# Appendix 2 - REVISED RENEWABLE and LOW CARBON ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS POLICY

**Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments**

The NPPF states that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future and that it should help to contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.

Applications for renewable and low carbon energy should be approved if impacts are (or can be made) acceptable.

---

**Policy xx Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments**

(1) ~~Development for renewable and low carbon energy generation will be permitted where:~~
   a) ~~it is an appropriate technology for the site;~~
   b) ~~it does not create a significant noise intrusion for existing dwellings;~~
   c) ~~it includes measures to mitigate against any adverse impacts on the built and natural environment resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of any equipment/infrastructure;~~
   d) ~~it does not contribute towards unacceptable cumulative visual impact from renewable energy developments when considered in conjunction with nearby developments and permitted proposals within the District; and~~
   e) ~~adequate conditions are imposed and/or a legal agreement is entered into ensuring that once the use ceases operating permanently, it is fully decommissioned and the site appropriately restored.~~

   ~~In all cases, proposals will be considered against the above criteria.~~

(1) Proposals for large-scale renewable energy developments, micro-renewables (such as, but not limited to, micro-wind turbines, micro-hydro and solar panels), or low and zero carbon and decentralised energy will be supported subject to assessment of potential impacts on:
   a) Residential/workplace amenity;
   b) The visual amenity of the local area, including landscape character;
   c) Local natural resources, including air and water quality;
   d) The natural, built and historic environments;
   e) Biodiversity;
   f) Public access to the countryside;
   g) The openness and visual amenity of the Green Belt;
   h) Other site constraints.

(2) The Council will take into account the individual and cumulative impacts of applications for renewable energy developments on the above.

***Reasoned Justification***

The NPPF advises that to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources and supporting infrastructure where this would help secure their development.

As was noted in the Development Management Policies document (2013), Hertfordshire County Council, in conjunction with the 10 Districts, commissioned a Hertfordshire Renewable Energy Study (2005) to assess how the County could meet targets for renewable energy. This found that if renewable energy targets were to be met, much of the energy would have to be produced by wind power. However, the Three Rivers area was not considered suitable for large-scale renewable energy involving wind and greater potential exists in North Hertfordshire and East Hertfordshire.

Notwithstanding this, the Study found that Hertfordshire as a whole had the technical potential to achieve a significant amount of renewable energy production by a number of other various means including Biomass, dedicated Combined Heat and Power facilities, Bio-diesel and Bio-ethanol. Given the District's watercourses, there may also be opportunities for micro-hydro power generation.

Specific areas suitable for large-scale renewable and low or zero carbon and decentralised energy have not been identified. However, the Council encourages applicants to integrate the use of renewable energy technologies into all proposals and supports the use of micro-renewables subject to an assessment of potential impacts.

In accordance with paragraph 154 of the NPPF, applications for renewable and low carbon energy will be approved if impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Impacts will be considered in light of the criteria at Policy xx and the objectives and policies of the Local Plan as a whole.