
Local Authority Context

1.1 Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES)

For your Community-led LEP to be viable, it needs to take into account relevant guidance from your local authority. Of particular relevance are the Scottish Government's proposed Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) that may be in development or completed when your LEP is being created. LHEES strategies take a 20-year view of how the energy efficiency of buildings can be improved and heat supplies switched to lower-carbon sources in a given local authority area. LHEES supports a coordinated approach to the local planning and delivery of energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation programmes within Energy Efficient Scotland, and to ensure that national level policies and ambitions are delivered on the ground. It is proposed that LHEES will:

- Conduct an authority-wide assessment of the energy performance and heat demand of the existing building stock, enabling potential for improvement to be identified and target-setting for energy demand and carbon reduction;
- Undertake a socio-economic assessment of potential energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation solutions, allowing Local Authorities to identify and prioritise local projects for delivery; and
- Cost and phase delivery over the lifetime of Energy Efficient Scotland, ensuring local and national support is in place to support building owners and sending strong investment signals to the supply chain.

The LHEES strategies often define smaller areas (or 'zones') within the local authority boundary area where specific actions are proposed. This helps to fairly meet the different requirements of larger towns and smaller settlements.

Any LHEES programmes of works taking place (or completed) in your area are likely to be complementary to your LEP, and the opportunities identified in your LEP will be similar to those in the LHEES. Both the Community-led LEP and LHEES must be consistent with other local planning work, including the Local Development Plans, which means they're likely to be mutually supportive. It's important that both the community and the local authority recognise these mutual benefits, and collaborate when seeking finance and implementing work.

1.2 Other Relevant Policy Areas

Given the broader remit a Community-led LEP has, it will identify and work towards opportunities that don't fall within the remit of the LHEES – but the delivery of the LHEES will still benefit the LEP (and vice-versa). For example, a LHEES can deliver improved insulation for a number of homes. This will reduce the heating needs of the residents and the amount they spend on fuel. A LEP could look to develop community-owned local renewable electricity generation. This would provide a cheaper power supply to the same homes that benefitted from the LHEES works (and others). Both of these actions assist the shared ambition to reduce overall fuel poverty in the local area.

Aside from this, a review of other policy areas should include (where applicable):

- Local Development Plan
- Strategic Growth or Economic Development Plan
- Local Outcome Improvement Plans
- Locality Planning

- Local Place Plans
- Sustainable Energy Action Plans
- Planning guidance for low carbon energy generation

You should consult with your local authority when undertaking your review. This will ensure any relevant plans, changes and actions in your community (such as new facilities or infrastructure, energy efficiency programmes or decentralised energy systems) are taken into account when developing your LEP.

Table 1 Local authority documents and relevance to local energy plan (March 2021)

Document	Acronym	Description	Relevance to Local Energy Plan
Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies	LHEES	Area-based strategies looking at how to improve energy efficiency of buildings and decarbonise their heat supply. Strategy looks at a 20-year period	Proposed by Scottish Government, to be developed and implemented by local authority. Shows where mutual actions by the community and local authority can deliver for both the LHEES and LEP
Local Development Plan	LDP	Vision for how communities will grow and develop in the future. The intention is to provide certainty, for communities and investors alike, about where development should and shouldn't take place, and the supporting infrastructure required for growth. Updated every 5 years. Accompanied by an Action Programme to assist delivery. May also be accompanied by associated Supplementary Guidance and/or non-statutory guidance/advice.	Shows where future development is anticipated, and supporting infrastructure (roads, water treatment, and utilities). Enables an assessment of the scale of energy demand this may bring and what land areas are used in building
Strategic Growth or Economic Development Plan		Three or five year plans that prioritise activities by local authority to stimulate economic growth in the area	Indicates the type of businesses and development that may take place in the local area. Allows thought about the scale of power, heat and transport energy requirements this may bring
Local Outcome Improvement Plans	LOIP	Sets out objectives for public sector agencies working in a local authority area. Brings together health and adult services, transport and housing. The collection of agencies forms a Community Planning Partnership	Provides some guidance regarding potential transport, infrastructure and building needs within a local authority area
Locality Planning	LP	Specific areas drawn up by the Community Planning Partnership to deliver supporting actions within the LOIP	Provides an overview of how health and social care services are delivered and the impacts this may have on energy use (community buildings and housing) and transport (home visits and clinical services)
Local Place Plans	LPP	Community-led plans that set out a community's view on proposals for the development and use of land.	Sets out what the local community considers to be of particular significance to the local area.
Sustainable Energy Action Plans	SEAP	Show how a town, city or region will deliver a target for carbon reduction. Includes actions and timeframes for work in buildings, equipment, transport and local energy production	May include specific actions relevant to the proposed study area for a Community-led LEP

Planning guidance for low carbon energy generation		Local authority's guidance about how to develop local energy generation projects, which must be consulted and followed	Provides guidance about scale and nature of local energy generation likely to achieve planning consent. Useful for avoiding immediate issues that would prevent development going ahead
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Note: This list is not exhaustive. Discussions with your local authority will help clarify which documents are relevant for your community's LEP.