

More detailed advice on Microgeneration is also contained within Practice Note 19 on Renewable Energy.

Remember, improving the energy efficiency of your property will maximise the sustainability of your development and should always be considered **before** investing in microgeneration technologies. It is also important to choose the technology that is right for your property and your energy needs.

The Council would advise using equipment and installers approved by the Low Carbon Buildings Programme.

#### Advice & Grants

Visit [www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk), or call 0800 915 0990 for more information on grants for microgeneration.

Visit [www.est.org.uk](http://www.est.org.uk) or call the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512012 to take a Home Energy Check and identify efficiency measures for your home. You may be eligible for a discount or grant on insulation or a heating system.

Also contact the Health and Sustainability Team at Wyre Forest District Council, as local grants may be available to support microgeneration [sustainability@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@wyreforestdc.gov.uk) or 01562 732569.

#### **Further information**

For further information and advice on Microgeneration, or any other Development Control matter you can contact us in the following ways:

Visiting the Duty Officer at:  
**Wyre Forest Customer Service Centre**  
**Kidderminster Town Hall**  
**Vicar Street, Kidderminster**  
**Worcs. DY10 1DA**  
**Mon – Fri (10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.)**

**Tel. 01562 732928**

Writing to:  
**Planning, Health and Environment Division**  
**Development Control**  
**Duke House**  
**Clensmore Street, Kidderminster,**  
**Worcs. DY10 2JX**

**Fax. 01562 732556**

## **A Householder Guide to the Microgeneration of Renewable Energy**

This leaflet gives advice to home owners on the need for planning permission when installing new technologies aimed at reducing carbon emissions by improving energy efficiency and the microgeneration of renewable energy.

### What is Microgeneration?

Microgeneration is defined as “the small scale production of heat and/or electricity from a low carbon source” (DTI, 2006). Heat generated may be used in one building, or a group of buildings connected by a district heat network. Electricity may be used within the house, and any excess either stored in a battery, or sold to the national grid.

The following list sets out the common technologies which are available, and the relevant planning issues.

### **Solar photovoltaics (PV’s)**

PVs can include transparent panels or roof tiles which generate electricity from sunlight. These may require planning permission if the property is in a Conservation Area and will need consent if the property is a listed building.

### **Solar Water Heating**

Flat panels are usually mounted on a south facing roof, and collect the sun’s heat to heat water. Same planning rules apply as for solar photovoltaics.

### **Mini wind turbines**

These can either be mounted on a building or be free-standing, and generate electricity from wind. These will require planning permission if mounted on a property and if the pole and turbine exceed 3 metres in height if free-standing.

### **Micro hydro electric turbines**

Harvest electrical or motive power from a small water course. You are advised to check whether planning permission is required. Details of its size and position will need to be provided.

### **Ground source heat pumps**

Pipes in trenches or a bore hole absorb the warmth of the earth. An electric pump then circulates warmth to radiators or under floor heating. These do not require planning permission provided that the trench/borehole is within your domestic garden.

### **Air source heat pumps**

Electric pump concentrates and circulates heat from the outside air, into radiators or under floor heating. You are advised to check whether planning permission is required. Details of the size and position of the pump will need to be provided.

### **Biomass heating (logs, wood chips, pellets, crop residue)**

Stoves or boilers using biomass can heat individual rooms, or power central heating systems. Such measures may require planning permission/consent if a new flue or boiler room is required. You will also need to consider access for fuel deliveries.

### **Combined heat and power unit**

Generates heat and electricity from gas, wood or other fuel. Higher overall efficiency than heat generation alone. The planning issues are the same as biomass heating.

Please also refer to Leaflet No 4 for more information on development in Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings.