Chapter 8 Summary

Energy Supply

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In 2019, 72% of Devon's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to energy use as a result of electricity generation (12%) and the direct burning of fossil fuel in buildings (24%), transport (30%), and manufacturing and construction (6%).

To Decarbonise Energy Use, We Need To:

Use Less Energy...

...to reduce the amount of new energy infrastructure required to meet net-zero. This can include energy-efficiency measures being implemented in as many buildings as possible, raising awareness of behaviours that will avoid wasting energy, and choosing transport options such as active travel, car sharing or public transport. These changes are discussed in the Built Environment and Transport sections of this Plan.

Transition To Renewables.

7% of the energy used in Devon comes from renewable energy generated within the area. This needs to rise to near 100% by 2050.

Increase Flexibility And Storage.

Maximising renewable resources affordably means creating smarter and more flexible generation and consumption, as well as increasing our ability to store energy. This is to account for the fact that some renewable technologies vary in their energy output (such as wind turbines being dependent on weather).

Develop Carbon Capture And Storage.

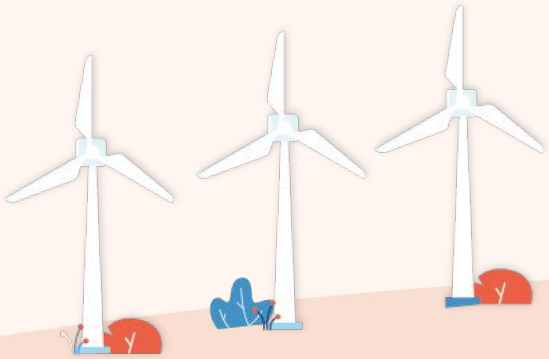
Carbon emitted from unavoidable use of fossil fuels needs to be captured and permanently stored using carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, in order to prevent it from reaching the atmosphere.

This will: (i) provide opportunities for more communities to own and manage energy infrastructure and benefit financially; (ii) boost public health as a result of reduced air pollution and greater active travel; (iii) benefit the economy by increasing local investment and providing new innovation opportunities; and (iv) lower bills for consumers using smart energy systems.

Actions:

Everyone:

- If possible, switch to a green renewable energy supplier
- Find out if you're eligible for funding to cover up to 100% of costs to install renewable energy and whether renewables could reduce your bills



Actions:

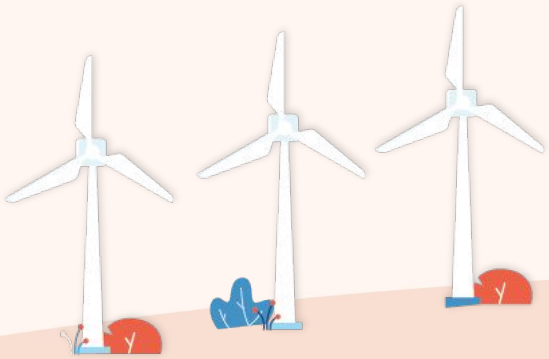
Communities:

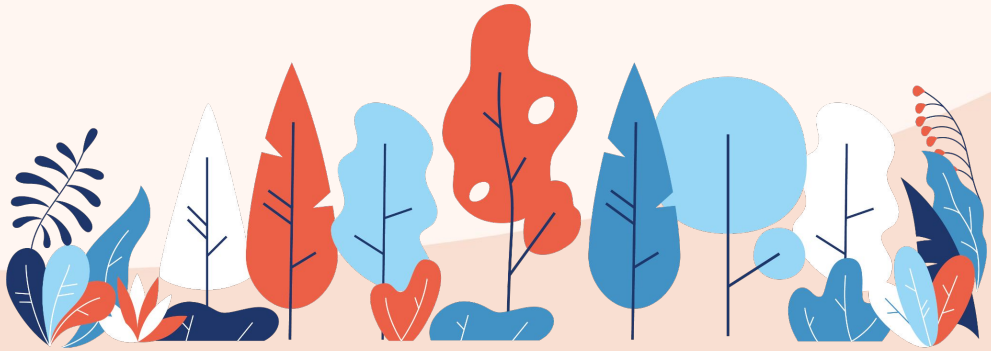
- Participate in the development of the Devon Energy Plan
- Support your local Community Energy Company to deliver renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, or establish a new one
- Help identify and support locations for renewable energy initiatives in your Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans

Actions:

Organisations:

* Install renewable energy and energy storage
* Offer roof space or land to your local community energy company for them to build a scheme and sell you the electricity
* Switch to a green renewable energy supplier





Actions:

Local Policy Makers:

- Develop an Energy Strategy for Devon to deploy renewable energy generation to meet future needs
- Look to allocate locations for renewable and low-carbon energy initiatives in Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans, ensuring community involvement
- Include policies in development plans that give positive weight to renewable and low-carbon energy initiatives which have clear evidence of local community involvement and leadership
- Provide support for communities wishing to develop their own energy infrastructure
- Provide advice on choosing genuine renewable-energy tariffs
- Test approaches to making the energy system smarter and more flexible
- Remain engaged with government funding opportunities to pilot carbon capture and storage technology on industrial facilities in Devon

Work With Government To:

- amend national planning legislation to make it more straightforward for onshore wind developments to get planning consent, especially those that are community owned
- enable timely and cost-effective grid upgrades
- ensure effective incentives are available for the use of renewable heat and waste heat from industrial and commercial facilities, including waste Energy Recovery Facilities
- reintroduce support mechanisms for smaller-scale renewable electricity generation