

# Appendix 1: Recommended amendments to provisions – Climate Change – Energy, Waste and Industry

Section 42A amendments shown in red underlined and ~~marked-up~~ text.

## Policy 2: Reducing adverse effects of the discharge of odour, smoke, dust and fine particulate matter, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies, ~~and/or~~ rules and/or methods that:

(a) protect or enhance the amenity values of neighbouring areas from discharges of odour, smoke and dust; and

(b) protect people's health from discharges of dust, smoke and fine particulate matter, ~~;~~ and

(c) support industry to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from industrial processes, and

(d) phase-out coal as a fuel source for domestic fires and large-scale generators by 2030.

**Explanation:** Policy 2 seeks to protect neighbouring areas and people's health from discharges of contaminants into the air. ~~In addition, it seeks to support industry to reduce discharges of greenhouse gas emissions from industrial processes, and to phase-out coal as a fuel source for domestic fires and large-scale industrial boilers by 2030.~~

## Policy 7: Recognising the benefits from renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall include policies and/or methods that ~~recognise~~:

(a) recognise the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of *regionally significant infrastructure*, and in particular low and zero carbon regionally significant infrastructure including:

(i) people and goods can travel to, from and around the region efficiently and safely and in ways that support the transitioning to low or zero carbon multi modal ~~transport travel~~ modes;

(ii) public health and safety is maintained through the provision of essential services: - supply of potable water, the collection and transfer of sewage and stormwater, and the provision of emergency services;

(iii) people have access to energy, and preferably low or zero carbon renewable energy, so as to meet their needs;

(iv) the provision of an efficient, effective and resilient electricity transmission network; and

(iv) people have access to telecommunication services.

(b) recognise and provide for the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of energy generated from renewable energy resources including:

- (i) avoiding, reducing and displacing greenhouse gas emissions;
- (ii) contributing to the security of supply, resilience, independence and diversification of ~~our~~ energy sources;
- (iii) reducing dependency on imported energy resources; ~~and~~
- (iiiiv) reducing greenhouse gas emissions using renewable resources rather than finite resources; and
- (v) the reversibility of the adverse effects on the environment of some renewable electricity generation technologies.

(c) recognise the benefits of regionally significant infrastructure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Explanation:** ~~Notwithstanding that renewable energy generation and regionally significant infrastructure can have adverse effects on the surrounding environment and community, Policy 7 recognises that renewable energy generation and regionally significant infrastructure these activities can provide a range of local, regional and national benefits both within and outside the region, including helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide essential services for the well-being of people and communities particular if regionally significant infrastructure is a low or zero carbon development.~~

### **Policy 11: Promoting and enabling energy efficient design and small and community scale renewable energy generation – district plans**

District plans shall include policies and/or rules and other methods that:

- (a) promote and enable energy efficient design and the energy efficient alterations to existing buildings;
- (b) enable the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of installation and use of domestic scale (up to 20 kW) and small and community scale distributed renewable energy generation (up to 100 kW); and provide for energy efficient alterations to existing buildings.;

**Explanation:** Policy 11 promotes energy efficient design, energy efficient alterations to existing buildings, and enables the development of installation of domestic small and community scale and renewable energy generation (up to 100kW).

Energy efficient design and alteration to existing buildings can reduce total energy costs (i.e., heating) and reliance on non-renewable energy supply.

~~Small scale distributed renewable electricity generation means renewable electricity generation for the purpose of using electricity on a particular site, or supplying an immediate community, or connecting into the distribution network. (from NPS-REG 2011).~~

Small and community-scale renewable energy generation provides a range of benefits, including increasing local security of supply, energy and community resilience, and providing for the well-being of people and communities. Small and community-scale renewable energy generation also plays an important role in

reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting national and regional emission reduction targets.

