

Draft Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 6: Renewable Energy  
Response of the Scottish Environmental Services Association

The Scottish Environmental Services Association ("SESA") is the sectoral trade association representing Scotland's managers of waste and secondary resources, a sector with an annual UK turnover of around £5 billion. SESA's Members want to be enabled to recover increasing amounts of the materials and energy contained in waste.

SESA welcomes many of the policies set out in draft SPP6 and we welcome, in particular, the acknowledgement that energy from waste and landfill gas have the potential to continue to contribute significantly to Scotland's energy generation mix. However, the draft guidance has omitted the equally significant opportunities afforded by the generation of renewable energy from the biodegradable element of municipal solid waste (MSW) in any great detail. Landfill gas and energy from waste (efw) facilities provide over 30% of the renewable energy generated in the UK. Recent reports have highlighted the potential for efw facilities to further contribute to the UK's energy demand<sup>1</sup>. These facilities have a significant role to play in meeting the challenging renewable energy targets set by the Scottish Executive.

Increasing the amount of energy recovered from MSW can also contribute significantly to other Scottish policy objectives, such as meeting Scotland's biodegradable municipal waste landfill directive diversion targets and reducing greenhouse gases emissions. Recovering energy from residual waste also has significant strategic benefits as providing an indigenous source of biomass fuel which can contribute towards diversity of energy supply and energy security by reducing reliance on overseas energy sources.

**On-site renewable energy equipment**

SESA Members report that even where there is a demand from the manufacturing industry for heat, the planning process often limits renewable energy facilities to sites where there is no local heat demand. We suggest that, rather than requiring on-site renewable energy equipment for new developments, that planning authorities should be required to consider how renewable energy supply schemes can best be integrated with new developments in order to maximise the benefits associated with such schemes.

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<sup>1</sup> *Quantification of the Potential Energy from Residuals (EfR) in the UK* Institute of Civil Engineers and Renewable Power Association (2005)