

Translating Renewable Energy Regional Strategy into Local Action in UK

TV Energy, United Kingdom

Summary

TV Energy (TVE a SAVE II Agency) is working with Regional Government in the South East of England (SE England Regional Assembly with SE England Regional Development Agency and the Government Office for the SE) to turn regional energy strategy and targets into local action. The project has been running for 18 months and will continue until 2010 (first targets set). The emphasis is on establishing renewable energy electricity generation projects as well as heat and green transport actions with a range of leading, local stakeholders from both the public and the private sectors. Funding has been derived from European (SAVE), national, regional and local sources.

End-user area		Target Audience	Technical		
<input type="checkbox"/>	New buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Citizens	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy efficiency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refurbishment of buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Households	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heating
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transport and mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	Property owners	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cooling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial instruments	<input type="checkbox"/>	Schools and universities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appliances
<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decision makers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lighting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal initiatives (municipal regulations, directives, etc)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local and regional authorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	CHP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planning issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transport companies	<input type="checkbox"/>	District Heating
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Solar energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	User behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>	ESCOs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Biomass
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Architects and engineers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wind
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geothermal
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydro power
				<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Context

The South East is the largest and fastest growing region of England and is often referred to as the 'powerhouse of UK plc'. Employment levels are very high and the area is home to a large number of 'blue chip' companies in a range of key economic sectors. As such, it is no surprise that the region is a massive importer and consumer of energy. Yet of the energy used something less than 1% is derived from sustainable, renewable resources. The local population is very aware of environmental issues and climate change. However, it has yet to rationalise the need and impact of local renewable energy generation with conserving and protecting its precious local environment.

The area of study for implementation with TV Energy is a sub-region of the South East known as the 'Thames Valley and Surrey'. The area is made up of four traditional English Counties known as Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey. The population of the area is around 4 million people. It is a region of good agricultural land, mild climate (for England!) with relatively low wind

speeds (typically 5 to 7 metres per second on average) and reasonable amounts of sunshine. The area is crossed by a major river (the Thames) and its many tributaries.

Objectives

The main objective of the study was to create a regional strategy with targets and deliverables capable of translation into action at the local level. Of critical importance was to involve Local Government or Municipalities and local communities generating ownership and commitment for the challenge ahead.

Process

The work in evolving the strategy has involved the following stages:

- Technical assessment/ audit of the regional renewable energy resource
- Public consultation at the regional and local level including consensus building and target setting
- Local Government and planning community consultation and consensus building
- Discussion with UK Government relating to all Regional assessments and target setting

The duration of the first phase of activity was 18 months and has recently been completed with the launch of a regional Strategy consultation document entitled “Harnessing the Elements” by the SE Regional Assembly (issued October 2002) and a ‘roll-out’ conference co-hosted by TV Energy and the Assembly. The work will continue until at least 2010, the date the first major targets are set.

Financial resources and partners

Regional Government (the Government Office, the Regional Development Agency and the Regional Assembly) and TV Energy (with a wide range of partners) have so far invested of the order of €650k in reaching the current position relating to strategy and project development. The project is an excellent example of public – private sector partnership working in taking renewable energy and sustainability matters forward at the regional and local level.

The preparatory work used to inform the draft regional Strategy was overseen by a group known as the ‘South East of England Renewable Energy Forum’ and the Board of TV Energy. This included the three regional entities referenced above plus TV Energy and partner organisations. Other partners were drawn from across the South East of England and include Regional Local Government representation, various Agencies (e.g. Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and the Countryside Agency), Local Authorities/ Municipalities, Trusts, NGOs (for example Friends of the Earth), Private Sector Companies and local communities. Production of the draft regional Strategy was guided by an advisory group of the Regional Assembly.

A very broad range of regional stakeholders have been involved with the work and the roll-out of the strategy. Of the 150 delegates at the TVE2002 event, 50% were from industry, 40% regional and local government and the remaining from academia, farming and NGOs.

Results

The strategy proposes measures to first improve energy efficiency, and also sets the following targets for renewable energy contribution by sub-region:

