

## Appendix A

### East Midlands Regional Plan

#### **Policy 40**

##### **Regional Priorities for Low Carbon Energy Generation**

*Local Authorities, energy generators and other relevant public bodies should promote:*

- *the development of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and district heating infrastructure necessary to achieve the regional target of 511 MWe by 2010 and 1120 MWe by 2020; and*
- *the development of a distributed energy network using local low carbon and renewable resources.*

*In order to help meet national targets low carbon energy proposals in locations where environmental, economic and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily should be supported. As a result, Local Planning Authorities should:*

- *safeguard sites for access to significant reserves of coal mine methane;*
- *identify suitable sites for CHP plants well related to existing or proposed development and encourage their provision in large scale schemes;*
- *consider safeguarding former power station and colliery sites for low carbon energy generation;*
- *support the development of distributed local energy generation networks; and*
- *develop policies and proposals to achieve the indicative regional targets for renewable energy set out in Appendix 5.*

*In establishing criteria for onshore wind energy, Local Planning Authorities should give particular consideration to:*

- *landscape and visual impact, informed by local Landscape Character Assessments;*
- *the effect on the natural and cultural environment (including biodiversity, the integrity of designated nature conservation sites of international importance, and historic assets and their settings);*
- *the effect on the built environment (including noise intrusion);*
- *the number and size of turbines proposed;*
- *the cumulative impact of wind generation projects, including 'intervisibility';*
- *the contribution of wind generation projects to the regional renewables target; and*
- *the contribution of wind generation projects to national and international environmental objectives on climate change.*

*In establishing criteria for new facilities required for other forms of renewable energy, Local Planning Authorities should give particular consideration to:*

- *the proximity to the renewable energy resource;*
- *the relationship with the existing natural and built environment;*
- *the availability of existing surplus industrial land in close proximity to the transport network; and*
- *the benefits of grid and non grid connected 'micro-generation'.*

## Policy 26

### Protecting and Enhancing the Region's Natural and Cultural Heritage

*Sustainable development should ensure the protection, appropriate management and enhancement of the Region's natural and cultural heritage. As a result the following principles should be applied:*

- *the Region's internationally and nationally designated natural and historic assets should receive the highest level of protection;*
- *neither direct nor indirect damage to EU designated Natura 2000 sites will be permitted;*
- *damage to natural and historic assets or their settings should be avoided wherever and as far as possible, recognising that such assets are usually irreplaceable;*
- *unavoidable damage must be minimised and clearly justified by a need for development in that location which outweighs the damage that would result;*
- *unavoidable damage which cannot be mitigated should be compensated for, preferably in a relevant local context, and where possible in ways which also contribute to social and economic objectives;*
- *there should be a net increase in the quality and active management of natural and historic assets across the Region in ways that promote adaptation to climate change, and an increase in the quantity of environmental assets generally; and*
- *the Region's best and most versatile agricultural land should be protected from permanent loss or damage.*

## Policy 31

### Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Region's Landscape

*The Region's natural and heritage landscapes should be protected and enhanced by:*

- *the promotion of the highest level of protection for the nationally designated landscapes of the Peak District National Park and the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;*
- *the promotion of initiatives to protect and enhance the particular character of the Sherwood, Charnwood and Rockingham Forests;*
- *the establishment of criteria-based policies in Local Development Frameworks to ensure that development proposals respect intrinsic landscape character in rural and urban fringe areas, including, where appropriate, recognition of the value of tranquillity and dark skies; and*
- *the identification in Local Development Frameworks of landscape and biodiversity protection and enhancement objectives through the integration of Landscape Character Assessments with historic and ecological assessments.*

*Where not already in place, Local Authorities should prepare Landscape Character Assessments to inform the preparation of Local Development Frameworks. These can also be used to develop Supplementary Planning Documents.*