

## Local Action for Sustainable Energy

**Tim Perrin**

Director of Community and Environment  
Forest of Dean District Council



## Why Sustainable Energy?

The climate change challenge,  
reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions against 1990 levels

UK Kyoto target – a 12.5% reduction  
by 2008-12

UK domestic target – a 20% reduction by 2010

Energy White Paper – a 60% reduction by 2050



## Why Local Authorities?

The UK Climate Change Programme says that  
local authorities:

'can take forward the action needed on the  
ground to cut emissions, working with local  
communities, and will be central to efforts to  
adapt to the impacts of climate change'



## Why Local Authorities?

- Local authorities work across the board  
from strategy to practical delivery
- Local authorities and their local partners  
deliver practical services impacting on the  
natural and built environment, such as:
  - housing and regeneration
  - development control
  - transport
  - environmental health



## Why Local Authorities?

- There may be synergies between sustainable  
energy and other local policy aims
- Local authorities have to deal with many of  
the impacts of climate change
- Financial, health and comfort benefits to  
residents
- Financial benefits to the Council
- Demonstrating community leadership, and  
producing PR gains



## Action at a Local Level

### Practical Actions

- Improve energy efficiency in Council housing,  
and encourage other social landlords to make  
improvements
- Improve energy efficiency in council buildings
- Install renewable generation in public  
buildings
- Look for opportunities for CHP/ community  
heating



## Action at a Local Level

### Policy Actions

- Adopt positive policies in favour of sustainable energy through planning and other strategies
- Supplementary planning guidance
- Internal energy policy
- Climate change strategy
- Affordable warmth strategy



## Help Available

### Local Support Organisations

- Network of European Energy Agencies
- Energy Efficiency Advice Centres (EEACs)
- Local Authority Support Programmes
- Community Renewables Initiatives
- Renewable Energy Advice Centres



## Help Available

### Advice and Information

- Practical Help for Local Authorities – an Energy Saving Trust funded support and enquiry service, specifically created for local authorities.
- Action Energy – advice on improving energy efficiency in public and private companies, including free building surveys.



## Help Available

### Funding

- Innovation Programme (EST)
- Clear Skies
- Photo-voltaic programme
- Energy Efficiency Commitment
- Community energy
- EU programmes
- Carbon Trust programmes



## Projects in the FoD Area

### Development of a Local Energy Agency

- Pilot phase funded under SAVE programme (1997-2000), this paid for two staff
- FoD Council and Rural Development Programme co-funded until the agency was established
- SWEA now established as an independent 'not for profit' company with 11 staff and a wide programme of work in the Severn/ Wye area.



## Projects in the FoD Area

### Affordable Warmth Strategy

- A strategy for the 7 local authorities of Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire
- Developed through a participative process involving 80 people in 2 workshops
- Support from National Energy Action and SWEA
- A steering group implementing the strategy with representation from a wide range of organisations



## Projects in the FoD Area

### Warm and Well

- A home energy efficiency project with a specific health focus
- The same local authority partners as the affordable warmth strategy
- Funded by HECAAction, local authorities, and Scottish Power
- Over 2,000 homes improved in pilot phase, with works totalling over £1 million



## Projects in the FoD Area

- Energy efficiency improvements to the Council Offices
- Photo voltaic roof for the Council offices currently under consideration
- Wye Valley Solar Club - offers training and support for local people to fit solar hot water heating
- FoD residential design guide – this gives developers guidance on aesthetic and sustainability issues



## Projects in the FoD Area

### Lydney Local Power

A community-led sustainable energy project incorporating:

- Development of small scale hydro plant
- Home energy saving
- Community wind power
- Solar projects
- Incorporating sustainable energy into new developments



## Conclusions

- Sustainable energy is a cross cutting issue, affecting all functions of the Council
- The sustainable energy agenda is growing in its scope, and the recognized need for urgency
- Targets will only be achieved if local authorities think strategically and creatively, and work in close partnership with other local and national organisations



## Local Action for Sustainable Energy

### Tim Perrin

Director of Community and Environment  
Forest of Dean District Council