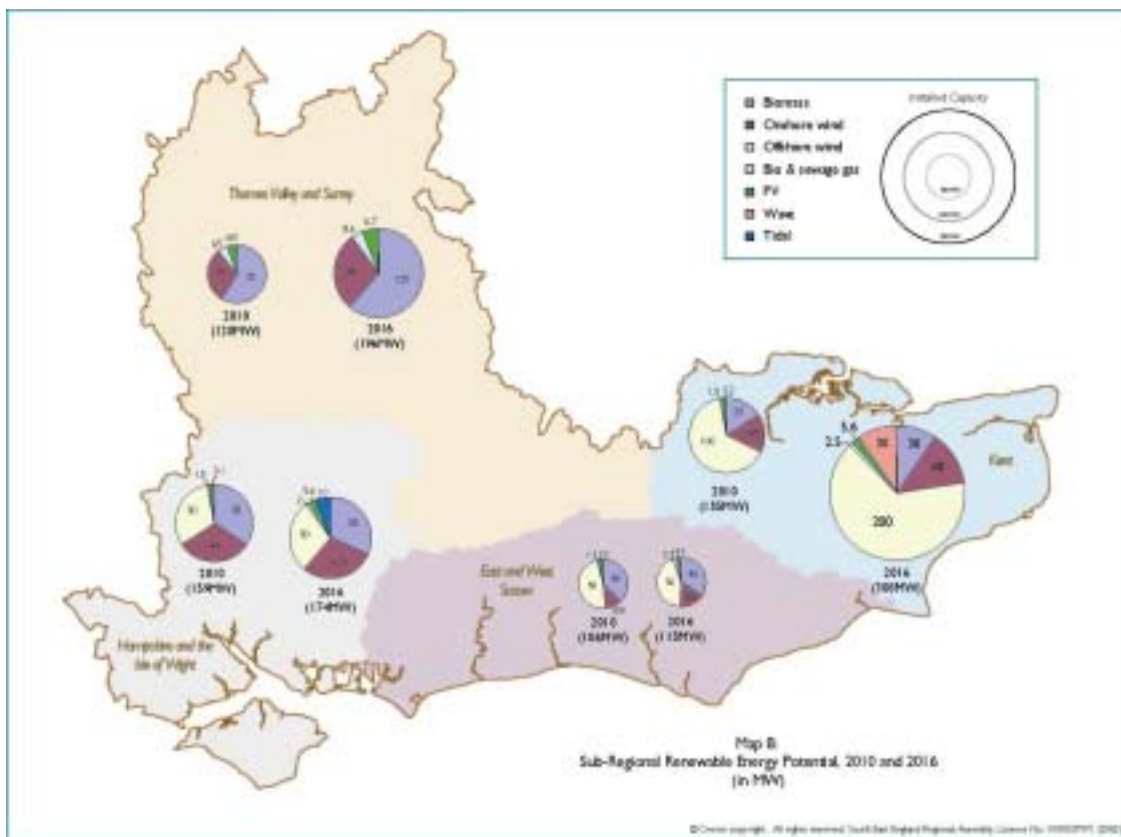


Figure 1: Sub-Regional Targets in the SE England for Renewable Energy

For the Thames Valley and Surrey sub region we are looking to meet the following targets:

Source	2010 target (MW)	2016 target (MW)
Biomass	75	125
Wind	39	58
Bio and sewage gas	6.5	8.6
Small scale hydro	0.5	0.5
PV	6.8	11.7
Bio Heat	50 projects	100 projects
Transport (biodiesel/FC)	10 projects	25 projects
TOTALS	128	196

These targets were tested on a local group of over 100 people at the TVE2002 conference (7th and 8th November 2002) as a part of the public consultation currently underway. Initial thinking is that the 2010 target is about right but the 2016 target is modest. The former target represents some 4% of current installed capacity in the area. The latter target of 6% could perhaps be extended to 8%. Heating and transport should feature more prominently and targets could be added, and co-firing of biomass with coal at the two large power stations in the area should be accounted for. Finally, the role of green waste needs to be seriously reviewed and appropriate regional strategies linked. The work once complete will inform regional planning policy and will be adopted at the local level so aiding in the delivery of the projects necessary to meet the targets.

Lessons learned and repeatability

- It is imperative that local involvement and consultation is carried out. Planners are a key group to involve and to get to accept the changes necessary for the strategy to work
- Local government influence must be used to generate environmental champions
- Flagship projects will be critical to achieving success
- There is a need to either create further 'sub-regional' entities similar to TVE under regional forum guidance (the SE forum as exists currently) or to evolve TVE to establish such entities
- Regional resources need to be enhanced and targeted in a coherent manner, backing up the strategy
- Monitoring and targeting will be critical to show delivery and areas that need special attention: TVE will trial statistical methods developed at the national and European level (RESTATS and SOEC methods) along with new methodologies being generated through IEA (International Energy Agency) to measure socio-economic data.

The strategy will be updated and revisited every 3 / 5 years and progress will be monitored through accessible website based project tracking. The methods used should be repeatable for other regional entities.

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Printed reports or other literature available:
Title: Harnessing the Elements Cost: £15 sterling (approx. €24)
Printed report available from SE Regional Assembly
TVE2002 event information, programme etc. available direct from the TV Energy website.

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