

## Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy Workshop



### Report for Buckinghamshire County Council

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# Executive summary

Energy prices are rising making the social impacts of fuel poverty increasingly significant. At the same renewable energy generation in Buckinghamshire currently is 3.2% of the county's energy needs relative to the Government's national target of 15% by 2020. This means that the county is exposed to the pressures of rising fuel prices and being out of line with UK low carbon energy and climate change policy targets. These are both risk areas for the county.

To address this the councils within the county and the LEP collaborated to initiate development of an Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire. Ricardo-AEA was commissioned by Buckinghamshire County Council on behalf of the five Local Authorities in the county and the LEP to deliver an Energy Strategy Workshop. The objective of this Workshop was for key stakeholders to develop shared thinking, commitment and actions to input into the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy.

In order to get high level commitment to attend the workshop the event was planned to be half a day long. As a result, the preparatory work in advance of the workshop was extensive. It involved making decisions about the approach to strategy setting and ensuring that stakeholders had a common understanding about energy based opportunities in the County relative to the national picture.

Prior to the workshop the steering group for the Energy Strategy agreed our proposal that the Strategy would not set specific energy targets but would instead be benefits based and thus technology agnostic.

The outcome from this process was a Prospectus for the strategy and a high level 'contents page' for the Energy Strategy itself. These were shared with stakeholders. The Prospectus also contained some scenarios as a means of eliciting pre-workshop feedback on the approach that the Energy Strategy should take.

Because of all this background work we were then able to facilitate a Workshop that specifically concentrated on;

- Providing input on the 'vision' for the Energy Strategy,
- Defining what the beneficial outcomes from the Energy Strategy should be,
- Identifying the contents of the Energy Strategy.
- Identifying the stakeholders that need to be involved in Strategy development and delivery.

This outcome was achieved with the key messages being:

- Unanimous support for the benefits led approach
- A strong call of the 'Energy' and Energy Efficiency' strategies to be combined
- Identification of a suitable delivery body to 'own' and deliver the Energy Strategy. As a result, after the workshop it has been decided that future strategy development will be undertaken by Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes NEP (Natural Environment Partnership) in partnership with the LEP.
- 
- All stakeholders must commit to the strategy and see it through to implementation
- Good communication about the benefits of the Energy Strategy is essential
- To be credible, local policy (including planning) must align to facilitate the Strategy
- The Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy must be 20 to 25y commitment.
- As a result, the Energy Strategy must be able to include new technologies as they develop, including small nuclear.

The initial high level Energy Strategy contents document developed before the workshop must now be updated against the outcomes of the Workshop and proposals for how to

progress the development of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy identified and implemented.

This report describes how the pre-Workshop documents were prepared, the outcomes from the Workshop and proposes next step activities.

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# 1 Preparation for the Workshop

At the proposal stage for this work, it was agreed that the target attendees at the Buckinghamshire Energy Workshop would be high level stakeholders. As a result, to attract these attendees the workshop was limited to half a day in length. This required preparatory work to be undertaken to bring attendees 'up to speed' before the event.

It was also important at this early stage that the approach to strategy setting was identified in order to give the process 'direction'. Our experience is that Local Authority Energy Strategies that are based on setting targets for energy generation or for the uptake of given technologies often fail. This is because they get mired in detail and also because those people living in places where the uptake of technology like wind, or waste combustion feel that they are taking an unfair burden leading to vociferous objection.

As a result, our proposal was that the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy should focus on the economic and social benefits that energy generation can bring and should as a result be technology agnostic. This means that because of the level of benefits available, the pressure for development can 'flip' such that it is the communities who become supportive of and not opposed to energy development.

The Steering Group overseeing our work agreed this approach. This then enabled us to develop an Energy Strategy 'Prospectus'. This Prospectus was designed to get all stakeholders 'up to speed' with the relevant energy issues and to start the process of eliciting feedback prior to the Workshop.

This document therefore:

- Identified the approach to strategy development that would be taken
- Presented the case for this approach
- Set the scene in terms of national and local energy supply
- Identified the energy resources available in Buckinghamshire

Our approach to eliciting feedback was to include in the Prospectus four development Scenarios for the county that would allow the support for different options to be evaluated.

The four Scenarios were:

1. Business as usual
2. A social benefits led approach
3. An economic benefit led approach
4. An unconstrained 'resource' led approach

The Prospectus is reproduced as Appendix 1.

The feedback from the Prospectus then allowed us to define an initial draft high level Energy Strategy for the county. This took the form of suggested contents for the final Energy Strategy. The objective of this was solely to stimulate and guide discussion within the workshop.

This initial draft high level Energy Strategy is reproduced as Appendix 2.

## 2 The workshop

### 2.1 Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Confirm support for the approach being proposed for the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy
2. Define the content
3. Gain commitment to supporting the development and implementation of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy going forward.

This all set around a high level approach, with the development of detail and targets part of the subsequent activities as strategy development progresses.

### 2.2 Attendees

The Table below is the list of workshop attendees.

Rachel Toresen-Owuor BCC	Jo Faul BCC	Lesley Stoner BCC
Cllr Hugh McCarthy WDC	Cllr Lesley Clarke OBE BCC	Cllr Netta Glover BCC
Cllr Ruth Vigor-Hedderly BCC	Sir Beville Stanier AVDC	Neil Gibson BCC
Stephen Borrows CDC	Stephen Walford BCC	Martin Holt SBDC/CDC
Judith Orr CDC	Ben Coakley CDC	Alexandra Day BCC
Alan Bulpin FCC	Eman Martin-VignerteBosch	Jenny Patten Bosch
Richard Harrington BTVLEP	Jim Sims BTVLEP	Guy Lachlan Jones & Cocks
Jane Richardson-Hawkes NEF	Peter ForestSAVE	Rob Hanna NEP
David Burbidge Change 4 Chalfont	David Lyons Transition Haddenham	Roland Collicot Change 4 Chalfont
Alan Asbury AVDC	Robert Hall Low Carbon Chilterns	Samantha Free Low Carbon Chilterns
Brigid Eaves BCC	Hilary Butler BCC	Robert Smart AVDC
Colin Bloxham SAVE	Mark Luntley Westmill	

The range of participants in the workshop was impressive in terms of their seniority within their respective organisations and the spread achieved across Local Authorities, the Private Sector and community based groups. This allowed a wide ranging and inclusive discussion.

### 2.3 The Workshop Agenda

The workshop split into three main areas:

- Background information
- The workshop breakout session
- Feedback and next steps

### 2.3.1 The Background session

The background session presented; the results from the pre-workshop feedback, a keynote address from Councillor Lesley Clarke OBE and a case study presented by Mark Luntley, who is Chairman of the Westmill Cooperative which has developed community owned major wind and solar projects in Oxfordshire (see [http://www.westmill.coop/westmill\\_home.asp](http://www.westmill.coop/westmill_home.asp) and <http://www.westmillsolar.coop/> ).

This was all designed to equip attendees with the information that they needed to contribute to the workshop discussions.

### 2.3.2 The workshop breakout session

As described in the 'Initial high level draft Energy Strategy' document (Appendix 2) it has been proposed to define the contents of the Strategy against 3 headings:

1. **Influence** – Communication, stimulation, education.
2. **Guide** – Leadership, facilitation, support.
3. **Control** – Policy, markets, pump priming.

As a result, attendees were split into three groups, each with a facilitator, to cover one of these sections. Each group were asked the same three questions:

1. What a good outcome will look like and how we can make the final strategy achieve this outcome.
2. Who else needs to be involved in the strategy development process
3. As a result – what the strategy must include to achieve this

This approach was deliberately designed to focus on the outcomes that the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy should deliver, so that the 'journey' to this destination could be more easily defined by the Strategy, as well as identifying whom else would be needed to be involved to achieve this outcome.

In addition, each group was also asked to produce some 'dot point' input to the overall 'vision' for the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy and to give their view on the lifespan of the Strategy and how often it should be reviewed.

### 2.3.3 The Feedback session

As each proposed element of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy was considered by a different group of attendees, the feedback session allowed all attendees to make contributions to all elements.



## 3 Outcomes

### 3.1 General observations

The overall impression of the workshop was that there was full engagement from all attendees and a general enthusiasm for the need for Buckinghamshire to have an Energy Strategy. The high level of engagement achieved in general was wide ranging, resulting in a good outcome, but one that did not necessarily 'map' onto the three questions posed. However, this is small price to pay for the quality of the engagement achieved.

Such is the enthusiasm generated there is now strong commitment to not let this initiative stall, but to move to clear actions that can be assigned to stakeholders against a defined timescale.

To achieve this it was acknowledged that there need to be a 'joined up' Buckinghamshire approach, free of silos, with all parties working to the common good. This would require real commitment to deliver real benefits. While the meeting was relatively free of scepticism, this point was considered as one of the hardest to overcome. A challenge here is the diversity across the county in terms of demographics and opinions, scale of development, resource availability and wealth. This may force the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy to be realistic about these issues and to have different aspirations and approaches based on location within the county.

The one area that the workshop did not facilitate was discussion around the scale of aspiration for the county in terms of benefits to be delivered from a county level Energy Strategy. It will be important going forward to make sure that this aspect is covered and then to make sure that expectations in this area are correctly managed. For instance while 100% local energy generation is unrealistic, would 10% be disappointing?

### 3.2 Key conclusions

#### 3.2.1 A benefits-led approach.

From the outset of this exercise it was thought that the county would see little support for an Energy Strategy that was based on achieving particular energy generation targets or defining contributions from individual technologies.

Instead we proposed an approach that is based on delivering the social and economic benefits that are associated with energy generation. These are described in the Prospectus document that is reproduced as Appendix 1.

Throughout the whole of the Strategy development process to date there has been universal support for this approach. This was confirmed at the workshop. As a result **we can now strongly advise that the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy is based on delivering benefits to the people living in the county.** This means that **the Strategy should be technology agnostic.** This means that even technologies such as fracking and (in the future) potentially small new nuclear would be considered where they delivered local benefit.

This very much maps onto the government's new Community Energy Strategy which identifies the benefits that can come from community energy project development. The local LEP has also identified that low carbon infrastructure development is important to the future economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Buckinghamshire.

However, in the workshop it was acknowledged that social and economic benefits for activity in Buckinghamshire will 'leak' across the county borders, much as energy projects elsewhere are already bringing some benefit to some people in Buckinghamshire.

### 3.2.2 The role of energy efficiency

It is well understood that energy efficiency is as important as energy generation when it comes to realising economic, carbon, sustainability and other benefits. It is our understanding that the development of and approach to energy efficiency is being undertaken outside of this Energy Strategy.

A very strong message that came out of the workshop was that this separation was unhelpful and that it was likely to lead to mixed messages and confusion when trying to promote the idea of an Energy Strategy within the county.

**As a result we recommend that all energy efficiency and energy generation activities in the county are brought together in the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy.**

From a technical perspective this also makes sense as reducing energy demand can also lead to reduced costs in projects where local energy generation are being used to supply a particular location or energy load.

### 3.2.3 Leadership and cooperation

One common discussion point at the workshop was who would lead the Energy Strategy, with an understanding that this leadership role may change hands as the Strategy moves from drafting into implementation.