### **Policy 39: Recognising the benefits from renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure – consideration**

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan: ~~particular regard shall be given to:~~

- a) recognise and provide for the social, economic, cultural, and environmental benefits of energy generated from renewable energy resources; and
- b) recognise the social, economic, cultural, and environmental benefits of other and/or regionally significant infrastructure, in particular including where it contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and
- ~~(bc)~~ have particular regard to protecting regionally significant infrastructure from incompatible subdivision, use and development occurring under, over, or adjacent to the infrastructure; and
- ~~(ed)~~ I recognise and provide for the operational need and functional ~~the need for~~ of renewable electricity generation activities to be in particular locations, including the need to facilities to locate where the renewable energy resources exist; and
- ~~(de)~~ recognise the benefits of utilising the significant wind, solar and marine renewable energy resources within the region.

### **Explanation**

~~Notwithstanding that renewable energy generation and regionally significant infrastructure can have adverse effects on the surrounding environment and community,~~ Policy 39 recognises that renewable energy generation and regionally significant infrastructure these activities can provide a range of environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits locally, regionally and nationally, particularly to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions as sought by Objective CC.3. These benefits are outlined in Policy 7.

### **Policy 65: ~~Supporting and encouraging~~ Promoting efficient use and conservation of resources – non-regulatory**

~~To promote~~ Support and encourage the conservation and efficient use of resources by:

- (a) applying the 5 Rs (Reducing, Reusing, Recycling, Recover, recycling and Residual waste management);
- (b) reducing organic waste at source from households and commercial premises;
- (c) increasing the diversion of wastewater sludge from wastewater treatment plants before deposition to municipal landfills;
- (d) requiring efficient municipal landfill gas systems;
- (e) increasing the portion of energy used from renewable sources;
- ~~(ef)~~ using water and energy efficiently; and

(fg) conserving water and energy.

**Explanation:** Policy 65 ~~supports and encourages~~ ~~promotes~~ the efficient use of resources to waste and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The policy endorses the waste hierarchy and also promotes similar principles for efficient water and energy use.

**Method 17: Reducing waste and greenhouse gases emissions from waste streams Information about waste management**

Work in partnership with mana whenua / tangata whenua and with city and district councils, the waste management sector, industry groups and the community to:

- (a) reduce organic matter at source, and
- (b) work towards implementing kerbside recovery of organic waste from households and commercial premises, and
- (c) encourage development opportunities for increasing the recovery of biogas from municipal landfills, and
- (d) increase the diversion of organic waste (sludge) from the waste stream before deposition to municipal landfills.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council, iwi authorities, city and district councils.*

**~~Method 33: Identify sustainable energy programmes~~**

~~Identify sustainable energy programmes, to improve energy efficiency and conservation, reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and minimise the region's vulnerability to energy supply disruptions or shortages.~~

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council\* and city and district councils*

**~~Method 56: Assist the community to reduce waste and use water and energy efficiently~~**

~~Assist the community to adopt sustainable practices to:~~

- ~~(a) reduce, reuse or recycle waste;~~
- ~~(b) use water and energy efficiently; and~~
- ~~I conserve water and energy.~~

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils*

**Definitions**

**Large scale generators**

Any boiler, furnace, engine or other device designed to burn for the primary purpose of energy production having a net heat or energy output of more than 40Kw, but

~~excluding motor vehicles, trucks, boats and aircraft. This definition excludes domestic fires.~~

### **Organic waste**

Wastes containing carbon compounds that are capable of being readily biologically degraded, including by natural processes, such as paper, food residuals, wood wastes, garden and plant wastes, but not inorganic materials such as metals and glass or plastic. Organic wastes can be decomposed by microorganisms into methane, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and simple organic molecules (plastic contains carbon compounds and is theoretically organic in nature, but generally is not readily biodegradable).

### **Small scale and community scale renewable energy (in relation to electricity generation)**

~~Has the same meaning as in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Generation 2011: small and community scale distributed electricity generation~~

~~mMeans renewable energy electricity generation for the purpose of using electricity on a particular site, or supplying an immediate community, or connecting into the distribution network.~~