

# Renewable Electricity Procurement Policy

## 1. Introduction

Good Energy is the only 100% renewable electricity supplier in the UK. It is an environmentally responsible company which is at the forefront of the green electricity supply market. Good Energy has an active policy to supply electricity that has been generated from “**deep green**” renewable technologies.

To date this has included wind, wave, small-scale hydro, solar PV and biogeneration. This Procurement Policy has been produced to provide clear guidelines on responsible purchasing of renewable electricity by Good Energy.

This is to ensure that the electricity that Good Energy sources and supplies does not result in a net increase in atmospheric levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and does not contribute to climate change. Above and beyond the aim of reducing the impacts of climate change, Good Energy believes it is important that its sources of renewable energy do not impact on the environment in other ways, such as ecological and socio-economic impacts.

Good Energy will only purchase from renewable generators that have proven records of environmental responsibility and that can demonstrate compliance with all regulatory requirements, both planning and environmental.

Good Energy’s strategy is to actively seek out and contract generators from wind, hydro, solar PV and various suitable biogeneration sources up to an installed capacity of 20MW. The current and proposed procurement policy is laid out below.

## 2. Environmental & Planning Criteria

### 2.1. Meeting Criteria

Good Energy will ensure that all prospective generators meet with the following criteria:

- 2.1.1. In the case of all technologies this includes:
  - Compliance with planning regulations
  - Minimal sound, visual and ecological effects (e.g. minimal impact on wildlife)
- 2.1.2. In the case of small-scale hydro this will include:
  - Assessing the water quality and flow
  - Measures to reduce flood risk
  - Measures to allow passes for aquatic life
- 2.1.3. In the case of wind energy this will include:
  - Siting of wind turbines to minimise impact on bird populations
- 2.1.4. In the case of biogeneration this will include:
  - All criteria set out in Good Energy’s Biogeneration Procurement Policy
- 2.1.5. In the case of Solar energy this will include:
  - Land usage consideration - in order of preference Good Energy will support:



- Building mounted site installations,
  - Multi-use, raised ground-based Brownfield/ non-farmable,
  - Single-use, ground-based Brownfield/non-farmable,
  - Multi-use, raised ground-based farmable,
  - Single-use, ground-based farmable,
- Scale considerations – For all of the above other than Single-use, ground based farmable site installations, Good Energy’s standard capacity limit shall apply. For Single-use, ground-based farmable installations a 100kW cap shall apply due to the inappropriate use of land.

## 2.2. Environmental mitigation and consideration

Realistically, renewable energy developments will have an environmental impact. Put in the context of fossil fuel energy infrastructure these will be minimal but Good Energy will still aim to identify evidence of best practice when it is evaluating potential generators. Such evidence will include:

- Measures taken to reduce environmental and ecological impacts
- Small-scale generation developments – sites under 20MW installed capacity
- Environmental responsibility – responsible operation and management e.g. selection and maintenance of suitable fish screens for hydro sites
- Support of local community benefits/ community schemes

## 3. Research

To evaluate the suitability of a generator we will run some or all of the following research depending on the size and technology type of the generator:

### 3.1. Review the relevant environmental survey

For larger scale renewable energy developments, a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is performed. This is reported on in the Environmental Statement (ES) which forms the basis of the planning application. Where reasonably available we will:

- Review the non technical summary
- Review full document as required

### 3.2. Internet research

For smaller sites where full EIA’s will not have been required an internet based search will be performed. Key sources to consider for identifying relevant information are:

- The relevant district council website
- Local and national media
- Relevant industry resources (trade association websites/newsletters)

The evidence to be identified, in approximate order of importance is:

#### 3.2.1. Negative information:

- Evidence of proven environmental impact (on bird population, water quality etc)
- Objections from predominantly pro or impartial stakeholders e.g. RSPB, WWF etc.
- A high number of local objections
- Reasonable objections from predominantly anti-wind lobby groups e.g. Countryside Alliance etc.

#### 3.2.2. Positive information:

- Awards for environmental responsibility e.g. Ashden Award
- Evidence of measures taken to reduce environmental impact
- Local support
- Support from predominantly pro or impartial stakeholders e.g. RSPB, WWF
- Benefits being passed to the community



### 3.3. Primary research

When sufficient information is not available via the above methods of research or the information is inconclusive, the generator will be asked to provide the required information. Whilst the generator may seem the logical first line of enquiry, to ensure that the research findings are objective, the two other methods of research will be conducted first.

### 3.4. Communicating Research intentions

Generators may be told that Good Energy will conduct research on their environmental credentials.

## 4. Ranking

### 4.1. Allocating rankings

Once the research has been conducted, the generator will receive a ranking:

- **Exceptional** – sites which go above and beyond minimum standards and may have pioneered a new approach or received awards.
- **Good** – sites that at least meet our minimum standards for environmental performance, and may go beyond in some areas.
- **Poor** – sites that fail to meet our minimum standard. **Good Energy will not buy from a generator that is rated “poor”.**

The rating that is given based on the evaluation will be kept as a permanent record. Sites that are given a “good” or “exceptional” rating can then be contracted by Good Energy on an ongoing basis.

### 4.2. Reviewing rankings

If new information becomes available on the environmental credentials of a generator Good Energy will review the ranking that has been given to the generator, re-evaluate and re-rank as appropriate.