While it was acknowledged that the initial steering group of the councils of Buckinghamshire working with the LEP was the right one to drive the process of Energy Strategy development to this point, the LEP was identified as having a key role to move the strategy to implementation.

However as a direct outcome of this work it has now been decided that future strategy development will be undertaken by Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes NEP (Natural Environment Partnership) in partnership with the LEP.

### 3.2.4 Commitment

A strong theme from the workshop was that **in order for the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy to be taken seriously by the public, council officers, investors, politicians and other stakeholders, everyone involved with the development and delivery of the Strategy must demonstrate clear, strong and enduring commitment to it.** This includes standing firm when challenges arise and being able to withstand backlash from minority detractors. It was also recommended that as the objective of the Energy Strategy was to bring social and economic benefit to the County, there was no place for party politics within the Strategy or its delivery. **Failure to demonstrate commitment to the Energy Strategy will lead to a loss of confidence which will likely to lead to failure of the Strategy.**

As a result, it is essential that the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy is not seen as 'just another initiative' and that the commitment of all stakeholders is secured.

### 3.2.5 Communication and engagement

As is seen from the comments above, the theme of communication and engagement ran through many of the discussions held at the workshop, along with questions about who is best placed to manage and deliver the communication process.

Historically, Local Authorities are considered to be good sources of information by the public, with the information that they provide considered to be truthful and authoritative.

The need for information is wide and includes providing, or signposting to, information about benefits, technical options, how to develop projects, sources of funding/support, etc. The target audiences will also be diverse, including the general public, business, community groups, community leaders, educationalists, politicians, council staff, the finance community, developers, equipment suppliers and installers, energy suppliers, network operators, etc.

As a result, **a clear communication plan needs to be developed as part of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy and this needs to be as inclusive as possible.** The point raised earlier about changing conditions and demographics across the county may lead to the need for communication to be location specific in order to be fully inclusive. **This area will be a major challenge and is one where all local stakeholders will have a role.**

### 3.2.6 Local policy

The 'control' area of discussion led to some interesting outcomes. **The need to have joined up and complimentary policies across the county is clear and obvious. However another point is that major private sector organisations within the county should also be encouraged to support local energy generation and to support the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy.**

Within this topic, consideration was also given to the need for 'pump priming' support to initiate delivery action within any Energy Strategy. The central role of the Local Authority was identified here, but in reality this activity will need to be managed by the body charged with the task of implementing the Strategy. However the new government Community Energy Strategy signals the availability of money to support this activity and models like the Scottish CARES programme show how this money might be focussed and delivered (see <http://www.localenergyscotland.org/>).

As a result, **the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy will need to consider what 'pump priming' activities will be required with in the county and how these might be funded.** This model may change as the Strategy matures.

### 3.2.7 The lifetime of the Energy Strategy

There was universal recognition that while the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy needs to be delivered quickly to maintain momentum, the issues around moving to benefits led energy development, based around community ownership, was a life-long process.

As a result, **the strong recommendation was that the life of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy was 20 to 25 years, with review every 5 years and delivery plans spanning 3 to 5 years.**

This reinforces the need for the Energy Strategy to be technology agnostic to allow it to accept future new technology, whatever that might be.

## 4 The contents of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy

Within the Initial High Level Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy document (see Appendix 2), contents for each of the Influence, Guide, Control sections were proposed.

In light of the outcomes of the recent workshop these have been revised and this revised content is offered below.

Action plans/targets and time lines can then be produced against the identified strategy.

### 4.1 Strategy 'vision' and objectives

It is important that the overall vision for the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy is short and encapsulates the aspiration for the Strategy. The input from the workshop was wide ranging but included the following common themes:

- This needs to be a truly county wide Energy Strategy
- It must be realistic (100% renewables is not possible)
- It must be benefits led and technology agnostic (i.e. must also include fossil energy)
- Must build on what is already happening
- Emphasise partnership and local ownership
- Based on strong communication
- Increase energy resilience
- Must change mind sets

As a result of this input we propose the following draft vision:

*This Energy Strategy is for all of the people of Buckinghamshire. It is based on the realistic aspiration to build on existing initiatives to increase energy generation to build energy resilience within the county and to deliver real benefits to the people that live here. Our Energy Strategy will be based on close partnership working and good communication to change the mind sets of those who see energy as a threat and not an opportunity for the people of Buckinghamshire.*

Against a vision of this nature, the general objectives of the strategy should be to:

- a. Realise the economic and social benefits of energy efficiency and energy generation from whatever source within the county.
- b. To achieve this through partnership working so that the benefits are spread across all sectors and locations but as far as possible are retained in the county.
- c. Use whatever technology and fuel source is appropriate to deliver the maximum benefits subject to sensible safeguards.

## 4.2 Influence

### 4.2.1 Communication

The key areas to be included are as below.

1. The approach that will be taken to communicate the vision and objectives within the county and beyond. This will include all public and private sectors and how their support will be garnered. Target sectors include:
  - a. The 'entire' Local Authority community
  - b. Hospitals
  - c. Education establishments
  - d. Emergency services (premises)
  - e. Local politicians
  - f. Commercial business
  - g. Manufacturing business
  - h. Retail business
  - i. Logistics business
  - j. Finance/legal sector
  - k. Energy suppliers (including oil distributors, LPG, biomass suppliers)
  - l. Industry representatives (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, local CBI)
  - m. General public
  - n. Students/pupils
  - o. Community groups
  - p. Wildlife groups (WWF, RSPB)
  - q. Environmental groups (CRPE, FoE, Greenpeace)
2. Identification and approach to existing community groups that might have an interest in being part of Energy Strategy delivery and communication
3. How new community groups will be encouraged to form and engage with the strategy
4. The role that the councils in Buckinghamshire will take in this activity and how other stakeholders and partners will be identified and engaged with.

### 4.2.2 Stimulation

1. What will be done to stimulate interest and engagement (links to 'Education' and 'Guide' sections below)

### 4.2.3 Education

1. What information is to be supplied and why
2. How this information will be provided
3. Sources of information (will BCC or the LEP provide a portal?)
4. How any missing information will be identified and provided. The new involvement of the NEP will help to resolve this issue.
5. How will information be kept up to date?

## 4.3 Guide

### 4.3.1 Leadership

1. Identification of who will lead the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy development and the approach to ensure that the strategy is properly implemented. This will

require the process that will be used to develop an appropriate 'delivery body' to be identified and what will trigger any transfer of ownership of the Energy Strategy and the associated delivery targets to this body.

2. Definition of the governance associated with Strategy management, especially as this may involve transfer of leadership between organisations as the Strategy evolves.

#### 4.3.2 Facilitation/partnership

1. Identification of the target partner organisations required to deliver the Energy Strategy and how links with them will be made (including the private sector/financiers/developer partners, etc.)
2. What is the approach to identification and sharing of best practice/experience of practitioners, etc?
3. What is the approach to linking in with funding bodies such as central government and the local LEP?

#### 4.3.3 Support

1. How will the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy put in place means to support and 'join together' those interested in delivering energy projects in the county (links to communication, education and pump priming activities)?
2. What is the role of others and how will these activities be funded?
3. Will a bespoke activity be formed, or others expanded, to accommodate this 'support' activity?

### 4.4 Control

#### 4.4.1 Policy

1. How will planning and other policies be aligned with the Energy Strategy across the county?
2. How will barriers be identified and removed?

#### 4.4.2 Markets

1. What will be done to try and unlock other practical support such as making council and other energy markets available to local suppliers?
2. How will other public and private sector organisations be encouraged to select local energy supply? (For instance – the brand/CR benefits of local businesses supporting local community energy suppliers)
3. What role might new development play in providing either a market or funding for community energy? (Developers may value local community groups supplying low carbon energy to their development rather than installing low carbon technology themselves or may prefer to invest in 'off-site' projects – subject to local planning policy agreement)

#### 4.4.3 Pump priming

1. How will appropriate pump priming activities be identified?
2. How will these activities be funded, administered and monitored (Government funding may be available)?

### 4.5 Review

1. The lifespan of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy (20 to 25 years suggested)
2. When it will be reviewed (every 3 to 5 years suggested)

3. How the review will be undertaken
4. What the success criteria will be and how these will be measured.

## 5 Proposed follow up activities

The strong feeling of the workshop was that there should quickly (within 2 months) be a follow up meeting at which a better developed outline Energy Strategy should be presented and discussed. Clearly – this must build on the outcomes of the initial workshop.

To achieve this, the above contents need to be expanded by the addition of some proposed approaches. The objective here is to gain support for these, many of which are likely to require significant changes to ‘business as usual’ and thus time and other input from stakeholders.

The Agenda for this meeting could be:

1. ‘Chatham House Rules’ discussions on the real barriers that have been encountered to energy project development in the county which the Energy Strategy must overcome.
2. Presentation of the three areas (Influence, Guide, Support) and the activities/approaches that are being proposed.
3. Open forum feedback/discussion involving ‘live’ re-drafting of the sections in response to feedback/barrier identification. This will focus attendees on delivering an outcome and will do so in a way designed to achieve consensus.

The outcome of this workshop will then be an agreed Strategy contents in a fuller format that will allow drafting of a complete ‘Version 1’ document including better information on the barriers to be overcome to inform the detailed contents of this document. In this way, within 2 months (June) the ‘Version 1’ document can be presented, reviewed and redrafted, keeping the pressure on delivery of the final strategy.

The ‘barriers’ identification activity will allow specific separate discussion of these issues by relevant Officers and others within the County. The objective here is to ensure that the Energy Strategy will overcome known barriers and that they will not be ‘swept under the carpet’ in a way that will prevent successful Energy Strategy implementation.



# Appendices

Appendix 1: Prospectus

Appendix 2: Initial high level draft Energy Strategy

Appendix 3: Outcomes from the Breakout groups

# Appendix 1 - Prospectus

# Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy

Introductory prospectus for stakeholders in  
Buckinghamshire



**South Bucks**  
District Council



**Chiltern**  
District Council



## This document

This document is designed to provide you with enough background information that you need in order for you to participate in the development of the new Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy, irrespective of whether you can attend the planned workshop on the morning of 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 or not.

The document is deliberately short and does not go into detail. As the Energy Strategy will be focussed on benefit and not technology or targets, the main emphasis of the information provided is therefore on benefits to the county and not technology. In this way the selection and deployment of a given technology will be as a means of providing the specific benefits being sought and not a means to an end in its own right. Please note that the Workshop will also focus not on detail, but on creating a high level vision of what the Energy Strategy should deliver.

We have also included some development Scenarios for you to consider. The objective of these is to gain your views on the various approaches that might be taken within the Energy Strategy. In each case, the assumptions that are behind the Scenario are explained and a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of each is also supplied.

By providing your initial feedback on these options we will be able to better focus the workshop activities based on the emerging consensus view. In order to ensure your attendance and that of other key players, the workshop will only occupy a morning.

The outcomes from the Workshop will be used as the basis for the development of the final Strategy and associated Action Plans.

Finally, please feel free to pass a copy of this document pack and feedback questions to others who you think can add value to the process of developing an Energy Strategy in the county.

# The potential benefits from energy generating projects

## Social benefits

There are a number of social benefits that can come from controlling the local supply of energy. These fall into the following general categories:-

**Alleviation of fuel poverty** Fuel poverty is a social issue that will grow as fossil fuel prices rise on the international market, especially as demand rises post-recession. This will impact most on those on low incomes in poor housing, or households in rural areas away from the gas network.

