the fuel rich and the fuel poor. | Undertaking County wide affordable warmth strategy | ESTAC |
| | 2.2.4 Target fuel poor to make homes more thermally efficient through a countywide affordable warmth strategy using WarmZone as the delivery agent | Undertaking County wide affordable warmth strategy | Warmzone / EST / NSP / LASP |
| 2.3 Improve communication of RE&EE issues | 2.3.1 Clearly communicate / promote funds & support available, costs / payback period | Currently developing web based project | Carbon Trust / EST / ESTAC |
| | 2.3.2 Undertake analysis of energy efficiency supply and demand market | Infonet undertaking work to establish baseline figures | |

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| 3. Industry | | | |
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| Priority Aim | Action | Progress | Lead Body |
| 3.1 Engage businesses regarding RE&EE measures | 3.1.1 Continue to support Business Link PBA | 4 companies interested in on-site generation | Bus Link |
| | 3.1.2 Embed generation for water treatment and sewage treatment works | | Northumbrian Water |
| | 3.1.3 Promote both the development and application of the solar energy sector in Northumberland & region | On-going with Zen Eaga Solar | NaREC / Bus Link |
| | 3.1.4 Engage trade associations to provide support and signage | Ensure that sector associations are aware of NREG website | NEEBS |
| | 3.1.5 Engage Northumberland companies to address EE in-house, and promote RE&EE through their supply chain / procurement policies | Continue to provide advice to businesses | Carbon Trust / Bus Link / NCC |
| 3.2 Increase awareness in business re increase in utility prices | 3.2.1 Integrate up-to-date RE&EE issues into Business Link advice & training provision | Establish a training and events programme on the website | Bus Link |

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| 3.3 Ensure business advisors are aware of RE&EE issues and support available | 3.3.1 Target business advisors within Northumberland, including accountants and bank managers | Continue to provide advice to businesses | Bus Link |
| | 3.3.2 Utilise brokerage system to raise awareness / knowledge / understanding within wider support mechanisms | | Bus Link |
| | 3.3.3 Use BREEAM model as best practice - aim beyond just meeting legislation | Engage with local authority planners to develop LDF policies | Bus Link / GONE |
| | 3.3.4 Co-ordinate marketing approach from delivery partners | Publish and maintain website project database for RE technologies | Bus Link / EIF / NEEBS |

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| 4. Wind | | | |
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| Priority Aim | Action | Target | Lead Body |
| 4.1 Tackle misconceptions of, and barriers against, wind turbines | 4.1.1 Use the website to produce balanced information and updated position statements for wind turbine progress | Publish and maintain website project database for RE technologies | NREG |
| | 4.1.2 Promote & assist facilitation of regional training of LA members / staff - education package - use regional package when available. | Establish a training and events programme on the website | NCC / NSP / GONE |
| | 4.1.3 Develop public & private sector wind turbine pilot projects [overlap with INDUSTRY] | Identify at least 3 SMEs who express interest in owning a wind turbine | REALL / wind turbine developers / Bus Link |
| 4.2 Support & promote local Renewable Energy businesses | 4.2.1 Identify potential public & private sector sites for small scale wind turbine development | Disseminate information from SE Northumberland wind study | Bus Link / TNEI / NREG |
| | 4.2.2 Develop & deliver a portfolio of local renewable energy projects | Identify at least 3 community wind projects | REALL / LAs |
| | 4.2.3 Continue to support supply, servicing & R&D businesses within sector | Undertake skills mapping exercise to establish baseline data | NCC |
| 4.3 Support the development of appropriate commercial windfarm development | 4.3.1 Develop a protocol to ensure that a proportion of any community benefits fund is recycled into local projects and/or skills development | Establish a protocol for all Northumberland LAs | NREG / LAs |
| | 4.3.2 Work with regional partners to develop a common methodology for cumulative visual impact assessment. | Establish a toolkit for assessing cumulative impact | NREG / NREG |

| 5. Hydro | | | |
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| Priority Aim | Action | Target | Lead Body |
| 5.2 Establish Northumberland as national leader in wave & tidal renewables | 5.1.1 Promote Northumberland as focus for wave & tidal renewables research and development activity | | NaREC / NREG |
| | 5.1.2 Support leading edge companies located with the County | Provide x hours of business support | NREG |
| 5.3 Maximise recovery of energy from pumped water | 5.2.1 Maximise opportunities for ground source heating and identify potential projects from both public & private sector | Identify at least 3 GSHP projects | NREG / REALL |
| | 5.2.2 Explore the potential energy resource from mine water within the sub-region | Publish a report on the potential of using mine water as a heat source | |
| 5.4 Promote reduction in water consumption | 5.3.1 To reduce the amount of water usage within the County | Support and promote water reduction campaign | Northumbrian Water |

