

GOWER SOCIETY ALTERNATIVE ENERGY POLICY

AREA <i>(Different areas may require a different response)</i>			Area Ref
The Lordship of Gower could be split into the following areas.			
Gower Peninsula	AONB		A
	Non AONB	Urban	B
		Rural	C
Rest of Lordship	Prospective AONB extension		D
	Remainder	Urban	E
		Rural	F
Without the Lordship but affecting it visually			G

This policy is generally in line with the position statement on Renewable Energy issued by the National Association for AONBs.

ENERGY SOURCE		COMMENT
Tidal Lagoons		(a) Only current one is in Swansea Bay (Area G). The Society has serious reservations and has set these out in a statement to the planning inspectorate dated 8.4.2014. Reservations include significant negative visual impact and possible negative impact upon the environment, marine wildlife and seabed movement along the coast.
		(b) A lagoon attached to any part of the Gower coast would have a huge impact on Area A and should be objected to.
Tidal Flow Capture. (Barrage)		(c) It is possible that a scheme for the Loughor estuary could be proposed. This would be a combination of Areas A and G. A barrage upstream of Loughor bridge would be acceptable and should not be opposed. Any barrage below this point should be carefully considered and objected to if there is a significant negative impact on Area A.
Wind Farms	Land based	(d) Any within Areas A to F would be visually too obtrusive and should be objected to. Those in area G should be considered on a case by case basis. The Society should object only if they are too obtrusive.
	Marine based	(e) This would be Area G and should be considered on a case by case basis. The Society should object only if they are too obtrusive.
Individual Wind Turbines.		(f) Small unobtrusive turbines in any area should not be objected to. Obtrusive individual turbines in Areas A & D to be objected to: also object to them in other areas which detrimentally affect Areas A & D.
Solar Panels	Domestic	(g) No objection to small installation, whether on roof or in garden. Larger installations to be considered on a case by case basis.
<i>(The less visual dark frame type to be encouraged)</i>	Large arrays on large shed/barn roofs	(h) Consider on a case by case basis. Generally no objection if on existing buildings and not too obtrusive. <i>(Do not want encourage new large "farm" buildings erected principally to accommodate panels.)</i>
	Solar Farms	(i) Object in Areas A & D: they are industrial installations. Object in other areas only if it has a significant visual impact on Areas A & D.
Biomass		(j) No objection to "domestic" farm installations. Object in Areas A & D if installation would import material as it would be "industrial". In other areas consider on case by case basis whether there would be a significant visual impact and / or if it would generate significant additional regular heavy traffic.
Fracking		(k) No fundamental objection. However object if environment would suffer, e.g. visually too obtrusive within or from Areas A & D or if ground water contamination is likely.
Coal Seam Gasification.		(l) Same as Fracking. <i>(Presumed that scheme would only be permitted if it is technically competent).</i>