While programmes like ECO and Green Deal can improve building energy efficiency for those in fuel poverty, there is a risk that those managing these schemes will focus less on relatively affluent counties like Buckinghamshire. Energy efficiency is not part of this Strategy but is being taken forward separately within the county.

Increasing energy supply cost will remain the biggest risk factor for those in fuel poverty.

Electricity generating technologies that do not need purchased fuel to drive them have the capacity to supply electricity through the supply network at a fixed price for the life of the technology (typically 25 years). Developing or owning projects with this in mind is now possible for the community, Local Authority or Housing Associations. Example technologies are wind, solar photovoltaic (PV) and hydro.

Heat supply from locally produced fuels like biomass (wood) should lead to lower price inflation pressures than fossil fuels. It also means that the money spent on fuel will remain in the local economy to the benefit of local people.

### Creation of jobs

This can occur at a number of levels. Energy generation projects being developed locally can be done with the express intent of using local suppliers, installers and maintenance staff wherever possible.

As described above, it is possible to provide 'inflation proofed' electricity from some renewable energy technologies. Putting this benefit on offer can attract inward investment and thus job creation, increasing the local GDP. It will also reinforce

Buckinghamshire as a good place to invest relative to competing locations.

Moving to large scale biomass uptake will also create rural jobs and at the same time create the means by which woodlands can be brought back into management. This will further enhance job retention/creation and can enhance Buckinghamshire's reputation as a good place to live, work, visit and enjoy.

### **Social resilience**

The opportunities open to communities to create their own income streams from energy and the potential for self-supply creates the potential for communities to become more resilient and self-supporting. Examples are the capacity to create community infrastructure such as social or leisure facilities or even to subsidise transport giving the community wider access to local services.

The National Trust has recently published a paper describing these benefits with some examples from its Estate (see <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/document-1355801605221/> ).

Many of these benefits are closely linked to the incomes that can be gained from owning low carbon energy generation or from community contributions from developers of energy schemes.

## **Economic benefits**

Energy generation can provide a stable cash flow over a long period of time. Changes to the energy market also allow more people to generate and sell energy, making self or local community supply possible. As described above, this cash flow and the profits from it can be used to deliver many benefits to the people of Buckinghamshire. Indeed, few other opportunities offer the range, size and longevity of economic benefits that can be achieved through an energy project.

The government has put in place a range of financial support schemes designed to promote the uptake of energy projects. These range from the Renewables Obligation (RO), the Feed in Tariff (FiT), the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) plus specific incentives for projects like the proposed new nuclear projects.

It must also be recognised that energy projects have the capacity to recycle large amounts of additional money around the community in which they are based increasing local economic activity and resilience. This is especially so where local fuels such as biomass are bought. Based on past experience the impact of this new local investment can provide a four-fold enhancement of local economic performance.

So that communities can enjoy these benefits the government has set up a £15m Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF). This is aimed at helping rural communities in England to access funding to carry out feasibility studies for renewable energy projects and fund pre-planning studies and preparation of planning applications.

While all energy consumers and taxpayers pay the cost of these support schemes, only those with generation projects of their own have any of this money returning to them. As a county which has a relatively low uptake of renewable energy, Buckinghamshire sees a net outflow of money from the county to support projects elsewhere. This will also lead to lower social benefits within the county of the kind described previously.

Increasingly, it is recognised that developers of energy schemes should in some way compensate local people out of the profits from the project. For example, wind energy developers have produced a protocol covering larger schemes which sees at least £1,000/Megawatt/year returned to the community (see <http://www.renewableuk.com/en/renewable-energy/communities-and-energy/community-benefits-protocol/index.cfm> ). For reference, most single large onshore wind turbines are in the size range 0.5 to 3 Megawatts. In Scotland the community benefits paid from wind alone currently tops £5 million/year. The point to note here is that this level of payment is only possible because of the high inherent value of the project. All of this value can potentially be available to local people if the community and/or Council drive the development.

Local energy supply and use based on new technologies can also overcome the economic inequality gaps that exist when energy is only found in a small number of locations. For example, when coal was a major fuel, South Wales was economically vibrant and everyone in the community had access to affordable fuel, which was not always the case elsewhere. With the decline in the production of coal the same area now has social deprivation and fuel poverty as fuel is bought in from other locations. This means that ensuring energy supply is sustainable and local is essential to underpin a stable local economy and thus to ensure the continued success of Buckinghamshire into the future.

## Policy benefits

With dwindling incomes, the public sector often struggles to meet all of its policy objectives. As demonstrated above, the correct approach to energy generation projects can yield benefits which can be aligned with some identified policy needs. This can come from either additional direct income or by displacing costs such as those associated with dealing with the social impact of fuel poverty.

In addition, by focussing an Energy Strategy on achieving volume in the sector, other benefits such as better woodland management and enhanced timber values in the long term as a result of wood fuel extraction can also be encouraged.

It is also the case that most of the opportunities highlighted are associated with renewable energy. This means that the benefits from carbon reduction come 'for free' as an associated benefit.

A change in approach to local policy around energy deployment is likely to bring many linked benefits as outlined above. Clarity on the kinds of energy projects that are likely to be supported in the county will create the potential to proactively approach developers and financiers directly to achieve these outcomes. This will reduce the risks for all parties and is likely to be welcomed.

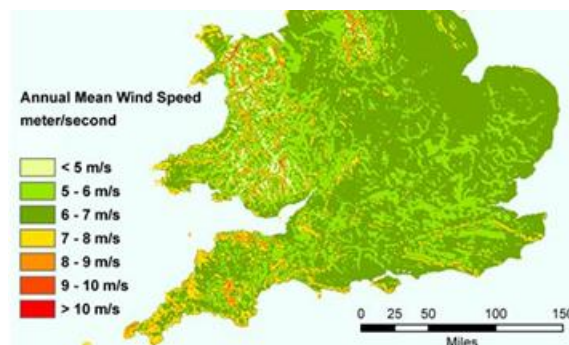
An Energy Strategy will also allow those planning development of electricity and gas grid networks to plan with more certainty future network routes and investment activities. This in turn has the potential to unlock inward investment based on increased network capacity.

# Energy opportunities in Buckinghamshire

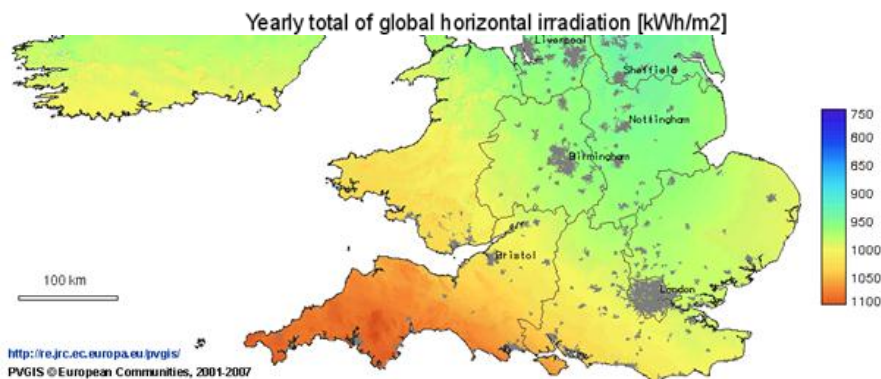
## Energy resources

Buckinghamshire has reasonably good availability of energy resources, although these are not among the best in the country.

Looking at the electricity generation resources, the map below shows annual wind speeds. In general, economically viable wind speeds are considered to be 6 metres per second or higher. The UK is one of the best places in Europe for wind energy and Buckinghamshire has some areas that offer sufficiently high wind speeds to be attractive for viable wind development. This is confirmed as a number of applications to develop large scale schemes have been made in the county.



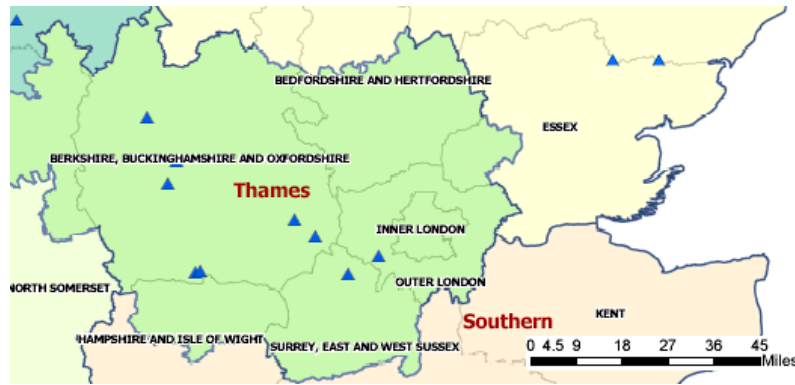
The situation for solar photovoltaic (PV) is broadly similar. Buckinghamshire is in the high to mid-range of solar energy yield making it capable of supporting development of solar electricity generation projects at all scales. This is shown in the solar irradiation map below.



Clearly solar thermal (heat production) yields rank in the same way as for solar PV.

Based on a recent national study, the hydroelectricity potential of the county is poor, with only seven sites found in the survey area that combined Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. These are shown on the map below. Small, low-head schemes may be possible on an opportunistic basis wherever there is a consistent flow of water, but these are likely to be marginally economically viable because of the low energy yield.





## Combustion fuels

Combustion fuels are clearly targeted at heat applications, but at the larger scale combined heat and power is possible. Within the county, waste represents the largest single source of available combustion fuel. In April 2013 the County Council signed a contract to build and operate an Energy from Waste facility at Greatmoor with FCC Environment. In addition, Agrivert and Countrystyle Group have been awarded interim biowaste treatment contracts. These contracts tie up a large proportion of the available waste.

In the case of wood fuel, 9.4% of Buckinghamshire’s area is woodland (approximately 17,573 ha). The Chilterns AONB has an overall woodland cover of 21% (nearly 17,400 hectares), much of which is dominated by beech high forest. Within the Chilterns AONB there are approximately 450 woodland owners, with 75% of the woodland resource in private ownership.

Forestry Commission has estimated the wood fuel resource from the South East. This is shown in the Table below.

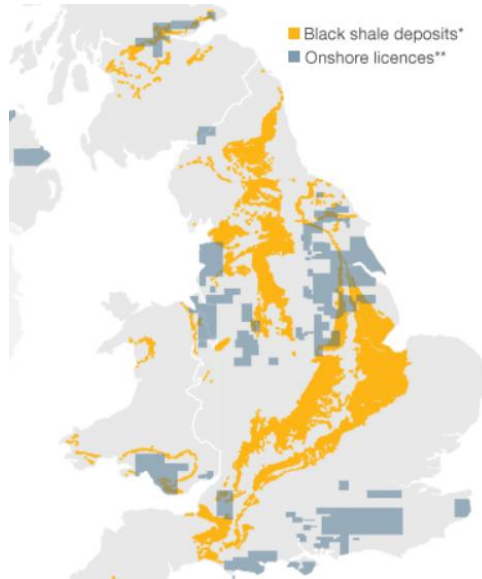
Woodfuels Summary Table

	Forest and Woodland (ODT)	Arboricultural Arisings (ODT)	Short Rotation Coppice (ODT)	Primary Processing Co-Products (ODT)
South East	446,396	144,645	792	22,191

Figures are given in oven-dry tonnes. Woodfuel will never be delivered at this moisture content. Typical moisture contents will vary from 50-60% (measured on a fresh weight basis) for harvesting brush to 25-30% for conditioned woodchips. Figures are estimates of the annual sustainable production that can be made available taking account of technical and environmental constraints. They do not take account of economic or market constraints.

