

Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) is an umbrella body for organisations working in the built environment in Scotland. Drawing on extensive expertise in a membership-led forum, BEFS informs, debates and advocates on the strategic issues, opportunities and challenges facing Scotland's historic and contemporary built environment.

BEFS would stress that our existing built environment is the most sustainable building resource we have. The embodied energy present, and the potential for positive interventions is huge. Adapting and reusing these buildings, and considering our wider environment within the policy related to Energy schemes, presents an enormous opportunity to provide climate solutions, solutions which benefit people and place.

2. What are your views on the 10 principles?

3. Local energy projects should reflect local characteristics. The distinctive local resources, ambitions and priorities of particular places should be at the heart of future energy considerations

BEFS notes that the Place Principle is mentioned within the document, but it is of concern that, for example, [Historic Environment Policy for Scotland](#) (HEPS) and related managing change guidance documents are not. Given that part of the purpose of this Policy statement is to ensure it is *embedded in practice and behaviours of all stakeholders*, BEFS would like to see mention of related historic environment, place, and landscape policies from the outset.

Drivers for climate action may suggest swift decisions need to be made, and they do – but a mindful approach considering the following is recommended:

Whilst many necessary protections exist – taking a holistic approach to the existing built environment, mindful of the time necessary and appropriate adaptations may take, appreciating the whole-lifecycle and embodied energy approach – as well as taking into account potential archaeological and landscape interests, and making these explicit within the policy statement would give a stronger message – that, when considering new Local Energy Projects the local current environment is of as much note as the adaptations and interventions that will make it even more sustainable for the future.

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Responding on behalf of an Organisation - **BEFS** (Built Environment Forum Scotland)

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference: **Publish response with name**

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise? **YES**