

From: [Transition Town Wellington](#)
To: [Strategy](#)
Subject: Transition Town Wellington
Date: 15 March 2020 11:31:09

Apologies - please use this updated doc (SWAT LOCAL PLAN 2040 - 5.1) rather than the previous one.

Thank you.

On Sun, 15 Mar 2020 at 11:27, Transition Town Wellington

<community.ttw@gmail.com> wrote:

I am submitting our responses to the Local Plan 2040 document on behalf of Transition Town Wellington, a local environmental community group based in Wellington, Somerset. We have focused on questions 1, 2, 6, 7 and 11 of section 5 as these are of most relevance.

Thank you for the opportunity of sharing our thoughts, comments and feedback with you.

Sincerely,

Anita Roy
On behalf of Transition Town Wellington



Question 1a: Should we aim to require that all new development is ‘zero carbon’ by as soon as possible (e.g. by 2025) or give slightly more time (e.g. by 2030) for developers to adapt their design approaches, materials and suppliers?

Transition Town Wellington (TTW) believe that SWT should push for new developments to be zero carbon as soon as possible (by 2025). We understand that there are several industry certified standards e.g those developed by the Building Research Establishment (BRE), already developed so it is not necessary for developers to wait until these are in place; as they are already there and there is no time to lose. Zero carbon by 2030 is surely impossible unless the building industry rapidly improves building of zero carbon homes.

Any ‘offsetting’ criteria should be limited to carbon sequestration projects that are certified by internationally recognised schemes.

Question 1b: Should we allocate sites for specific renewable energy development or identify broad areas which we consider suitable?

Is it not possible to do both? The Council could work with many relevant organisations such as Western Power to assess need, then the National Farmers Union, the Environment Agency rivers team and Somerset Waste Partnership to work out where the most suitable renewable power schemes could be, whether it is water, bio gas from farms or solar.

Question 1c: Do you have any comments on the policy approaches to meet Objective 1?

TTW would welcome the policies detailed in 1c/1-7

We would like to add to 1c/4 ***Yes, “support community decentralised renewable energy schemes and micro-generation”*** – particularly by providing long term, low interest finance and access to advice on how to support the development and financial sustainability of local community renewable energy organisations such as Brendon Energy.

In addition to supporting 1c/5 ***Protect best and most versatile agricultural land and sets criteria as to when it is acceptable for its loss, protect soil quality and require mitigation from developments to avoid detrimental impacts.***

Much Grade 1 agricultural land has been lost already around Wellington to developers in the last few decades, any more loss should be avoided wherever possible. TTW would also like to suggest that support for market garden growers should be built into the plan, an increase in small local growers would reduce food miles and produce more food per acre than many industrial style commercial growers.