The above table indicates that there is enough fuel available from this area alone to support a major wood heating programme, with more fuel available from the areas to the north of the county.

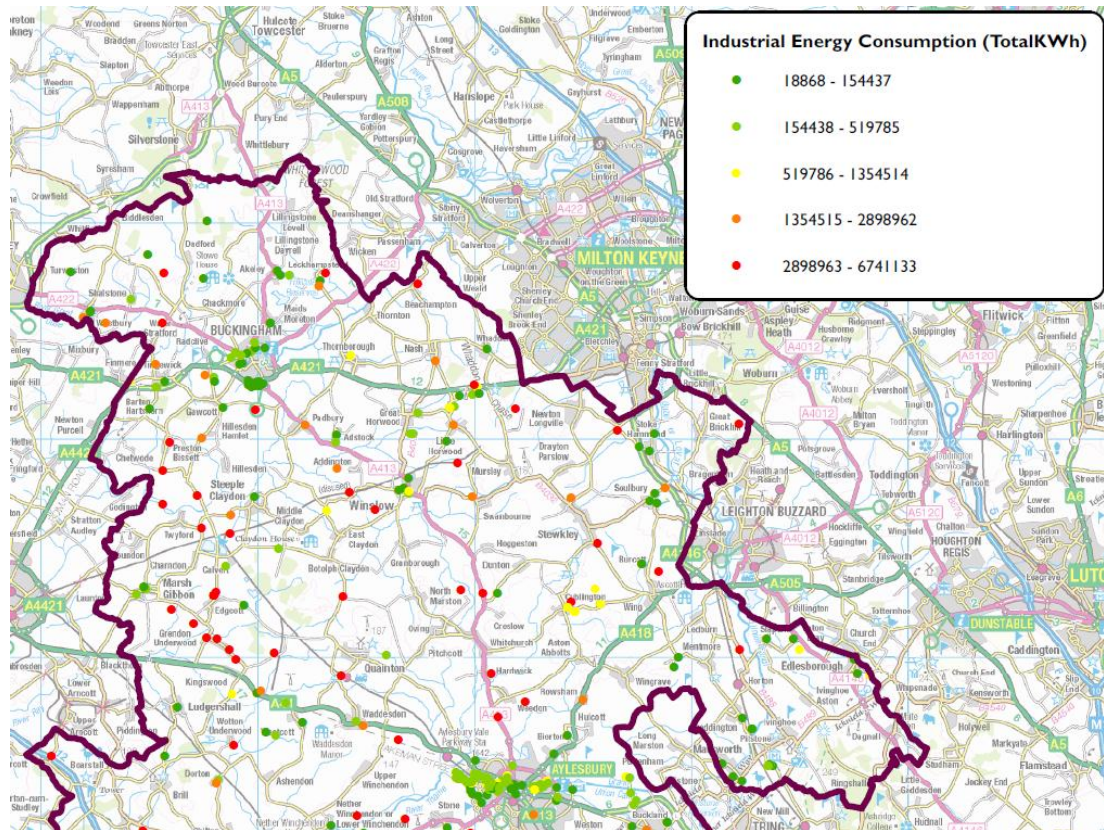
The map below shows the distribution of shale gas across the UK. According to information from DECC, despite having significant shale gas deposits, geology and other reasons make it currently unlikely that Buckinghamshire will be a strong candidate for commercial scale shale gas extraction. However, this remains a possibility in the future as the government has indicated support for the extraction of UK shale gas.



## Energy markets

While electricity will always find a ready market through sale into the national grid, heat requires local supply and use.

Buckinghamshire County Council has recently completed a heat mapping exercise. This has identified the location, size and intensity of heat demand as a means of identifying potential heat markets in the county. The map below is one example of some of the output from this work. It shows point sources of industrial heat demand and the magnitude of that demand.

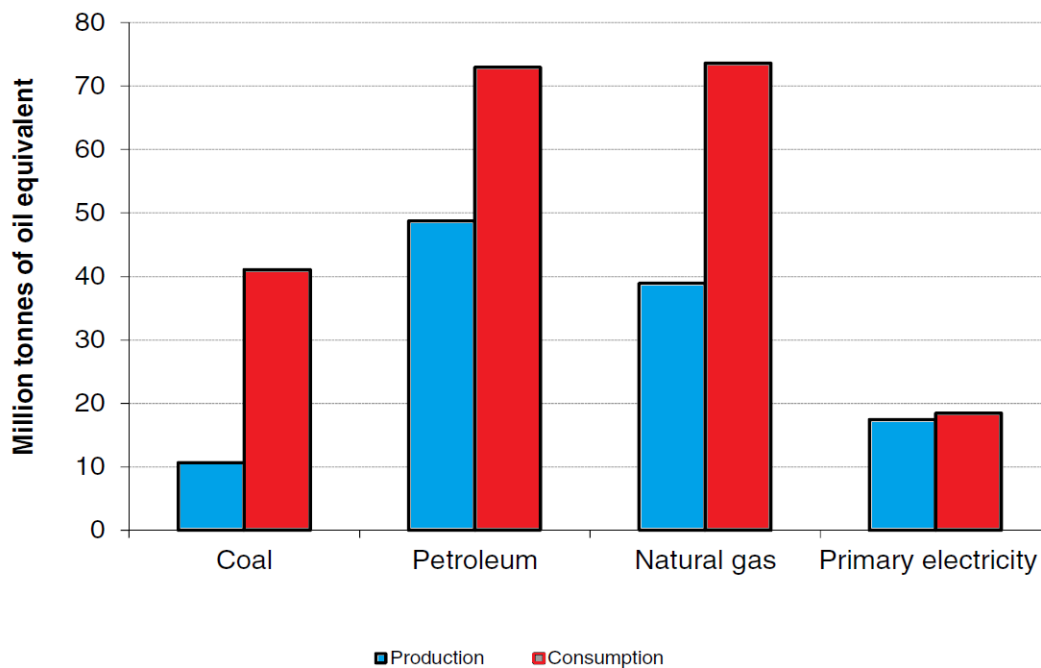


## Conclusions

From the evidence shown above, Buckinghamshire has enough resource potential to benefit from significant energy development in support of a new Energy Strategy.

# The Position of Buckinghamshire in the national energy supply picture

The graph below shows the UK production and consumption of primary fuels. Primary electricity is generated from sources other than the primary fuels shown. Examples are nuclear and renewable energy. This graph clearly demonstrates that the UK is a net importer of all fuel types.



## Traditional power generation

The map below shows the location of major fossil fuel power stations. With the recent closure of Didcot 'A' coal fired power station, all of those in the vicinity of Buckinghamshire are now gas-fired. There are no fossil fuel power stations within the county.

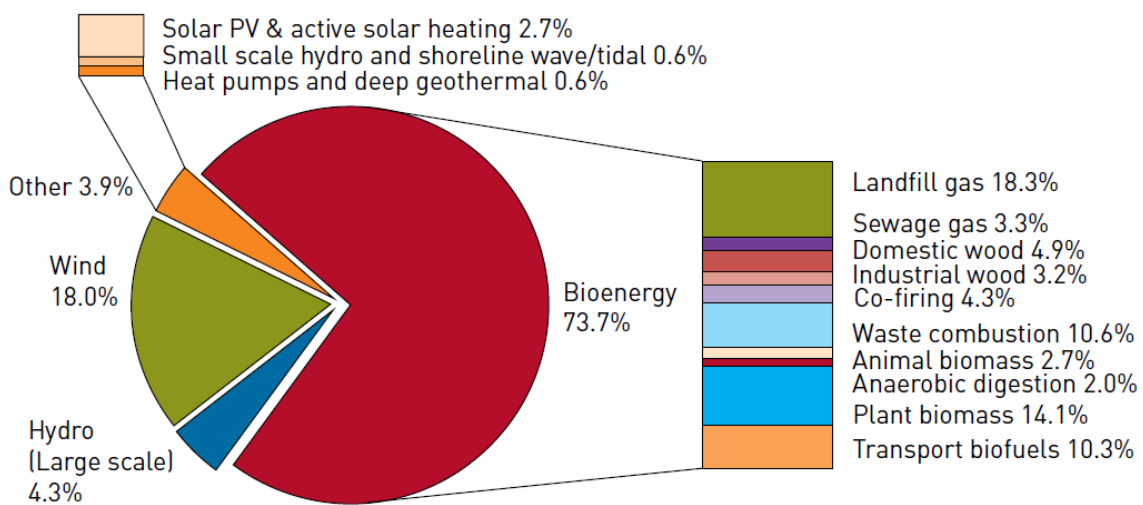


## Renewable energy

### Renewable fuels

The term renewable fuel refers to fuels used for activities other than power generation, including where solar PV is used only to provide heat. In 2012, renewables supplied 9,336 thousand (9.36 million) tonnes of oil equivalent (the governments standard unit of measure). The breakdown of this supply is shown below.

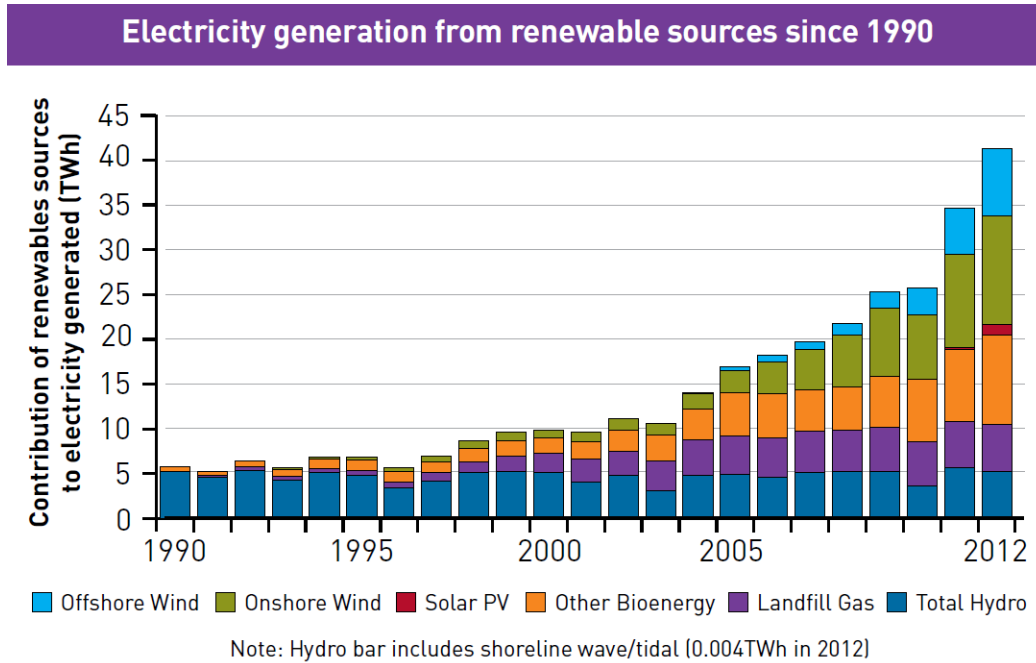
### Renewable energy sources, 2012



Total renewables used = 9,336 thousand tonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe)

