

Which regional strategies and policies does my woodland and forestry Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) Project deliver?

RDPE is designed to stimulate rural development and each region has particular priority activities that it wishes to support. These priorities are based on the region's needs, set out in various regional rural policy documents. This document aims to help guide you quickly to the relevant policies and strategies that may be delivered by your project. This will allow you to demonstrate the wider benefits of your project beyond your own business, which may help in a competitive funding situation.

Each relevant regional policy document is listed, with its website address. The relevant policy outcomes and outputs are also reproduced here, with page numbers. This allows you to quickly choose the policy outcomes that your project may deliver. It is worth then going to these documents to read the supporting text, to help you fully understand of the policy.

When completing the relevant sections of your application form and business plan it is worth stating how you consider that your project will deliver the objectives that you choose. Indeed, to save space it might be worth just referencing the policy name/number with a quick note of how your project will deliver it. The policy statements listed below are not exhaustive, there may be other policy objectives that your project delivers which are not highlighted here.

RDPE Priorities – Source: RDPE Prospectus -

http://www.seeda.co.uk/RDPE/SEEDA_Funding

Section 2.1 (p6) There is tremendous scope for the development of renewable energy in the region. The RDPE can support the following types of activities:

- Renewable energy installations for on-farm use of heat and electricity, including anaerobic digestors, gasification plants, woodfuel boilers, wind turbines and hydroelectric units.
- Equipment for harvesting and processing of wood for fuel.
- Storage facilities and setting-up collection and distribution networks for woodfuel, to support sales to domestic and industrial users.
- Biofuel projects
- Farmers setting-up renewable energy projects for the sale of energy off farm.

Section 3.2.1 (p8) For activities relating to harvesting of woodland the eligible activities include:

- In-forest activities up to and including harvesting.
- Improving access to forestry where access is limiting the management and development of forestry
- The cost of producing management plans where linked to these investments
- Forest owners can also invest in improving the infrastructure for in-forest recreational activities such as cycle tracks.

Section 3.2.2 (p8) Adding-value to forestry products can be grant aided but is limited to all working operations prior to industrial processing, including, for example, dismembering, stripping, and cutting up. Example activities include:

- investments aimed at improving efficiency in processing and marketing
- promoting the processing and marketing of forestry production for renewable energy
- introducing new technologies and innovation;
- opening new market opportunities for forestry products, putting emphasis on quality; improving environmental protection, and occupational safety.

Section 9.2 (p20) This funding is also for encouraging cooperation between producers and processors to develop new products, processes and technologies for forestry products, non-food crops and renewable energy.

Section 10.2.1 (p22) Eligible activities:

Retailing, manufacturing or service industries, including self-made products, recreation, equestrian and creative industries

environmental services, including the traditional trades required to maintain and enhance the landscape

renewable energy (planting support and forestry processing activity eligible under other measures will not be eligible under this measure).

SEEDA Regional Economic Strategy -

http://www.seeda.co.uk/RES_for_the_South_East_2006-2016/RES_2006-2016 (Look at 'RES 2006-2016')

Target 5 – Enterprise, increase the number of businesses in the region

Action 5.4 (p69) - Stimulate rural enterprise and nurture new and existing businesses based on good market intelligence, making use of networks, collaborations and co-operatives and centres of excellence.

Action 5.5 (p69) - Support the development of home-based businesses, particularly targeting rural and women owned businesses. Recognise the importance of micro businesses and home-based businesses, the major contribution made from the voluntary sector and the potential for social enterprise.

Target 6 – Improve skills level

Action 6.4 (p72) - Ensure that all young people and adults of all ages in the region have access to relevant diplomas, vocational and work-based learning opportunities, including the number, range and quality of apprenticeships and other vocational opportunities including foundation degrees – in skills centres and elsewhere.

Target 7 – Encourage regional businesses to participate in public sector targeting

Action 7.2 (p75) Identify areas of the public sector where there is potential for more procurement from local SMEs, and encourage alliances and collaboration to increase local procurement by improving client-side capacity.

Target 9 – Ensure sufficient and affordable housing and employment space

Action 9.8 (p81) - Ensure a wider understanding and adoption of quality standards and best practice in construction and encourage developers from both the public and private sector to raise their design aspirations.

Target 10 – Increase employment

Action 10.1 (p83) - Work with employers to support in-work training schemes; provide vocational training and support in a range of learning styles; and target the support of Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) courses in industrial sectors that have significant skills gaps.

Action 10.2 (p83) - Encourage a culture of learning throughout business and community life.

Target 11 – Contribute to tackling climate change and increase use of renewable energy

Action 11.3 (p99) - Promote and support innovation for new markets, products and services that support adaptation to climate change.

