

# SHETLAND'S LOCAL PLACE PLANS

## Leaflet 17 - An Energy Perspective

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### Why should we think about energy?

Energy affects how we live in, work in, and power our communities. Planning decisions about land and buildings can support local energy generation, reduce carbon emissions, and improve energy resilience and affordability.

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### How does energy affect land use and buildings?

- Buildings use energy for heating, lighting, and appliances
  - Land can host renewable energy infrastructure like wind, solar, or hydro
  - Energy efficiency reduces costs and environmental impact
  - Energy grid infrastructure affects development viability and resilience
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### Key concepts:

**Energy Efficiency:** Designing buildings and appliances to use less energy and retain heat

**Local Generation:** Community or household-scale renewables like solar, biomass, tidal or wind

**Grid Infrastructure:** Connections, substations, and transmission lines

**Energy Resilience:** Reliable supply during storms, outages, or emergencies

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### What does this look like in Shetland?

- **High fuel costs** make energy efficiency critical for affordability
  - **Oil-fired heating** is still common in older homes and buildings
  - **Wind and tidal resources** offer potential for local generation
  - **Transmission infrastructure** can impact landscape and communities
  - **Community and shared energy projects** are emerging in rural areas
  - **Weather extremes** highlight the need for resilient energy systems
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### Things to think about when planning land and buildings:

- Are buildings designed or retrofitted for energy efficiency?
  - Is there potential for local renewable energy generation?
  - Can energy infrastructure be integrated sensitively into the landscape?
  - Are communities involved in energy planning and decision-making?
  - Is energy supply reliable and affordable for all residents?
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## Examples:

- Install solar panels or small wind turbines on community buildings
  - Retrofit homes with insulation, heat pumps, and efficient lighting
  - Support community energy cooperatives or shared generation schemes
  - Plan for battery storage or backup systems in remote areas
  - Consider visual and environmental impacts of energy infrastructure
  - Use planning to support net zero and energy justice goals
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## For information and support:

- [Community Energy Scotland | Community Renewables Projects](#)
- [We are Local Energy Scotland · Local Energy Scotland](#)
- [Climate Change – Shetland Islands Council](#)
- [Energy | Highlands and Islands Enterprise | HIE](#)
- [Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Schemes](#)
- [Heat networks - Renewable and low carbon energy - gov.scot](#)