### Renewable electricity supply

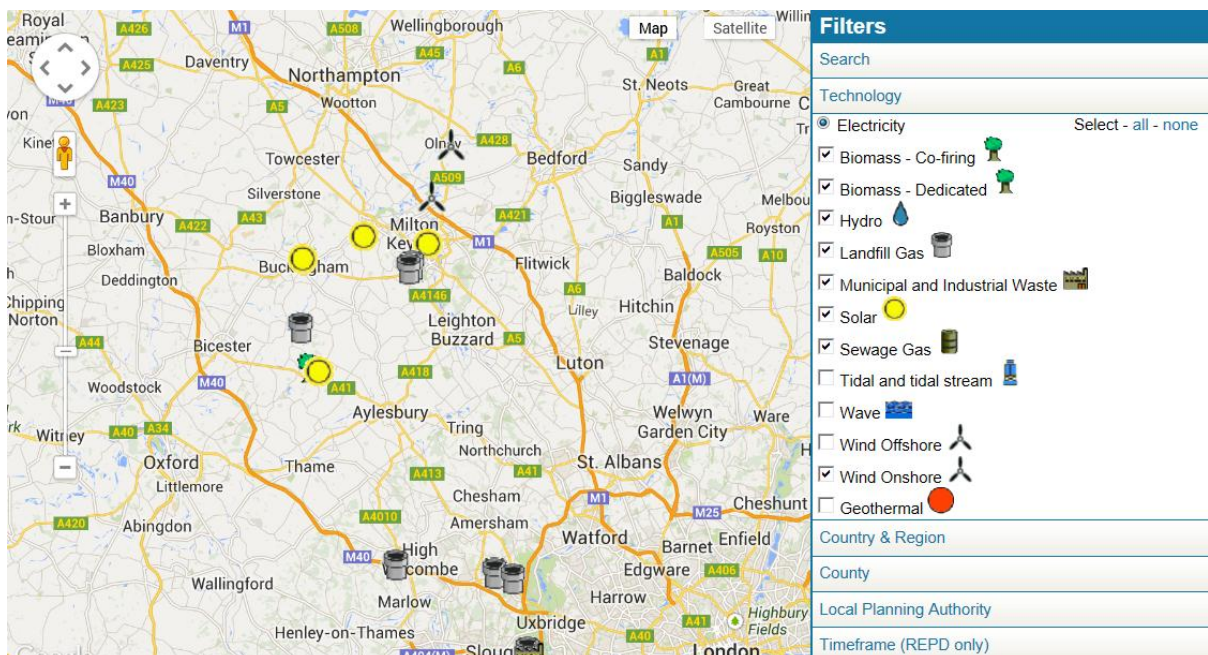
In 2012, renewable electricity supplied 11.3% of UK demand, which is up by a fifth on the previous year. The chart below shows the breakdown of these sources of electricity for the UK and how their contribution has changed in recent years.



### Renewable energy in Buckinghamshire.

In Buckinghamshire, renewable energy sources currently account for 3.2 % of the county’s energy needs. This is below the Government’s national target of 15% by 2020.

The map below shows renewable energy projects that are either operating or are under construction. Currently no wind projects are operating in the county, but three planning applications have been rejected for wind projects sized at 10MW, 0.8MW and 0.02MW.



## Conclusions

As a county with a relatively low uptake of renewable energy, Buckinghamshire sees a net outflow of money from the county to support projects elsewhere. It is also not enjoying the social and economic benefits associated with these projects. For instance, had the 10MW wind project proposed for the county been built, based on £1,000/MW/y of developer contribution and a 25y operating life, it would have returned £250,000 to the local community.

Whilst government policy in this area appears to be in a state of flux, the UK's international commitments remain in place including the requirement to meet EU targets for renewables by 2020. This is likely to mean that Buckinghamshire will be expected to increase its contribution to renewable energy at some point in the future. Through the new Energy Strategy, there is real potential to do this in a way which is focussed on people based benefit, turning local energy development into opportunities and not threats.

# Development Scenarios

## 1 – Business as usual

### Assumptions within this Scenario:

- There is no particular interest in developing energy opportunities in the county even where they might lead to social or economic benefit.
- No government pressure is applied to increase the rate of renewable energy generation
- There are no changes to approach in Buckinghamshire to planning applications for renewable energy
- The public does not apply pressure to have more energy projects in the county
- Incentives associated with the development of renewable energy projects do not increase over current levels
- No efforts are made to influence energy supply/energy infrastructure are made by the County Council or others
- Energy efficiency measures continue to be developed as currently being proposed.

### As a result the Scenario is:

- Any new energy developments in Buckinghamshire will be opportunistic.
- Energy developments will occur at locations selected by the developer not the community.
- The lack of clarity over what (if anything) comprises an 'acceptable' energy development will be seen as a risk by developers who will seek to invest elsewhere.
- Local benefits will be few (if any) and the people of Buckinghamshire will continue to be net donors of money to schemes delivering benefit elsewhere.
- As the availability of low carbon energy becomes more important to inward investors, Buckinghamshire will potentially miss out to competing locations.
- Associated benefits from employment in the energy sector, local fuel supply, etc. will be minimal.
- Buckinghamshire will continue to fall behind government targets meaning that potentially 'catch-up' activities may be required which may lead to less well considered outcomes relative to planned development.
- Buckinghamshire is in entirely 'reactive' mode when considering energy developments.
- There will be no insulation from the effect of fuel price rises from local energy generation and use.



**SWOT analysis - Business as usual Scenario**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes needed to current approach</li> <li>• May be seen as low risk by some</li> <li>• Currently politically acceptable locally and nationally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social and economic benefits from energy projects will be minimal or non-existent</li> <li>• County not getting its 'fair share' of money to support energy projects.</li> <li>• A 'reactive' approach means that the developer will lead and will select sites and technologies to suit their business needs not the needs of local people.</li> <li>• Buckinghamshire will become increasingly marginalised as the UK moves towards a lower carbon economy</li> <li>• The 'do nothing' option may increasingly be seen as weak and may become increasingly untenable.</li> <li>• While energy efficiency measures will make some impact on energy costs, the benefits from energy generation will be lost</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No opportunities are associated with the business as usual scenario</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inward investment may go elsewhere</li> <li>• Lack of proactivity may make the county vulnerable if major development such as 'fracking' is proposed in the county.</li> <li>• Lack of financial benefits from energy projects will mean that the public sector will continue to bear the growing cost burden associated with fuel poverty, unemployment and other activities that can potentially be addressed through new approaches to energy development.</li> <li>• The Local Authorities in the County will become increasingly involved with meeting the financial and social cost of fuel poverty.</li> <li>• Communities within the county will become less resilient and increasingly impoverished from a financial and infrastructure perspective.</li> <li>• No insulation from energy prices rises due to local energy supply and use</li> </ul>

## 2 – High Social Benefit

### Assumptions within this Scenario:

- A proactive approach is taken within the county to develop energy projects that will deliver clear social benefits and it is these benefits which are the target.
- These benefits are so clear and universally accepted that 'NIMBY' attitudes are largely marginalised
- The local political framework within the county aligns to support this approach
- Current government support mechanisms persist.
- Steps are taken to engage with the community and with other groups to encourage them to become involved with or to lead and “have a say” in the development
- Project returns do not have to be optimal as long as they give benefit over the life of the project and can be financed.
- Energy network operators are supportive and where possible facilitate grid connection, power transmission, etc.

### This makes the Scenario:

- Buckinghamshire's Councils take a proactive leadership role to drive the development of socially beneficial energy projects in the county, including taking a development role where appropriate.
- All community focussed renewable energy projects are supported (especially through the planning system) irrespective of location.
- Buckinghamshire (through its Local Authorities) actively seek government support by attracting grants and other support mechanisms to support delivery of social benefit.
- Local policy supports the development of those energy projects which bring tangible social benefit.
- Local policy and other measures specifically aligned to facilitate socially beneficial energy development.
- Steps are put in place to stimulate the formation of community groups and to promote their active participation in energy project developments where they will benefit
- Local Authorities within the county actively support energy projects bringing social benefit such as by making their own energy market available for local supply.
- Local Authorities within the county seek and bring in investment and support from local energy network providers to facilitate the development of socially beneficial energy projects and infrastructure within the county.
- The Councils in the county take steps to signal that the county is 'open for business' in terms of energy project development where these bring clear social benefit.
- (As in Scotland) the Councils publish their expectations on community benefit payments from energy projects developed by third parties (i.e. non community groups from outside of the county)
- Net inflow into the county of investment supporting energy projects relative to local spend on 'green' taxes to support these activities.
- The Councils in the county develop a clear policy on gas shale fracking that identifies the high social benefits and community payments that they seek from any developments of this nature
- Communities benefiting from incomes from energy projects become more resilient and able to invest to secure their own future

- Government targets met or exceeded without the need for any further intervention

### SWOT analysis - High Social Benefit Scenario

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otherwise unavailable social benefits flow</li> <li>• Clear leadership is demonstrated</li> <li>• More resilient communities formed</li> <li>• (Potentially) Council budgets will not be drawn into increasingly costly support for energy poor families</li> <li>• Demonstrates Buckinghamshire as a good place to invest, work and live</li> <li>• Net inflow of investment and government grants/support funding into the county</li> <li>• Reduced investor risk leads to more developer interest and thus potentially more private sector investment to deliver these social benefits</li> <li>• No pressure from government to increase renewable contribution targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear social benefit may still not overcome NIMBYism</li> <li>• Lack of capacity and skills within the county in this area</li> <li>• Past poor performance of the county in granting planning for renewables may create a legacy of distrust in the developer/investor community.</li> <li>• Relies on a large number of organisations, policies, etc. aligning</li> <li>• No clear 'delivery body' appears to be in place</li> <li>• May require 'seed corn funding' in a time of shrinking budgets</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential opening up of the Councils own energy markets to de-risk and support implementation of this approach</li> <li>• The public land assets across the county that might potentially support generation projects</li> <li>• Currently available funds/support mechanisms from government</li> <li>• Rising energy prices creating a major driver for switching to renewables</li> <li>• Reduced technical risk from low carbon technologies which are now mature</li> <li>• Availability of investment funds for the 'right' projects.</li> <li>• Likelihood of support from large private sector organisations through their CSR interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government support may dry up</li> <li>• National policy moves away from the encouragement of renewables</li> <li>• Active revolt within the county as a result from the greater uptake of 'visual' renewables such as wind.</li> <li>• Unless this scenario is delivered in a bold and credible way with some 'quick wins' there is danger of the approach falling into disrepute.</li> </ul>

## 3 – High Economic Benefit

### Assumptions within this Scenario:

- The county takes a proactive approach to energy development based on the economic benefits it can bring
- Social issues are not a priority
- Projects will be developed to maximise return however possible
- Likely to be led by those enjoying maximum benefit, which may focus more on the private sector
- Planning focusses on viability triggers to ensure only the best projects get built
- All economic benefits may not be retained in the county
- Larger schemes will likely be favoured
- Investors will see the county as a good place to invest in energy projects.