Action 11.4 (p99) – Maximise opportunities for South East businesses arising from energy policy.

Action 11.5 (p99) – Support initiatives that integrate local demand and supply of energy, with energy efficiency, building on exemplar projects in the region.

Cross Cutting theme – Key Actions for Rural Areas (p114)

Stimulate enterprise and nurture new and existing businesses based on good market intelligence, making use of networks, collaborations and co-operatives, centres of excellence and hubs of specific activity based on best practice models

Support locally focused community-based businesses such as village shops, and businesses that make use of the natural environment and heritage assets or that use environmental technologies

Recognise the importance of micro businesses and home-based businesses, the major contribution made from the voluntary sector and the potential for social enterprise

Exploit the potential for real premium products through 'added value'; develop and adopt good quality standards; become closer to markets and make best use of opportunities in London and other urban and rural markets on the doorstep

Explore and support the potential for new crops for industry (including biofuels and bioenergy) to replace oil and the infrastructure needed to enable greater self sufficiency in fuel and supply of local energy

Ensure that the traditional and craft skills which underpin the management of heritage assets and landscape are maintained

Invest in the development of forestry supply chains for the development of local products, energy and the potential for materials for more sustainable construction

Target new employment activities where there are recognised concentrations of rural deprivation

Develop opportunities for the land-based sector to grow crops for energy and fuels

Explore the potential opportunities for the land-based sector to continue to manage and maintain the quality landscapes and biodiversity of the region, particularly in fragile livestock and woodland regimes

Regional Rural Framework -

<http://www.gos.gov.uk/gose/environmentRural/regionalRuralPolicy/ruralDeliveryFramework>

Economic Development and Enterprise Theme (p17)

Action 1 - Increase the number of business start-ups in rural areas

- a) Concentrate on stimulating new enterprises, particularly in the most deprived Districts (Indicator districts)
- b) Encourage the uptake of programmes that re-use existing and underused buildings
- c) Promote and support social enterprise, home based and community based businesses

Action 2 - Take advantage of and foster confidence in opportunities for innovation and increase the proportion of land-based businesses involved in value-added activities and non food crops.

- (b) Disseminate best practice on examples of new product development, new crops and new technologies.

Action 7 - Support the land based sector and, in particular, implement the economic objectives contained in the regional Sustainable Farming and Food delivery plan and the Regional Forestry Framework

- b) Overcome barriers, taking into account the environmental, social and economic implications to non- food diversification market-based action on industrial and biomass crops, wood fuel and tourism.
- f) encourage investment in modern infrastructure that supports the land based sector

Food and Farming Theme (p21)

Action 1 - Support land based industries to be sustainable, in a way that is economically viable and supports the diversity of landscape and habitat management needs

- (b) Add value as close as possible to product source by supporting sector champions, directing grants, local product campaigns, sharing best practice and the establishment of new information networks
- (c) Encourage non-food diversification using demonstration projects, case studies, advice, grants and sector champions, particularly renewable raw materials, disposal of green waste, woodfuel and tourism, and develop supply and demand chains.

Forestry Theme (p22)

1 Ensure that growing communities in the region fully utilise the benefits and products of the regional woodland resource

- (b) Promote the use of wood in construction and in particular timber framed houses, particularly in the growth areas

3 Use more wood from the region as a source of renewable energy and in particular woodheat.

- a) Promote the value of woodfuelled heating and energy in new developments and more generally as a fuel among local planning bodies and in any boiler replacements in the public sector
- b) Support collaborative initiatives to supply wood as a fuel

Landscape Theme (p26)

- 4 Support innovative land-based businesses that reinforce landscape character
- a) Disseminate best practice on examples of new product development, new crops and new technologies which respect and reinforce landscape character

Regional Forestry Framework: www.seeingthewoodforthetrees.org.uk

Outcome 6 – The economic value of woodland products to the region being increased (p26)

Output 6.1 – Support for business innovation and entrepreneurship in the woodland sector and added-value processing and marketing of local woodland products

Output 6.2. Promotion of, and support for existing markets for woodland products and measures to expand these

Output 6.3 Promotion of an appropriate range of local products among purchasers and specifiers, such as the public sector, big business and architects with information on suppliers readily available

Output 6.4 The market and the supply chain for wood as a source of renewable energy in the region developed.

Outcome 11 Increasing public awareness about woodlands and their management (p36)

Output 11.1 Measures in place to raise awareness within the region of the benefits of woodland management

Outcome 12 The financial viability of woodland management secured (p37)

Output 12.2 Better co-operating and communication established between the various parts of the woodland sector and customers to ensure that the sector can take advantage of opportunities.

Jane Hull
Rural Development Officer
Forestry Commission South East Region
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