

2 BACKGROUND AND PROJECT BRIEF

In 2001, Terence O'Rourke and ETSU, funded by Government Office for the South West (GOSW), published their report 'Renewable Energy Assessments and Targets for the South West'. The report indicated that it is feasible for the South West to seek a 597MW target for renewable electricity capacity or 545MW of new capacity by 2010. This target was included in Regional Planning Guidance for the South West (RPG 10) published in September 2001. Policy RE6 of RPG 10 requires that a minimum of 11-15% of electricity generating capacity (597MW) in the region should be from renewable sources by 2010.

RPG10 further requires that a review of this issue should be undertaken by the South West Regional Assembly (SWRA) in order to identify sub-regional (i.e. county) targets and to specify criteria for use in development plans and in considering applications for such proposals. SWRA was keen to ensure that sub regional targets were developed in close consultation with the sub-regions. This objective has subsequently also been incorporated into the Regional Renewable Energy Strategy for the South West developed by Regen SW (Action points 114 and 202).

As a result of these activities and policy drivers, GOSW in partnership with SWRA commissioned a consortium of organisations to work with the counties/sub regions of the South West to establish targets for renewable electricity development up to 2010. The project began in January 2003.

Following this project, SWRA are looking to publish a draft chapter of RSS on renewable energy during 2004. As part of this review, SWRA will consider the incorporation of the targets agreed by local authorities within the region.

The project, REvision 2010, has had three distinct phases, though phases 1 and 2 have run concurrently.

Phase 1 – Stakeholder engagement to identify the issues of importance to the project and create a forum where they can begin to be discussed and, wherever possible, resolved.

Phase 2 – Technical appraisal to generate the tools necessary to inform the stakeholder engagement process and to support future work in this area

Phase 3 – Adoption of targets by sub-regional authorities through whatever process has been deemed appropriate

This report outlines the results of this project within all three phases. The development of locational guidance originally intended to be part of this project has been delayed due to the delayed publication of the national planning policy guidance on renewable electricity, PPS 22. The regional locational guidance will be produced in due course and published separately to this report.

2.1 Project Team

Responsibilities within the delivery of Revision 2010 were split amongst the consortium of organisations as follows:

- CSMA Consultants – delivery of resource mapping exercise and technical review
- Energy for Sustainable Development Ltd – lead on stakeholder survey and consultation process within Devon, Cornwall, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire

- Centre for Sustainable Energy – lead on consultation and target adoption process within Somerset, former Avon and Dorset and facilitation of a number of the consultation events
- BDOR Ltd – guidance on consultation process and facilitation of a number of the consultation events and the conference
- Peter Capener – project lead/management and lead on strategic buy in and target adoption process within Devon, Cornwall, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire

The project team reported to a steering group that consisted of representatives from GOSW, SWRA and Regen SW.

3 PROJECT OVERVIEW

As originally outlined within the contract proposal, the flow chart in Figure 2 describes four stages in project delivery that cut across the three phases outlined within the Invitation to Tender. These four stages cover:

- securing **strategic buy in** to the methodology for the project and the framework/basis for the target setting
- delivering **sub regional** consultation workshops/events
- establishing a **regional** view through a full regional conference
- facilitating **adoption** of targets by sub regional local authorities

This approach provided a clear framework for integrating the stakeholder engagement process (phase 1) with the technical appraisal (phase 2) both of which fed into the process of adoption (phase 3).

The project endeavoured to secure wide awareness of the project, strong initial buy in and active engagement with the issues throughout the consultation process. This in turn placed the project in a good position to secure the adoption of the sub regional targets through the delivery of phase 3.

The project methodology was designed to ensure that REvision 2010:

- Embedded the stakeholder engagement/consultation process within the partnerships and processes currently underway within the sub regions
- Provided clarity in defining and presenting what is being consulted on and what is not
- Maximised county/sub regional ownership of the process and the resulting targets
- Ensured appropriate and balanced integration of the technical appraisal within the stakeholder process
- Provided technical rigour in developing robust appraisal tools suitable for supporting the engagement/consultation process and beyond
- Positioned this project clearly in the context of increasing renewable energy targets and commitments
- Presented a clear case for county/sub regional renewable energy targets, based on an understanding of the benefits increasing renewable energy development will bring to the sub regions

