

Hydro planning permission and licences

Developing a hydroelectric system can take a long time, mainly because of the need to obtain planning permission and an abstraction licence, and because of the number of organisations that may need to be involved in giving consent. All new hydroelectric systems require planning permission and an abstraction licence.

Planning permission

You will need planning permission to install any domestic or community hydroelectric system, even a small scheme to power a single home. You should contact your local authority at an early stage. The Planning Office will be able to advise you on other organisations that need to be consulted - such as the Environment Agency - and the process you need to go through.

Abstraction licence

All new hydroelectric systems need an abstraction licence from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency to take water out of a stream, even though the water will be put back into the stream almost immediately. This is mainly to ensure that there are no undue environmental impacts on the ecosystem of the stream and its surroundings.

There is a fee to apply for the licence, and an annual fee for renewing it. To find out more, contact the [Scottish Environment Protection Agency](#).



Reducing carbon dioxide emissions in your local authority area – the guide – April 2009

Understanding why emissions might rise is as important as tracking why they fall, and your evidence base should explore the changes in the area – such as regeneration programmes – that might have contributed to an increase in emissions.

Case Studies

Elephant and Castle

The redevelopment of Elephant and Castle is one of the largest regeneration programmes ever seen in Europe. The £1.5 billion, 70-acre programme includes the creation of a new pedestrianised town centre, market square, green spaces and thousands of new homes and jobs. The programme is targeting “zero carbon growth”.

www.elephantandcastle.org.uk/regenerationprogramme/an-overview/

Barking Town Centre Energy Action Area

The Implementation Plan for Barking Town Centre Energy Action Area sets out a strategy for reducing carbon emissions generated by new developments by one third compared to emissions generated by developments built to current building regulations. This will translate to a carbon dioxide saving of 6,590 tonnes per year.

www.lep.org.uk/files/?ref=ZGMFHBQK-108

Urban Planning for a Low Carbon Future

A straightforward guide from the Town and Country Planning Association and the Combined Heat and Power Association, which demonstrates which sustainable energy technologies are most suited to which types of urban / suburban area. Invaluable in helping to ensure that the right technologies are installed in the right places.

www.chpa.co.uk/news/reports_pubs/Community%20Energy-%20Urban%20Planning%20For%20A%20Low%20Carbon%20Future.pdf

Developing an Energy Action Area: a beginners guide

This explains what an Energy Action Area is, how to select an area and appropriate technologies for that area, what the key steps are, what the delivery mechanisms might be, how to fund it and how to build support for the project. It draws on the work conducted in existing pilot Energy Action Areas, in particular Barking Town Centre and lessons learnt through working through the problems and issues that are faced.

www.lep.org.uk/files/?ref=M8GN7CH0-107

Further information

This document forms part of ‘Reducing carbon dioxide emissions in your local authority area – the guide’ – a comprehensive online resource that focuses on the actions local authorities can take to reduce per capita CO2 emissions. The Energy Saving Trust offers a free enquiries service via our dedicated Practical help team – the team will undertake to answer any query regarding sustainable energy or sustainable road transport within a maximum of three working days.

At the time of publication and to the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this briefing note was correct. This briefing note was first published in April 2009.

