

CHAPTER 7 – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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CHAPTER 7: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Aim: To ensure a good quality of life for the citizens of Laois through maintaining and improving wastewater treatment and water supplies and to minimise the adverse impacts of development on the environment through policies on the management of wastes and emissions.

INTRODUCTION

- 7.1 The purpose of this chapter is to outline Laois County Council policy with regard to achieving high quality sustainable environmental standards for the County. The chapter deals with management of waste and emissions with regard to solid waste, water and air quality. The Council recognises that the provision of high quality water services, waste management practices, extractive industries and energy provision is one of the fundamental requisites for economic growth, attraction of industry, tourism development and general well being of the Community.
- 7.2 The Council is committed to the protection of the Natural and Built Heritage and environment and recognises that commitment to sustainability involves direct and indirect action across the entire gambit of environmental issues such as
- waste management and disposal ;
 - beneficial use of biosolids;
 - protection of water sources;
 - pollution control; and
 - monitoring.
- 7.3 The myriad of environmental legislation and regulations imposes a responsibility on the Council and on the general public to accommodate in a balanced manner, environmental considerations on the one hand and the need for the County to develop without causing unnecessary problems for the next generations. The Council is committed to the use of best available technology not involving excessive cost.
- 7.4 The protection of the environment and the optimum use of finite resources necessitate action and control in multiple areas. The Council will co-operate with other statutory Authorities/Agencies in the exercise of its statutory and advisory functions. In particular the council will consult:
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance documents;
 - The Waste Management Plan for the Midlands ;
 - Air Quality Plan;
 - Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government Documentation;
 - EU Directives.
- 7.5 The Council will work in close co-operation with the Environmental Protection Agency in the performance of its statutory obligations and in the achievement of the requisite levels of quality control standards.

ENV 1 Environmental Policy

It is Council Policy to:

- Ensure quality provision of water and waste water facilities;
- Reduce quantities of waste produced;
- Encourage re-use and recycling of materials;
- Tackle the problem of litter in the County;
- Improve Air quality;
- Protect water resources from pollution;
- Protect the natural and built environment from hazardous accidents;
- Ensure that extractive industry activities in the county are carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner;
- Support regional Policy by ensuring that adequate supplies of aggregates and construction material are available to meet future needs in the context of environmental protection and sustainable development;
- Work with Private Group Water Schemes to rationalize and extend networks and raise treatment standards;
- Ensure that a sufficient energy supply is available.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

7.6 The successful sustainable development of County Laois during the past years has been achieved by the implementation of environmental regulations. The future development of the County will be dependant on the continued implementation of these regulations. The emphasis on sustainable development, with the focus on delivery of results, will be continued by the Environmental Protection Section, in partnership with the people of Laois.

WATER SERVICES

7.7 Laois County Council harnesses, treats and supplies drinking water to Quality Standards as defined by the European Union and oversees the collection and treatment of waste water in urban areas.

7.8 Water services provision, including water mains and foul sewers, will be required to comply with the requirements of An Foras Forbartha as set out in the "Recommendations for Site Development Works in Housing Areas". The redressing of capacity deficiencies in water services, facilitates economic development. Developers may be required to provide sanitary service infrastructure, of a specified capacity, in the interests of the long-term development of an area. Where the development requires the provision of elements of infrastructure with significant running costs such as pumping stations or treatment plant, then the Council will require a payment related to costs of maintaining the plant for 20 years.

7.9 The combined urban wastewater treatment systems within County Laois can currently cater for a population equivalent of 46,000. It is planned to increase this capacity to cater for a population equivalent of 78,000 within the life of this County Development Plan.

7.10 Increased capacity is planned for Portlaoise, Abbeyleix, Durrow, Mountrath, Stradbally, Rathdowney and Clonaslee. Currently Laois County Council's directly operate treatment plants with a total capacity of 26,000 population equivalent, and a specialist contractor, on the Council's behalf, is operating the remaining 20,000 capacity.

