

LOW AND ZERO CARBON STATEMENT



Contents

VERSION CONTROL

This document is reviewed annually to ensure it is accurate and up to date.

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1 LOW AND ZERO CARBON STATEMENT

The Council acknowledges the Scottish Government targets to have 100% of electricity produced in Scotland come from renewable sources by 2020¹

The Council's approach to supporting this target is to encourage renewable energy developments across the city and where appropriate and effective install renewable/low carbon technologies within its own estate.

The Council will assess opportunities and synergies between renewable energy production and its energy requirements. The Council shall act to improve its energy performance by tackling the challenge of improved energy efficiency firstly and then incorporating the use of renewable technologies where suitable.

2 ENERGY HIERARCHY

The following hierarchy should be employed in attempts to reduce the negative impacts of energy consumption:

1. Reduce energy demand through no-cost actions such as behavioural changes, and assessing settings (for example on heating systems) to ensure they are appropriate. Encouraging staff to 'dress for the weather' will allow for lower office (heating and cooling) energy consumption.
2. Reduce energy demand through energy efficiency improvement technologies (i.e. replacing old equipment with modern energy efficient equivalents, or improving insulation/draught proofing/lighting technologies levels).
3. Produce heat/electricity on-site through locally suitable renewable sources:
 - a. Wind
 - b. Solar PV
 - c. Solar Thermal
 - d. Anaerobic Digestion
4. Produce heat/electricity on-site through low carbon sources
 - a. Air Source Heat Pumps
 - b. Ground Source Heat Pumps
 - c. Combined Heat and Power
 - d. Biomass – the current Administration does not encourage the use of industrial biomass incineration (Pledge No. 52). Biomass in Edinburgh should be only be deployed in heat-only or combined heat and power schemes, be located off the gas-grid, be located outside the urban area and have appropriate and effective abatement systems to control emissions.
5. Purchase electricity through a 'green tariff' where a guarantee is made that electricity was generated through additional renewable sources.
6. Offset additional emissions through appropriately accredited and auditable offsetting schemes. The City of Edinburgh Council will only partake in offsetting schemes as a last resort, and only after the Council is satisfied that such schemes are suitably robust, with credible accreditation and verification that sustainability standards have been achieved.

¹ Scotland's Renewables Ambition and Paths to Delivery
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/08/04110353/3>

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL ENERGY HIERARCHY