### This makes the Scenario:

- Buckinghamshire's Councils take proactive leadership roles to drive the development of economically beneficial energy projects in the county, including taking a development role where appropriate.
- All economically beneficial renewable energy projects are supported (especially through the planning system) irrespective of location (although specific environmental designations such as SSSIs and AONBs are still respected).
- Local policy supports the development of energy projects bringing economic benefit.
- Local policy and other measures are specifically aligned to facilitate economically beneficial energy development.
- Steps are put in place to stimulate the identification and development of economically beneficial energy project developments, especially in the private sector.
- Local Authorities within the county actively support energy projects such as by making their own energy market available for local supply.
- The Councils in the county seek investment and support from local energy network providers to facilitate the development of economically beneficial energy projects within the county.
- The local Councils take steps to signal that the county is 'open for business' in terms of energy project development where these bring clear economic benefit.
- Government targets met or exceeded without the need for any further intervention
- Higher cash flow within the local economy yield additional spin-off economic benefits
- Greater economic resilience, especially against the effects of rising energy prices.
- Industry within the county can potentially be more cost competitive

**SWOT analysis - High Economic Benefit Scenario**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otherwise unavailable economic benefits flow into the county and GVA increases</li> <li>• Clear leadership is demonstrated</li> <li>• (Potentially) Council budgets can be augmented by income from energy schemes</li> <li>• Demonstrates Buckinghamshire as a good place to invest.</li> <li>• Net inflow of investment and government grants/support funding into the county</li> <li>• Reduced investor risk leads to more developer interest and thus potentially more private sector investment to deliver these economic benefits</li> <li>• No pressure from government to increase renewable contribution targets</li> <li>• Greater economic resilience</li> <li>• Enhanced brand strength for Buckinghamshire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just providing economic benefit is unlikely to overcome NIMBYism</li> <li>• Lack of capacity and skills within the county in to drive energy development</li> <li>• Past poor performance of the county in granting planning for renewables may create a legacy of distrust in the developer/investor community.</li> <li>• Relies on a large number of organisations, policies, etc. aligning</li> <li>• No clear 'delivery body' appears to be in place</li> <li>• May require 'seed corn funding' in a time of shrinking budgets</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential opening up of the Councils own energy markets to de-risk and support implementation of this approach</li> <li>• The public land assets across the county that can be made available for energy project development</li> <li>• Currently available funds/support mechanisms from government</li> <li>• Rising energy prices creating a major driver for switching to renewables</li> <li>• Reduced technical risk from low carbon technologies which are now mature</li> <li>• Availability of investment funds for the 'right' projects.</li> <li>• Likelihood of interest from the private sector as a means of reducing operating cost, reducing business competitiveness and increasing resilience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government support may be withdrawn</li> <li>• National policy moves away from the encouragement of renewables</li> <li>• Active revolt within the county as a result from the greater uptake of 'visual' renewables such as wind.</li> <li>• Unless this is scenario is delivered in a bold and credible way with some 'quick wins' there is danger of the approach falling into disrepute.</li> </ul>

## 4 – Resource Led Approach

### Assumptions within this Scenario:

- This is a maximum deployment scenario - all viable renewable and low carbon energy sources will be exploited wherever possible.
- The presumption within the county is that energy development will go ahead with no unreasonable barriers put in place although environmental designations (SSSI, ANOB, etc.) will still influence planning decisions
- Social or economic issues are not a priority although some of these benefits will flow opportunistically as a result
- Constraints such as grid connection, access, etc. will limit deployment
- All organisations within the county have the potential to become involved in and benefit from energy generation where viable resource exists
- Energy resources such as waste heat, commercial waste, etc. will be actively encouraged into energy generation.
- A 'liberal' attitude to energy development will attract inward investment

### This makes the Scenario:

- Buckinghamshire's Councils take a proactive leadership role to drive the development of energy projects in the county, including taking a development role where appropriate.
- All viable renewable energy projects are supported (especially through the planning system) irrespective of location.
- Local policy supports the development of energy projects of all kinds.
- Local policy and other measures are specifically aligned to facilitate energy development.
- Steps are put in place to stimulate the identification and development of viable energy project developments.
- Local Authorities within the county actively support energy projects such as by making their own energy market available for local supply.
- The Councils in the county seek investment and support from local energy network providers to facilitate the development of energy projects within the county.
- The county through its Councils takes steps to signal that the county is open for business in terms of energy project development.
- Government targets met or exceeded without the need for any further intervention
- New local industry will form around this 'new' market sector.
- Buckinghamshire derives maximum benefit from new energy opportunities based on the energy resources available within the county.

### SWOT Analysis – Resource Led Scenario

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximises the benefits from local energy resources.</li> <li>• Clear leadership is demonstrated</li> <li>• (Potentially) Council budgets can be augmented by income from energy schemes</li> <li>• Demonstrates Buckinghamshire as a good place to invest.</li> <li>• Maximum inflow of investment and government grants/support funding into the county</li> <li>• Reduced investor risk leads to more developer interest and thus potentially more private sector investment to deliver these economic benefits</li> <li>• No pressure from government to increase renewable contribution targets</li> <li>• While not a specific target, social and economic benefits will come to the county</li> <li>• New local industries will be created</li> <li>• Buckinghamshire known as a high renewable energy/low carbon/high sustainability county and this enhances brand strength and inward investment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of capacity and skills within the county in to drive significant energy development</li> <li>• Past poor performance of the county in granting planning for renewables may create a legacy of distrust in the developer/investor community.</li> <li>• Relies on a large number of organisations, policies, etc. aligning</li> <li>• No clear ‘delivery body’ appears to be in place</li> <li>• May require ‘seed corn funding’ in a time of shrinking budgets</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently available funds/support mechanisms from government</li> <li>• Rising energy prices creating a major driver for switching to renewables</li> <li>• Reduced technical risk from low carbon technologies which are now mature</li> <li>• Availability of investment funds for the ‘right’ projects.</li> <li>• Likelihood of interest from the private sector as a means of reducing operating cost, reducing business competitiveness and increasing resilience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likely to promote significant backlash among local people opposed to energy development which may cause political support for this approach to reduce</li> <li>• Government support may dry up undermining this approach</li> <li>• National policy moves away from the encouragement of renewables</li> <li>• Unless this scenario is delivered in a bold and credible way with some ‘quick wins’ there is danger of the approach falling into disrepute</li> </ul>



# Your Feedback

We would value your initial reactions and feedback to the idea of developing an Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire. We will then use these to produce an initial idea of what this Energy Strategy might look like for further discussion at the workshop that we will run on the morning of 18 February 2014.

To help you to provide your feedback we have provided some questions for you in a separate document called Your Feedback.

# Appendix 2 – Initial high level draft Energy Strategy

# Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy

## A high-level initial draft for discussion



**South Bucks**  
District Council



**Chiltern**  
District Council



## Background

The councils of Buckinghamshire and other stakeholders have identified the value of having an Energy Strategy for the county as a means of unlocking the social and economic benefits from local energy supply and use. Action to increase the energy efficiency does not form part of this Energy Strategy as it is being covered by other initiatives across the county.

On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014 the government published its first ever Community Energy Strategy ([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/275163/2014\\_0126Community\\_Energy\\_Strategy.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275163/2014_0126Community_Energy_Strategy.pdf)). This government initiative recognises the value of community involvement in new energy generation and the benefits that will go to communities as a result. New funding and other support mechanisms are therefore being put in place to support this initiative.

The Buckinghamshire and Thames Valley LEP also has new funding available to support the development of new low carbon energy schemes, including providing support for cooperative groups. This is on a matched funding basis.

This makes the development of an Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire timely.

The process of Energy Strategy development starts with a workshop of key partners and stakeholders to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> February. In preparation for this, a 'prospectus' document was produced and distributed to a wide range of stakeholders and partners. This document gave the background to the current state of energy generation within Buckinghamshire and identified the potential local benefits from energy generation projects. It also contained the following four scenarios:

- Business as usual
- High social benefit
- High economic benefit
- Resource led approach (i.e. unconstrained development)

Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on these scenarios. This informed the development of the initial high level Energy Strategy presented in this document, the objective of which is to stimulate and inform debate and discussion at the forthcoming workshop.

It is important to note that this initial high level Energy Strategy does not in any way constitute a *fait accompli*. It merely provides the first step in a strategy development process which will extend beyond the workshop.

Please note that as a Strategy, the role of this document is to form the framework within which the creation of discrete Action Plans can occur. These will contain targets and timelines. These will be the subject of additional development actions once the Energy Strategy has been agreed.

## Results from the feedback obtained

Despite a large distribution of the 'prospectus' document and request for feedback, only nine responses were received, which is a 15% response rate. These responses have been anonymised and are included as High Level Initial Energy Strategy Appendix 1.

This low response is clearly disappointing. This in itself may be an indicator of a lack of understanding within the county about the opportunities offered by energy generation.

Of those that did respond, there was:

- Unanimous support for the development of an Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire.
- Only one supporter of the 'business as usual approach' to energy project development and then only because no alternative policy was in place.
- Unanimous support for the idea that there are social and economic benefits to be gained from energy projects. Comments were also supportive of the idea that these benefits should be exploited.
- A clear understanding of the strong link between social and economic benefit, with only one respondent calling for a 'social;' led strategy and one for an 'economic' led strategy. The majority identified the need for a balanced approach that delivers both social and economic benefits.
- Clear support from over half of the respondents for an unconstrained 'resource led' approach, with only one outright rejection. Of the three remaining respondents two did not comment specifically and one expressed uncertainty based only on their perception of public attitude.

## What do these results tell us?

Clearly, the low response rate does not allow any kind of definitive conclusions to be drawn from the responses received. However what is clear is that there is good support for the development of an Energy Strategy for the county on the proposed basis of focussing on benefits and not energy contribution targets. There is also general unease with the current 'business as usual' approach to energy project development.

Turning to the specific questions around the approach that the Energy Strategy should take, the responses received appear to align with the issues identified in the governments new Community Energy Strategy in that:

- There appears to be a lack of understanding or a communication gap which may be a barrier to energy project development. The low response rate achieved to the questions raised in the prospectus is likely to be evidence of this lack of understanding of the social and economic benefits that energy generation projects can have. This is because the responses received were all positive and so may indicate that where the available benefits are understood these engender support for exploiting them.
- It is agreed that there are commercial and social benefits to be gained from local energy projects.
- The perception of lack of support for energy projects is often misplaced and usually relates to situations where there is a lack of community involvement. This is confirmed by one respondent who cited concerns over public support as the only basis for not supporting the 'resource led' (and thus maximum development) approach. Another did not support either economic or social led approaches citing 'nimbyism' and lack of community support respectively as the reasons.

- The positive support for 'resource led' energy development from respondents appears to indicate more support for the development of energy projects than might have previously been thought.
- There is an identified need to change approach away from 'business as usual' if the available social and economic benefits from projects are to be exploited.

These results were used to inform the development of the initial high level Energy Strategy presented in this document.

## How this initial high level Energy Strategy was developed

The small number of responses received to the questions set prevents a completely 'respondent led' process by which this initial high level Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire could be developed. However, the strong correlation of responses with the information and evidence presented governments' Community Energy Strategy means that this document was used as a proxy to guide the process.