- 7.11 Of the planned total treatment capacity of 78,000 population equivalent, contracted specialist firms will operate some 62,000 at the towns listed in Table 11 while 16,000 will continue to be operated directly by the Council. Plans will also be developed to increase the capacities of Portarlington and Mountmellick wastewater treatment works.
- 7.12 The Council is implementing Government Policy by the introduction of competent specialist companies to Design, Build and operate suitable Water Supply and wastewater Treatment Systems within the County.

ENV2 Water and Wastewater Provision

It is the Policy of the Council to:

- Pursue a physical development strategy that optimises existing and proposed water and wastewater infrastructural investment;
- Concentrate infrastructure improvement and provision in the areas in which the greatest shortfall and the greatest potential for residential industrial and commercial growth exist at present;
- Assess all proposals in the light of the available infrastructural facilities in the development area, and to prohibit those developments that would put undue pressure on the available water and wastewater facilities. In areas of inadequate water pressure developers may be required to provide auxiliary pumping facilities;
- Refuse permission, even permission in principle, for developments which will not have adequate wastewater disposal facilities available to them within a reasonable period to ensure an orderly expansion of the urban areas and in order to avoid making premature commitments of land;
- Encourage water conservation, to minimize wastage, and protect sources by reducing the requirement for water abstraction and treatment;
- Discourage the use of pumping stations for technical and environmental reasons.

Water Service requirements for New Developments

- 7.13 The Council will require the submission of detailed plans including longitudinal sections of all service mains with a planning application for residential development. In areas of inadequate water pressure, developers may be required to provide auxiliary pumping facilities. However, the use of wastewater pumping stations will generally be discouraged, for technical and environmental reasons.
- 7.14 All water connections, domestic and non domestic, shall be equipped with a clearly identifiable water services control unit, comprising water meter with remote read facility, stopcock, and non-return valve. Service lines shall be adequately protected as specified by Laois County Council Water Services Section.
- 7.15 As constructed drawings of all services in digital /electronic form shall be lodged with the Planning Authority when the estate is completed. A survey of the foul sewers shall be undertaken using CCTV and provided to and approved by the Council before a connection to the public mains will be permitted.

- 7.16 In general, water service provision including water mains and foul sewers will be required to comply with the requirements of An Foras Forbartha as set out in the "Recommendations for Site Development Works in Housing Areas".
- 7.17 If a site cannot be served by gravity foul sewers then the use of wastewater pumping stations may be permitted. All pumping stations are required to have sufficient capacity so that no overflows will occur in the event of a power failure of 8 hours duration. The Council will require developers to make appropriate contributions to the future cost of providing and operating pumping stations and treatment plants.
- 7.18 The Council will require all commercial food preparation operations including hotels, restaurants, fast food outlets and supermarket hot counters install appropriate in kitchen systems for removal of oil, fats and grease from waste water before they are discharged to the foul sewer.
- 7.19 The Council requires all garages, car washes and other vehicle maintenance operations or standing areas to install appropriate petrol interceptors on drainage outlets, before they are discharged to the foul sewer.

Table 11: SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR WATER AND SANITARY SERVICES

WATER SUPPLY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	
Portlaoise Water supply Improvement Scheme	Development of new sources in Portlaoise limestone aquifer, increased storage with associated rising and distribution mains.
Mountmellick Water Supply Scheme Stage 1	New rising mains from Portlaoise aquifer New reservoir and distribution mains
Portarlinton Water Supply	Development of new source with new reservoir, rising mains and distribution mains
Mounrath Castletown Water Supply	Complete upgrade of water supply to include increased capacity at sources, new storage facilities and new distribution mains
Durrow Water Supply	Increase capacity at sources, new rising main and increased storage and new distribution main.
SEWERAGE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	
Portlaoise Main Drainage Scheme	Major Sewerage Works Scheme new increased capacity plant and network extension Development of central bio-solids management centre
Abbeyleix Sewerage Improvement Scheme	New increased capacity treatment plant with effluent discharge to the river Nore Improve and extend network
Rathdowney Sewerage Improvement Scheme	New treatment facilities, improve and extend network
Mounrath Sewerage Improvement Scheme	New treatment facilities, improve and extend network
Durrow Sewerage Improvement Scheme	New treatment facilities, improve and extend network
Stradbally Sewerage Improvement Scheme	Additional Treatment facilities and improvements to collection system
Clonaslee Sewerage Improvement Scheme	New Treatment facilities and improvements to collection system
Emo Sewerage Scheme	New pumping station and collection system
Ballybrittas Sewerage Scheme	New pumping station and collection system
Carlow Environs Sewerage Scheme	Collection system extension and pumping stations
Mountmellick Sewerage Scheme	Collection system extension and pumping stations upgrade
Mountmellick Sewerage Scheme Treatment	Additional capacity at treatment works
Portarlinton Sewerage Scheme – Treatment	Additional capacity at treatment works
Castletown/Borris-in-Ossory/Ballinakill/Newtown Doonane/ The Swan	Increased sewerage treatment capacities to meet existing demand and provide network upgrades
11 Grouped Villages Timahoe, Camross, Attanagh, Clough, Ballcolla, Rosenallis, Killeshin, Shanahoe, Vicarstown and Cullahill, Ballyfin	Provide Collection System and Sewage Treatment Plant

