

**DRAFT
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN (SEAP)**

Background

1. In February this year the Executive agreed the SE IDWG recommendation that: **“the Executive mandate the SE IDWG to compile an Executive-wide Sustainable Energy Action Plan with a prioritised list of key actions, programmes and funding proposals. These would be prioritised according to economic benefit to Northern Ireland, carbon savings and feasibility.”**
2. Also in February, the ETI Committee published the report of its inquiry into Barriers to the Development of Renewable Energy Production and its Associated Contribution to the Northern Ireland Economy. The report includes 25 recommendations; Recommendation 2 is as follows: **“The Executive must develop a long-term vision for renewable energy which includes both an energy perspective and an economic perspective and establishes long-term partnerships to the benefit of Northern Ireland with other devolved administrations in the UK and with the Republic of Ireland, and should, where appropriate, include an all-island dimension for renewable energy.”**

Aim of this paper

3. This paper brings the consideration of these two related issues together and makes suggestions on the way forward for discussion at the meeting on 5 July. It also suggests that progress on other SE IDWG recommendations agreed by the Executive, regarding a statement of leadership; and, consideration of the potential for an appropriate fund and innovative funding solutions, could also be progressed through the SEAP.

Structure

4. A structure for the Sustainable Energy Action Plan is suggested at Annex A for discussion.

Executive Policy Statement

5. The Executive sent a clear signal of its commitment to increasing the sustainability of energy supply in Northern Ireland through its agreement of the Strategic Energy Framework. Currently, there is no clear Executive commitment to positioning Northern Ireland as a Green economy and the Executive's agreement to the SE IDWG recommendation i.e. **that the SE IDWG should draw up a statement**

of leadership for the Executive on sustainable energy, will send a positive signal about its importance. It is intended that the policy statement will act as a foreword to the SEAP.

6. Members were asked to consider the specific needs of your respective Departments for inclusion in the statement. Feedback was wide ranging and included issues such as public sector requirements under the Renewable Energy Directive, reference to related strategies, education, consistent communications, fuel poverty and the promotion of energy efficiency to drive the development of the green economy. These issues, and others, will be considered in the development of the policy statement.

Overview/Introduction

7. This section will set out where Northern Ireland is now with regards to the use of fossil fuels and the impact on the atmosphere leading to global warming if unabated. It should set out the need to:
 - (a) maximise energy savings and energy efficiency to make the production of low carbon sources more feasible and less costly;
 - (b) support the development of a range of renewable technologies to provide greater security of supply; and,
 - (c) ensure that this transition to low carbon maximises the economic renewal opportunities for jobs and skills, research and development and supply chain potential.
8. Members may also wish to consider the challenges that lie ahead or are already being experienced, for example: planning permission; infrastructure development; environmental consenting; and, public attitudes, communication and community benefit.
9. The ETI Committee's report on its inquiry into renewable energy recommends that the Executive must develop a long-term vision for renewable energy which includes both an energy perspective and an economic perspective. We may commission a consultancy to assist with the development of this recommendation and have set aside [£x – to be confirmed] EU funding. We are keen to involve SE IDWG members in taking this forward.

Context

10. This section will allow stakeholders to see where an Executive-wide SEAP sits in relation to other documents i.e. below the Sustainable Development Strategy and Strategic Energy Framework (SEF), but above other key Executive documents such as the Bioenergy Action Plan, Renewable Energy Action Plan (DARD), Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan, the Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan and the Energy Efficiency Action Plan.

11. Members are asked to discuss if the Sustainable Energy Action Plan will consolidate the key actions and targets already agreed and included in current documents, or should the inclusion of new actions and targets be considered, particularly if gaps are identified. With this in mind, a key question to be addressed is whether sustainable transport should be included in the remit of the SEAP.

Energy Targets and Main Milestones for Delivery

12. This will comprise the targets and milestones contained in existing documents plus any additional agreed by the group.

Main Actions

13. This section will set out the actions required to deliver agreed targets and milestones.

The main areas will include:

- energy efficiency;
- renewable heat; and,
- renewable energy.

Members will wish to discuss options on the presentation of information. For example, renewable energy could be set out by technology, a split between onshore and offshore, or micro-generation and large scale generation.