As identified in the previous 'prospectus' document, Buckinghamshire is starting from a relatively low level in terms of the number of energy projects within the county. This is despite a reasonable energy resource base being available and the identification of the benefits to the area of low carbon energy development by the local LEP.

The low level of activity means that it must be assumed that a starting point for the Energy Strategy must be one of education about the benefits and possibilities within the county and that a degree of capacity building will be required. The issue here is one of approach to capacity building. While the required skills and capabilities are present outside of the county to deliver the outcomes from an Energy Strategy, the major proposed objective of the Energy Strategy is to deliver an increase in Gross Value Added (GVA). This can best be achieved by supporting local capacity building and associated job creation activities and not simply 'buying them in'.

Given the high level of support for a social and economic benefit led approach, this initial high level Energy Strategy was developed on this basis. A consequence of this approach is that implementation of the strategy will be against a longer timeframe and may involve more cost. However, the additional support for community energy projects announced by the government as part of its new Community Energy Strategy may be available, especially for 'early adopters'. The local LEP has also identified the development of low carbon energy as an area to support. This makes linking in with and exploiting this new range of funding an important part of the Energy Strategy.

As identified in the governments Community Energy Strategy, there is a strong role for Local Authorities in taking forward local energy development, especially when it is community focussed. This can take many forms including providing local policy support, facilitation, coordination and providing seedcorn funding (potentially third party funded). These activities have therefore also been included in this high level initial Energy Strategy.

As mentioned earlier, the objective of this document is to stimulate debate and not to define the Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire. The document therefore suggests a structure for the Strategy with headings and possible contents. These are to be discussed and agreed at the workshop.

Against this background, the proposed structure for is set out under three areas:

- **Influence.** This recognises that if more community involvement in and public support for energy generation projects is required, that work is needed to:
  - Inform communities about the opportunities open to them
  - Stimulate the formation of community groups

- Support the community groups that form
- Educate and inform more widely across the county about the new Energy Strategy initiative.
- Link to and access government and LEP funding
- **Guide.** Partnerships (especially with the private sector) are key to the delivery of any Energy Strategy. Access to advice and good quality information is similarly essential. This requires:
  - 'Brokerage' with key service suppliers to reduce the cost and risk on a single project basis.
  - Communication between all parties in the 'development chain', especially the LEP.
  - Best practice guidance
  - Providing links and access to government and LEP funding
- **Control.** Many of the barriers to energy project deployment can be reduced by the councils in Buckinghamshire. Examples are:
  - Planning. Making the planning environment as supportive as possible for energy projects that bring benefit to the county while maintaining appropriate safeguards
  - Markets. Making council energy markets available to local suppliers can reduce the risk and cost of an energy project by providing guaranteed cash flow.
  - Policy. By aligning local policy to support energy development that provides local benefit, barriers will be removed and the county will be seen as 'open for business' when it comes to energy generation project development.
  - Pump priming. Facilitating the development of a small number of strategic projects to act as exemplars and to create volume in the development market will help guarantee the success of the Energy Strategy. Funding for this is likely to be available from central government or from the LEP.

The next section expands on the above with the objective of promoting debate and actions that lead to the development of an agreed Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire.

Please note that as a Strategy, the role of this document is to create the framework within which discrete Action Plans can be formed which will contain clear targets and timelines. These will be developed once the Energy Strategy has been agreed.

## An initial high level Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire

### Influence

Proposed Contents:

5. A clear vision of what the Energy Strategy is trying to achieve, for instance:

*Buckinghamshire will support the development of appropriate energy generation projects within the county favouring those that deliver local social and economic benefit.*

6. The objectives of the strategy

The high level of support for a 'resource led' approach to energy development means that the vision and objectives for the Energy Strategy can be ambitious and not constrained by the perceived views of the public provided that clear local benefit can

be demonstrated.

7. The approach that will be taken to communicate the vision and objectives within the county and beyond
8. How existing community groups that might have an interest will be identified and approached
9. How new community groups will be encouraged to form and engage with the strategy
10. How other stakeholders will be identified and engaged with.

There is clear support for developing energy projects that deliver economic and social benefit making it essential that they are undertaken in partnership with the local community. This is also the central focus of the government's approach to energy project development. The Energy Strategy should identify how this will be achieved in Buckinghamshire.

11. The role that the councils in Buckinghamshire will take in this activity and how other stakeholders and partners will be identified and engaged with.

The new government Community Energy Strategy identifies the role of the Local Authorities in taking a lead in energy project development and so identifying how this will be achieved should be a central part of the Energy Strategy.

## Guide

Proposed Contents:

1. Identification of sources of data and information to support the Energy Strategy and how these will be made available/signposted
2. Identification of the target partner organisations required to deliver the Energy strategy and how links with them will be made (including the private sector/financiers/developer partners, etc.)
3. Approach to identification and sharing of best practice/experience of practitioners, etc.
4. Approach to linking in with funding bodies such as central government and the local LEP.

The government has identified in its Community Energy Strategy the need to make sure that local people have the access to the information and resources that they need in order to make informed decisions about their involvement in energy projects. At the same time, where they want to partner with specialist developers, investors, etc. this requires access to these groups. The Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy must identify how this will be achieved in the county and what role the councils in the county will take.

## Control

Proposed Contents:

1. Identification of who will take the lead in delivering the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy
2. How planning policy will be aligned with the Energy Strategy



### 3. How other policy will be aligned with the Energy Strategy

In order to take a leading role in the implementation of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy the councils within the county must make it central to their suite of policies and should identify ways to remove development barriers. The most important of these is planning which, as far as possible, should be supportive to energy projects that bring local benefit while maintaining appropriate safeguards. To be credible, the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy should identify how these policy outcomes will be achieved.

### 4. What other practical support will be offered (e.g. making council energy markets available to local suppliers)

### 5. What pump priming activities might be available

While budgets are tight, there are 'no cost' options for the councils in Buckinghamshire to support energy development by making their energy markets open to local supply where feasible. Funding may also be possible from central government and the local LEP to support targeted seedcorn investment to stimulate local energy generation activities.

## Review

### Proposed Contents:

1. The lifespan of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy
2. When it will be reviewed
3. How the review will be undertaken
4. What the success criteria will be and how these will be measured.

If the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy is to deliver its objectives, I must include a process of review and refinement to ensure that all activities within it continue to contribute in a positive way. This process should be clearly spelt out in the Energy Strategy.

## Initial High Level Energy Strategy Appendix 1 – Anonymised Consultation responses

### Question 1 – Do you support the idea of having an Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire? Please provide reasons for your answer.

1. Yes – XXXX does not believe the market will deliver low carbon energy supplies, and energy security at a low enough price for our residents and businesses without the intervention of the local authorities.
2. Yes. Energy is a vital part of life and thus underpins our entire community. It must make sense for there to be better local control and strategic management of our energy resources. A strategy is best provided by local government while incorporating coordination between the commercial, public and non profit sectors.
3. It is important for Buckinghamshire to have a strategy that is targeted to meet the specific needs of the county in ways that will be generally accepted and supported by local communities
4. Yes. The local authority sector is a big consumer of energy, and has resources, such as land, that could be deployed to provide renewable energy. A strategy could help make better use of public demand and supply, and improve coordination between the commercial, public and the non profit sector
5. Yes
6. I would support an Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire because it would be beneficial to co-ordinate initiatives already underway separately within the Council's sustainability, localities and communities and Future Shape service areas. Moreover, whilst the Council is always looking for ways to reduce energy consumption *internally*, I think much more could be done externally, and a joined up approach such as one energy strategy could bring both these key priorities together
7. Yes, to enable decisions regarding alternative energy sources to be made within a planned strategy which allows for growth in the county to fulfil the county's growth plan, while simultaneously meeting environmental targets set by European and UK governments
8. Yes as it may help to reduce fuel inequality across the county
9. Yes – but it must be market driven with local benefit

### Question 2 – Are you happy with the current ('business as usual') approach to the development of energy generation projects within the County? Please provide reasons for your answer.

1. No for the reasons set out above. It is apparent that not enough energy projects are being developed in this district to benefit its population.
2. No. It is currently heavily dependent upon individuals or small groups with sufficient personal energy to set up projects. There are very good examples of successful generation projects elsewhere in the country and Bucks is being left out of that development.
3. Given Buckinghamshire's low baseline of locally generated energy it could be a risk to continue the current approach as the county will be unprepared for future energy needs and possible national government requirements

4. No. I suspect that the current approach is not optimal, for example information about good sites for renewable energy in the county is not available, and resources are not being attracted to the area. The Oxfutures project shows what can be achieved with a coordinated strategy - <http://www.oxfutures.co.uk/index.html>
5. No. I think the approach is too laissez faire! In reality I also think any strategy also needs to be underpinned by an Implementation Plan
6. Energy prices will continue to rise and non-renewable resources will become less secure. The amount the Council spends on energy cannot be allowed to grow exponentially and radical steps must be taken to adopt an approach that will allow long term sustainability. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that this should happen now: More and more funding is being invested into R+D projects to deliver smarter energy solutions; the concept of a 'local energy market' is becoming a reality; local authorities have created their own energy companies e.g. Peterborough City Council, and others are looking into energy supply at a local level rather than relying on the national grid.
7. No. NIMBYism/maintenance of status quo has taken control of the planning process, and no strategy seems to be guiding individual planning decisions
8. I am as there is no alternative policy in place at present
9. No – no benefit

**Question 3 – Do you agree that there are social and economic benefits to be gained from the development of energy projects within the County?** Please provide reasons for your answer.

1. Yes – local projects should produce cheaper energy for residents, helping to alleviate fuel poverty and also, for businesses, bringing economic benefit.
2. Yes, undoubtedly – and they are often combined. With a correct focus such projects can directly alleviate fuel poverty but also have an impact on wider community cohesion. Recent report to DECC suggested community energy projects delivered 12-13 times value reinvested back into local communities compared to a purely economic model – and that was without a full social return on investment analysis.
3. There are certainly social benefits to be gained from the development of local energy projects (creation of jobs, community engagement in energy projects,...). Economic benefits must be assessed based on financial support schemes including EU funds, possible funding mechanisms and the cost of the technology
4. Yes. Projects that reduce energy consumption, increase energy efficiency and develop renewable resources can reduce energy costs, help with fuel poverty, and help develop community involvement. XXXXX work on community buildings also helps improve the viability of community organisations by reducing their costs and increasing the attractiveness of community buildings for other activities
5. Yes
6. I definitely think there are social and economic benefits from energy projects, and I think the beauty lies in the fact that energy projects are first and foremost about sustainability, resilience and the environment we all live in, over and above profiteering and capitalising on a vital resource
7. Yes, but I would include all energy projects, including the extraction of fossil fuels, in that opinion
8. Yes, energy projects that deliver local fuel sources may help social groups and the

county economy

9. Yes

**Question 4 – Would you be more likely to support a ‘social’ or ‘economic’ led approach to Energy Strategy development?** Please provide reasons for your answer.

