



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Cotswold National Landscape (AONB)
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	27/6/23
BRIEF REPORT	
<p>I am on the CNL/AONB Board Climate Action Working Group, so this is the focus of my report. The Board is committed to achieving carbon net zero for the area by 2050 (or sooner). The Board commissioned Small World Consulting (SWC) to produce a report to map the carbon footprint of the area and propose a pathway to net zero. (SWC has produced similar reports for all National Parks and many AONBs.) ‘Headlines’ from the report include: Cotswold residents’ [pop. c.163,000] emissions are c. 26% higher than the UK average, primarily from food and drink (22% of total emissions), flying (16%), and vehicle fuel and household energy (both 13%). Compared to UK averages, our food and drink footprint is c.10% higher; electricity and driving are c. 35% and 30% higher, and emissions from flying around 150% higher – i.e. two and a half times the average. Visitors’ [c. 16m p.a.] emissions, including travel to/from the Cotswolds, are equivalent to about half of total residents’ emissions, mainly from travel to/from the Cotswolds. Emissions from travel are dominated by flying (48%) and road fuel (41%).</p> <p>The SWC report proposes annual reductions in emissions in these various areas, for example: energy emissions (incl. domestic use, construction, road traffic excluding through-traffic) -13.6% p.a.; food and drink -5%; visitors’ travel -10% p.a.; non-CO2 land-use (i.e. mainly livestock emissions and fertiliser) -5%p.a. CO2 land-use change (sequestration) includes 700ha of new woodland, 50km of hedges, 360ha of agroforestry and 350ha of new legume planting – all p.a. (Since the baseline for these proposals was 2019, and these annual reductions have not yet been achieved, the figures should actually be higher.)</p> <p>These proposals are not yet CNL policy. The next steps are a series of workshops with a range of relevant organisations (including LAs) on the various topics – energy, food and drink, land-use etc.- to be held over coming months, using an 18 page ‘Layman’s Guide’ – a summary of the SWC report (103 pp) – both on the CNL website: https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/looking-after/net-zero-cotswolds/. Following these consultations, the Board will adopt a Pathway to Net Zero strategy in early 2024.</p> <p>The CNL Board has also recently approved a position statement on renewable energy. Two ‘Board positions’ in this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In principle, the Board would not be supportive of wind energy schemes larger than 25 metres in size (to turbine blade tip height). For larger schemes that might be put forward, applicants should be required to demonstrate that the scheme could be accommodated without significantly affecting the landscape and scenic beauty of the CNL. For major	

development proposals, applicants should be required to demonstrate that exceptional circumstances apply and that the scheme would be in the public interest. And,

- In principle, the Board would view community-led schemes more favourably than schemes that are not community-led, provided that CNL considerations have been adequately addressed. All renewable energy schemes should be able to demonstrate benefits for the local community.
- Board position (small-scale solar energy): In principle, the Board would be supportive of small-scale solar energy schemes (i.e., 0.5ha or less), provided that relevant considerations have been adequately addressed. The merits of solar energy schemes between 0.5ha and 5ha in size should be considered on a case-by-case basis. We consider that roof-top solar panels on both new and existing buildings should be at the top of the solar energy 'hierarchy'. Buildings that provide the opportunity for relatively large-scale rooftop solar panel scheme, such as contemporary, industrial, business park and agricultural buildings, are particularly important in this regard.

Full statement is on the website: <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Renewable-Energy-June-2023.pdf>

REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Martin Brown
DATE	4/9/23