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| 6. Biomass | | | |
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| Priority Aim | Action | Target | Lead Body |
| 6.1 Demonstrate viability of biomass heating | 6.1.1 Support regional developments, and encourage demonstration projects in Northumberland | Identify at least 3 biomass projects | BIG / NREG |
| | 6.1.2 Develop a Renewable Energy Centre for Land Based Activity at Cockle Park, Nr Morpeth | Submit bid for capital funding to OneNE | NCC / NSP / UNewc |
| 6.2 Develop a route map to ensure the delivery of a viable biomass sector | 6.2.1 Assess the potential for biomass plant within existing and new builds | Undertake feasibility studies as appropriate | Bus Link / LAs |
| | 6.2.2 Stimulate the economy by assisting local companies to diversify production to include renewable energy and energy efficiency equipment | Undertake an awareness raising campaign targeting Northumberland businesses | LAs / NREG / Bus Link |
| | 6.2.3 Encourage the development of a wood fuel boiler manufacturing industry in Northumberland | Explore opportunities of developing a biomass equipment manufacturing business | NCC / NaREC |
| | 6.2.4 Establish a County wide scheme to train practitioners, based on regional skills mapping exercise | Undertake skills mapping exercise to establish baseline data | LSC / Northwoods |

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| 6.3 Develop & support mechanisms to stimulate existing businesses | 6.3.1 Ensure that biomass heating systems are included within municipal buildings wherever possible | Engage with LAs to ensure early consideration of opportunities | NREG / LAs |
| | 6.3.2 Identify potential funding sources to ensure new school build programme considers biomass | Engage with schools development stakeholder group | NREG / NCC |
| | 6.3.3 Work with BIG to secure SRC supply, and support local pelletised company | Establish at least 1 woodfuel supply company within Northumberland | NREG / Northwoods |
| | 6.3.4 Develop a network of local biomass fuel supply companies. | Publish woodfuel supply chain information leaflet | Northwoods / Bus Link |
| | 6.3.5 Promote local biomass fuel businesses throughout Northumberland & regionally | Publish woodfuel supply chain information leaflet | Northwoods / Bus Link |
| 6.4 Capitalise on demand for potential biomass use by Alcan | 6.4.1 Continue to support and encourage developments | Provide on-going support | NREG |

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| 7. Alternative Energy | | | |
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| Priority Aim | Action | Target | Lead Body |
| 7.1 Create viable bio-fuels sector | 7.1.1 Research & pilot bio-fuel bus company / public transport project | | NCC / BVBC / Arriva? |
| | 7.1.2 Support alternative vehicle technologies projects that will help raise awareness of issues relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency, and have an impact on carbon emissions reduction (make 'green fuel' vehicles visible) | | NREG / LAs |
| | 7.1.3 Investigate joint purchasing opportunities through North East Procurement | | NCC / LAs |
| | 7.1.4 Develop biofuels business in North East & County | | NREG |
| 7.2 Develop solar and photovoltaic sector | 7.2.1 Continue to identify opportunities to mainstream the technology and develop employment opportunities | Identify at least 3 high profile projects | NREG |
| | 7.2.2 Support and encourage the promotion and development of the solar thermal market | Identify at least 3 solar thermal projects | ZenES |
| 7.3 Energy Efficiency | 7.3.1 Identify a range of public and private sector projects to raise profile of energy efficiency | Identify at least 3 large scale energy efficiency projects | SEN |
| | 7.3.2 Develop information portal to ensure energy efficiency is promoted | Ensure website links to SEN | SEN |
| 7.4 Ground Source Heat Pump | 7.4.1 Identify and disseminate information on a range of ground source heat projects including heat pumps, rock stores and similar technology | Disseminate information to raise awareness of potential source | NREG |

Glossary

BIG - (Regional) Biomass Implementation Group
BREEAM - Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method
Bus Link - Business Link
EST - Energy Saving Trust
ESTAC - Energy Savings Trust Advice Centre
GONE - Government Office for the North East
LAs - Local Authorities (County & District Councils)
LDF - Local Development Framework
LPA - Local Planning Authority
LSC - Learning & Skills Council
NaREC - New and Renewables Energy Centre
NEA - North Energy Associates
NECF - North East Community Forest
NEEBS - North East Environment Business Service
NEEP - North East Energy Partnership
NEWs - A District partnership to deliver Countywide HECA schemes
NCC - Northumberland County Council
NEREG - North East Renewable Energy Group
NNPA - Northumberland National Park Authority
North Coll - Northumberland College
NREEES - Northumberland Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Strategy
NREG - Northumberland Renewable Energy Group
NSP - Northumberland Strategic Partnership (S&P = Sites & Premises)
NWL - Northumbrian Water Ltd
REALL - Renewable Energy At a Local Level
SEN - Sustainable Energy Network (formerly Tadea)
SENTRI - South East Northumberland / North Tyneside Regeneration Initiative
UNewc - University of Newcastle upon Tyne
ZenES - Zen Eaga Solar