1. No because we think that both would fail to happen for various reasons including nimbyism in the case of economy driven projects and lack of community involvement in the case of social.
2. Further to question 3 – I think there could be social and economic development together – and indeed I think that aim would lead to the most viable projects.
3. There must be a balance of both approaches, without an economic benefit in the long-term the energy strategy may not be successful and the social benefits will be lost
4. The distinction between social and economic led approaches seems artificial. Both are suitable in different circumstances, and both need to be business like and efficient in their use of resources. The main difference is in how the profits are applied. The challenges and the opportunities in the county are so large that both the commercial and non profit sector need to be involved. To me, the main strategic choice is between a reactive public sector approach (= your business as usual strategy) or a proactive approach (= your resource led strategy).
5. Economic, obviously
6. I would prefer to support a social approach. One of Buckinghamshire’s main assets is its strong Voluntary and Community Sector, which is well placed to work together on schemes at a community level to deliver real local solutions. We won’t save the world if only one person recycles, it takes a lot of people working together to recycle en masse. A community level will also reach those bottom 2% of the population who are either less well off, disengaged or living in rural locations. The social benefits of providing schemes for the population will lead to long term economic benefits.
7. Needs to be balanced. There is no point bankrupting the country pursuing 'social' programmes, so clearly it needs to be a combination
8. I feel it should be a mix of both. Social schemes may well help the local economy anyway
9. Has to be both to be viable

**Question 5 – Would you support a maximum deployment (‘resource-led’) focussed Energy Strategy?** Please provide reasons for your answer.

1. Yes – because this approach will bring social and economic benefits and receives government support
2. Uncertain. While I personally believe we should be taking every renewable opportunity we can I think this could lead to pushback from general public. It may be necessary to build from a lower deployment and expand as (hopefully) public buy in also expands.
3. No comment
4. Yes. The demand for energy and energy prices are likely to continue increasing, and the need for low carbon supplies is becoming more urgent as carbon emissions reach critical levels. Hence all local opportunities for renewable energy supplies and reductions in energy consumption should be identified, evaluated and implemented, either by the commercial, public or non profit sector as appropriate

5. Yes
6. I would support this approach because it is better to be proactive rather than reactive. Buckinghamshire especially needs to catch up on its renewable energy commitment and I think there is scope across the County make the most of whatever resource we have available. It is very important to have policies in place and strong leadership; sometimes you have to be a bit tougher to get results
7. Don't understand the question
8. Resources may not always be located in places where it is suitable to develop energy plants/projects and so I would not support a maximum deployment energy strategy
9. Yes – subject to acceptable environmental safeguards

**Question 6 – Do you have any other comments?**

1. This approach needs to be more than vision and strategy and needs to develop delivery mechanisms quickly
2. I think having this conversation with the anticipated group of stakeholders is an excellent idea.
3. Although technology should not be the main driver of the strategy, we would deem it necessary to take into consideration the most appropriate, efficient and economically-beneficial technologies for the county's strategy
4. Looking forward to the workshop!
5. Nothing here
6. .
7. (Answer relating to respondents business activities provided)
8. None at this time perhaps after the workshop
9. Any strategy has to be wholly supported by all LAs and led by County, with common policies

## Appendix 3 – Outcomes from the Breakout groups

# Influence

## Vision –

- Countywide – all LAs to have buy in + support
- Technology agnostic – not rule anything out
- Hope for the future –
- Capture the expertise + passion that already exists
- Honest – stating facts
- Ownership – embody in planning process
- Partnership – developers, local people
- Effective communication
- County is efficient energy provider for you!

## Influence –

- What does a good outcome look like? (Refer to the proposed contents sections – policies, planning, financing)
  - Appealing to people's pockets – investment + reliable/ethical savings
  - Facility in place to be able to sell back to the community e.g. – issues with EFW (selling back to grid)
  - Variety of models (sale) – Village hall, large scale projects
  - Simple education of public on level of generation
  - Support for Community Groups from chamber of commerce – project – strategy to inform where + what projects could take place
  - Reliable data + apps to learn about investment, governance and engineering.
- Role of the NEP – disseminate influence to local groups – micro groups
- LEP – Identify pockets of interest + combine critical mass.
- Crowd funding – countywide investment vehicle.

Q – Does the county want invest outside of borders?

- Community owned rather than locally owned

Q – FSA regulations for county raising money?

- Locally owned gas, water boards etc. Local energy suppliers.
- LA & Guarantor
- Bring existing groups together to look at projects to stimulate action – Transition
- Engaging with local press + media = goodness stories

Influencers – who needs to be involved? (stakeholders not represented at this workshop, partner organisations)

- Network operators – Grid Connections
- Higher Education – BNU, Schools
- Co-op Bank
- Local Press + Media
- Councillors – All members seminars, support good news stories for councillors handholding ( gamer comm. Support)– remove politics countywide
- Social media



- Large Employers in county – IKEA, British American Tobacco, Pinewood Studios, Johnson and Johnson, GE Healthcare
- Large Retailers (M+S Plan A)
- Technology providers – AD, Gasification
- Energy suppliers

Q – Who provides info? – Trusted sources

What should the Content of the Strategy look like? (Refer to the proposed contents sections – policies, planning, financing, delivery mechanisms)

- Map of technologies + apps – modelling
- Generation target – Bucks % of UK demand
- Map of demand + consumption
- Low carbon technologies prioritised
- Long term sustainability – Planning
- Local SPDs to prioritise community projects
- Q – Could comm. Groups access free planning advice? – Q. over policy, £, Resource
- 2050 DECC tool – similar for bucks to show what we would need
- Starting position FRACKING – work back from that to renewables + community owned generation

3. Give your views on the lifespan of the strategy and how often it should be reviewed - Timescale for Strategy

- Long term strategy, short term reviews
- 25 years
  - Strategy for A Generation
- Not linked to political cycles
- Review every 5 years

Q – What happens if review – nothing has happened?

- Factor in economic growth agenda
  - Higher energy requirements
- Annual monitoring
- Board – who? ESCO

Q – Timescales for EU funding – key drivers – aligned.

# Guide

## Vision

- Realising potential (FULL)
  - Countering business as usual
- “Plugging the gap”
- 100% renewables NOT possible
- Solving our OWN problems
- Not just renewables...
- Import vs Export
- Models...Several
- Generation AND use (efficiency)
- Security, ownership
  - Tackling the risk of source/supply
  - Resilience for residents And businesses
- Efficiency INTERFACES with other strategy/policy (risk of silos)
- Changing mind-set
  - Savings – Economic Drivers
  - Community – owned vs LA Driving

### What does a good outcome look like?

- Share Centre – Encourage their involvement
- Residents – maintaining natural landscape
- Having committed champions
- Role to play with residents – gaining confidence of local communities (LA role)
- Joined up community
- Human Capital / Resources
- Guiding people to have a stake
- Infrastructure – role to ensure exists – full supply chain
- Virtuous circle – BCC role? – guide co-ordinator
- Planning system – vehicle to set policy that lessens tension
- Strong leadership
- Realising opportunities e.g. Biomass, tenanted farmers (R V-H)
- Local Plan s include criteria
  - Charge points
  - Presumptions (strengthen)
- LEP - £££ interface others
- LA identifying opportunities

### Influencers – who needs to be involved? (stakeholders not represented at this workshop, partner organisations)

- LEP
- All here now and:

- Parish councils
- “Un-parished” Councils
- Grass routes...people who aren't currently educated
- Tap into transition movement
- Getting to heart of community
- Proper community engagement
- WI...
- Community leaders
- Energy champions
- Children...
- Super home owners (demonstration)
- Funders? (pension investors)
  - They need a programme of projects
  
- Councils
- Councils as developers?
- Wider Community approach...
- Stakeholder members, business, energy entrepreneurs LO.W (Chilterns)
- Developers – Need to speak to communities
- How?
  - Opportunities
  - “Belief” backing
  - Buy in...
  - Communications or programme delivery?
  - Business model for engagement...

#### What should the Content of the Strategy look like?

- Look at different types /sources and look geographically (what works best where?)
- Tech agnostic but needs to address everything all tech
- 2024 Green job – economic benefits
- Ownership by local people
- MK??
- Bucks enables/creates correct conditions/ environment
- Universal engagement
- For production + use energy
- Understanding of resilience
- Connect landscape + Future
- Cultures of us coming together
- Exemplar in low carbon space
- Achieved Resilience
- Energy security
- Exploit all viable opportunities in county
- Local people benefit
- Economic benefit – mix, balance
- Social cohesion – community buy in

- Models? Co-operative corporate
- Using community capital – best quality of life
- Scale of ambition
- No longer a discussion – standard practise
- QUICKLY DELIVERED
- RSS
- When do we get it... soon!
- Platform – to realise low carbon aspirations in bucks
- A place to innovate + entrepreneur
- Catalyst
- Models – need to realise - Measures – appropriate for socio – eco benefits
- Community involvement – align in their priorities – now £ future climate change?

#### Guide- Who?

- Contacts Via Good energy, Westmill co-op
  - Do they live in bucks?
  - Tell them what we are doing
- Community is not ONE group
  - Local community groups
  - Specialist energy groups
- Learn from failure, gov't policy – don't fall foul of changing incentives / policy

#### Give your views on the lifespan of the strategy and how often it should be reviewed. – Timescale for Strategy

- 2024 planning next 5/10 years.
- Future proof
- Review on an annual basis
- Annual targets
- Re-fresh of strategy 5 years
- Targets that can't be manipulated
  - Must be hit

## Control

- Engagement
  - Local business
  - Communities
  - School/FE
- Community leaders
- Ownership
  - Problem / opportunity
- Raised awareness
  - Of opportunity Economic /social local
  - Of problems if we don't act now

### What does a good outcome look like?

- Greater self-reliance on own energy generation
  - Link to efficiency strategy
  - Feasibility
  - Policy e.g. planning
  - Leadership (collaboration / co-operation)
  - District councils
- Pro-active planning policy
- LA's
  - Explore own land use opportunities
  - LA pump prime
  - LA: bankers (money) borrow provide bankers role e.g. Local share issue company
- 5 Bucks LA Combined
- Evidence base (energy opportunities)
  - Leadership
  - Money
  - Pro active
  - Revenue / Finance
- Procurement
  - Purchase/specify for local energy e.g. Obtained data on previous examples such as Glasgow
- Risk
  - Joint – venture (public private community)
  - Involvement of other stakeholders

### Influencers – who needs to be involved? (stakeholders not represented at this workshop, partner organisations)

- Universities
- Big energy users e.g. hospitals, schools, manufactures, health care
- SSE (energy CO)
- Landowner (CLD/NPU) NT, Rail, High ways agency, affinity + Thames water
- Bus (Hauliers,)
- Local/parish councils

- Communities/action groups
- Chambers of commerce
  - Business e.g. Bosch
  - Small renewable manufacturers
  - Those selling technologies
  - Press/media
- OTHER
- Collaboration
- Co-produced

What should the Content of the Strategy look like? (Refer to the proposed contents sections – policies, planning, financing, delivery mechanisms)

- What do we want?
- How will it be achieved?
- Who will be involved?
- Mechanisms – means to deliver
- Evidence
- Opportunity
- Barriers

3. Give your views on the lifespan of the strategy and how often it should be reviewed. – Timescale for Strategy

- Review + monitoring (who will do this)
- Using resources in room 6 Month process at least
- Lifetime vision
- Strategy 20 yrs
- Reviewed : 3 yrs
- Delivery plan 3-5 yrs

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