

**STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON
LDF CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

December 2008

Topic Paper No. 3

Climate Change, Waste Management and Pollution



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Your comments and views on this options paper are welcomed up to Friday 16th January 2009. Enquiries can be directed to Ruth McArthur/Jo Symons, Policy and Community Manager on 01398 323665.

This report is also accessible from our website located under:

www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/living-in-ldf-core-strategy.htm

We are happy to provide this information in alternative formats on request where reasonable.

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Issues

Climate Change

1. Minimising the net emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere in order to achieve a carbon-neutral National Park by 2025.
2. Maximising Exmoor's potential for renewable energy generation e.g. micro hydro power, small scale wind turbines, solar power, and biomass heating systems.
3. Improving the sustainability of Exmoor's communities.
4. Maximising the potential for carbon dioxide to be stored in 'carbon sinks' e.g. through restoring peat moorlands, mires/blanket bogs and planting new woodland.
5. Encouraging the use of sustainable building methods including careful siting, layout, design and choice of materials (including using more reuse of materials and local materials) to minimise energy loss, reduce environmental pollution and conserve natural resources while conserving and enhancing the National Park.

Pollution

6. Maintaining and improving the quality of air, water and soils on Exmoor.
7. Avoiding further light pollution on Exmoor and addressing existing sources such as street lighting where light pollution could be reduced.
8. Maintaining a feeling of tranquility due to an absence of man-made noise.
9. Minimising agricultural run off and pollution events into Exmoor's water courses which generally have exceptional water quality.

Waste

9. Seeking ways to turn 'waste' into a resource, including agricultural waste.
10. Providing for increasing demand for recycling and composting.

The Exmoor National Park Management Plan 2007-2012

Vision: By 2020 Exmoor's air, water and soil are of high quality and we are closer to achieving a carbon-neutral National Park to help tackle climate change.

Plan Priorities: to become a carbon neutral Park.

Objective D1: To maintain and improve the quality of air, water and soils on Exmoor.

Objective D2: To improve the sustainability of Exmoor's communities and minimize waste and emissions.

Objective D3: To minimize the net emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere in order to achieve a carbon-neutral National Park and minimize Exmoor's contribution to global climate change.

Objective E3: to ensure that land-based businesses and other land managers are working to mitigate the effects of climate change and are making a positive contribution to efforts to reduce carbon emissions and levels of atmospheric carbon.

Key statistics

- Predictions for future trends on Exmoor arising from global climate change include, by 2080:
 - up to 20% more winter rainfall.
 - up to 50% less summer rainfall.
 - more severe weather events including high winds, heavy rain and unseasonably warm weather.
- River water quality is high within the National Park, however, many Exmoor rivers and streams have been classified by the Environment Agency as being 'At Risk' from diffuse pollution.
- Sea water quality is high but occasionally does not meet bathing water standards on some parts of the Exmoor coast.
- Ground level ozone levels can reach very high levels during certain atmospheric conditions and exceed European guidelines.
- Light pollution is low.
- Climate change models a 3 degree centigrade increase in air temperatures within a century and some predictions are for more rapid change.

Appendix:

Policy and Strategy

National

Climate Change

Government guidance set out in planning policy statements provides that tackling climate change is a key Government priority for the planning system. The Government aims to cut carbon dioxide emissions by some 60% by 2050, with real progress by 2020. Planning policy will need to ensure planning proposals contribute to reducing emissions and stabilise climate change through sustainable development.

POLICIES: PPS1, PPS22, PPS25

Pollution

The planning system plays a key role in the location of development. Government policy advises that any consideration of the quality of land, air or water and potential impacts arising from development, possibly leading to impacts on health, is capable of being a material planning consideration. Planning authorities should therefore ensure, as far as possible, that developments are not affected by major existing or potential sources of pollution. LDFs will need to set out the criteria against which potentially polluting developments will be considered.

Government guidance acknowledges that noise can have a significant effect on the environment and on the quality of life enjoyed by individuals and communities. Special consideration is therefore required where noisy development is proposed. The effect of noise on the enjoyment of areas of landscape, wildlife and historic value will be taken into account.

POLICIES: PPS23, PPG13, PPG24

Waste Management

Planning Policy Statement 10 sets out the Government's policies on sustainable waste management. The Government's overall objective on waste is to protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible. This means a step change in the way waste is handled through using waste as a source of energy. The planning system is pivotal in the provision of waste management facilities.

Waste planning authorities should identify in development plan documents sites and areas suitable for new or enhanced waste management facilities for the waste management needs of their areas. This will need to be assessed against a range of criteria including visual intrusion, the need to protect

landscapes, effects on designated sites and traffic and access considerations.

POLICY: PPS10

Regional

SW Regional Spatial Strategy

Climate Change

The Regional Spatial Strategy provides that the region's ecological footprint will be stabilised and then reduced through development that protects environmental limits; wise use of natural resources; reducing consumption of key resources; building a sustainable, low carbon economy; encouraging sustainable construction and design; minimising the need to travel; and meeting national and regional targets on renewable energy, resource consumption and waste management.

The region will adapt to anticipated changes in climate by managing the impact of future climate change on the environment, economy and society; identifying and protecting the most vulnerable communities and ecosystems to climate change; avoiding the need for development in flood risk areas; and 'proofing' of development activity and existing infrastructure against its susceptibility to climate change.

Best practice should be promoted in sustainable construction to help achieve the national timetable for reducing carbon emissions from buildings including how development form can contribute to securing high standards for energy and water efficiency, the use of sustainable drainage systems and designing for flexible use and adaptation to reflect changing lifestyles and needs.

POLICIES: SD1, SD2, G, RTS2, RTS3, GI1, ENV4, ENV5,F, F1, RE5, RE8, RE9, TO1

Pollution

Policies related to climate change also have the capability to improve noise, visual, air and water pollution levels through reduced, renewable and/or sustainable energy use.

POLICIES: SD1, SD2, G, RTS2, RTS3, GI1, RE5, RE6, RE9, TO1

Waste Management

Waste Planning Authorities should make provision in their Local Waste Development Frameworks for a network of strategic and local waste collection, transfer and treatment (including recycling) and disposal sites (including hazardous waste).

POLICIES:, RE12, W1-W4

Local

Local Plan:

Climate Change

With regard to new development the Authority gives favourable consideration to proposals incorporating energy efficiency and resource conservation measures.

Small scale proposals for renewable energy for properties will be permitted provided they are compatible with the conservation, landscape and wildlife of the National Park.

Commercial wind turbines will not be permitted if they would cause harm to the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of Exmoor. In considering such proposals an assessment will be made which balances the benefits to the public with any adverse impacts on the Exmoor landscape and its qualities

POLICIES: CBS12, LNC17-19, U7, TR3, TR11

Pollution

Proposals for large scale, intrusive or environmentally damaging development which would result in noise, water or air pollution or light pollution will not be permitted in Exmoor National Park.

POLICIES: A1, A4, CSF1, E4, , LNC 2, RT1, RT9, U1-U4, U8, M3

Waste Management

Waste disposal and recycling facilities will only be permitted where there would be no adverse impact on the landscape, wildlife, cultural heritage, quiet enjoyment or amenities of local communities.

POLICIES:WD1,WD2

Is there further evidence that you wish to draw to our attention?

Do you have any further issues that you wish to raise?