14. The inclusion of more detailed information on tackling the barriers to sustainable energy, referred to in the Overview/Introduction section, may also be appropriate.
15. The Executive approved the group's recommendation **that the potential for an appropriate fund and innovative funding solutions (including methods to lever in private capital and better access to EU funds) to stimulate sustainable energy economic opportunities and infrastructure be explored by the group under the leadership of Invest NI.** Invest NI has undertaken some research on the issues and also requested input from members. This work will need to be developed over the coming months and agreed outputs would be considered for inclusion in the SEAP along with other developing or current incentives such as RHI.
16. It will be important that the document captures the benefits of the move towards low carbon energy in terms of economic opportunities for green jobs, skills, R&D and supply chain potential etc.

Monitoring progress

17. The SEAP will be developed through written and oral correspondence between Sustainable Energy Branch (DETI) and members, based on the actions agreed by the group. The main areas where we envisage contributions will be required from each department are detailed in Annex B.

We propose that a six monthly update on progress should be presented to SE IDWG.

Timelines

18. The aim is that an Executive-wide SEAP should be agreed by the Executive by 31 March 2012. To meet this deadline, a finalised plan must be adopted at the next SE IDWG meeting, planned for October 2011. A detailed timeline is included at Annex C.

Recommendation

19. The SE IDWG is invited to consider and agree:
- the structure of the SEAP;
 - whether the Sustainable Energy Action Plan will consolidate the key actions and targets already agreed and included in current documents, or should the inclusion of new actions and targets be considered;
 - whether sustainable transport should be included in the remit of the SEAP;
 - the contribution required from each department (Annex B); and,
 - the timeline as set out in Annex C.

**SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT
JUNE 2011**

Annex A

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN – PROPOSED STRUCTURE

1. Executive Policy Statement (Recommendation 1)
2. Overview/Introduction: Challenges & Opportunities
3. Context – in terms of where the SEAP sits in the hierarchy of government policy
4. Energy targets and main milestones for delivery
5. Main Actions
 - Energy Efficiency / demand side management
 - Renewable Energy (overview of sectors)
[by technology; onshore/offshore; small scale/large scale; electric/heat]
 - Tackling Barriers to Sustainable Energy:
 - planning
 - environmental consenting
 - infrastructure
 - public attitudes/communication
 - Funding / Incentivisation (Recommendation 3)
 - Economic Opportunities, Skills and Supply Chain
 - Research & Development and new technologies
6. Monitoring, progress reporting

Annex B

Illustrative areas of contribution from other departments

DARD	-	Bioenergy Actions	<i>Research</i>
	-	Renewable Energy Action Plan	
DE	-	Curriculum	<i>Provision of Inforⁿ + Awareness to LBS.</i>
	-	Estate	
DEL	-	Estate	<i>Knowledge Transfer.</i>
	-	Skills	
DETI	-	Energy Efficiency	<i>Energy Efficient LBS.</i>
	-	Renewable Electricity	
	-	Renewable Heat	
DFP	-	Building Regulations	<i>Renewable Energy LBS.</i>
	-	Zero Carbon Homes	
	-	Estate	
DHSSPS	-	Sustainable Energy & Health	
	-	Estate	
DOE	-	Energy from Waste	
	-	Planning	
	-	Environmental Consenting	
	-	Air Quality	
DOJ	-	Estate	
DRD	-	Regional Planning	
	-	Sustainable Transport	
DSD	-	Energy Efficiency & Renewable in the Residential Sector	
Invest NI	-	Energy Efficiency in the Business Sector	
	-	Economic Opportunities	
	-	Funding Proposals	
OFMDFM	-	Sustainable Development	
	-	Sustainable Energy	
	-	Estate	

Annex C

Process and Timeline

Month	Activity
July – August	Departmental contributions to DETI by 31 August.
September	DETI to consider departments' contributions and circulate 1 st draft of SEAP in accordance with the agreed structure.
September - October	Bi-laterals between DETI and departments to consider and address gaps.
October	Finalised plan to be circulated and adopted at next SE IDWG meeting (end October).
November - December	DETI to progress paper through the Executive process.
December	SEAP adopted by the Executive.
January	Publication