Development of Villages and Towns

- 7.18 Generally, spending on developing sewers will be focused on infrastructure within areas zoned for development such as villages and towns. This will minimise the cost of infrastructure per dwelling.
- 7.19 Laois County Council requires that any proposal covering development of a village or local area that includes a treatment works will be supported by a report from a competent consultant on the sizing of the treatment works. The report will show all calculations and express the maximum assimilative capacity of the receiving water in terms of population equivalent (PE) for the standard of treatment proposed.
- 7.20 The report should include the following summary:
- Total assimilative capacity of the receiving water at discharge point (PE);
 - Total proposed treatment capacity (PE);
 - Available assimilative capacity at discharge point following development (PE);
 - Standard of treatment proposed. (BOD, Suspended Solids, Ammonium N, Ortho-phosphorous, and volume of proposed effluent).
- 7.21 The maximum volume of treated effluent that may be discharged from any wastewater treatment works without causing unacceptable levels of pollution of the local river or stream is defined by the quality of the effluent being discharged and the assimilative capacity of the river or stream.
- 7.22 When knowledge of the dry weather flow of the river or stream is combined with data on the existing water quality and the quality permitted by the Water Quality Management Plans, then the maximum population which may be served by any proposed treatment works can be calculated.
- 7.23 Energy efficiency will be a consideration in the assessment of sewage networks. This requires that natural drainage towards a treatment plant will be favoured when considering new developments. When this is not possible then the number of pumping operations required to convey foul water to the treatment plant is to be minimised.
- 7.24 Any pumping station that is installed should service the largest practicable catchment area of any natural drainage basin.

Protecting Water Sources

- 7.25 The importance of ground water resources and abstraction points is recognised by the Council. The Council will protect and safeguard sources in the interests of the common good and public health. Sustainability requires that these groundwater resources be protected for future generations. Developments will be prohibited which would compromise these aquifer zones or that would affect the provision or quality of water supplies to the public in accordance with the EPA Ground Water Protection Scheme. The Council proposes to develop major water supply sources drawing from the Portlaoise Aquifer and it is policy to afford this careful protection.

ENV3 Groundwater Protection

It is Council Policy to:

- Protect groundwater resources and abstraction points;
- Establish zones of protection for aquifers and to control development within these zones. (See the County Aquifer Protection Plan Map 1.7.1.). Where no detailed plan for protection of a specific source is available wastewater discharge will not be permitted within a radius of 300 metres of that source;
- Require the installation of proprietary wastewater treatment systems where development is permitted in these zones;
- Publicise and implement the County Aquifer Protection Plan. To continuously update the protection plan to take account of the development of new sources;
- The provision of waste water systems and their associated percolation system shall comply in full with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency Ground Water Protection Scheme (EPA 2000 and subsequent publications);

Rural Water Protection

7.26 Rural water supplies are exposed to disparate sources of contamination including domestic and agriculture and other uses. Careful protection of water resources from pollution is a priority of the Council. The control of pollution and prevention of contamination of groundwater and watercourses will be assessed in developments which discharge to groundwater or watercourses. Effluents must be treated and discharged in a satisfactory manner.

7.27 The Council will require that all single dwelling drainage systems are designed to comply with the EPA Groundwater Protection Scheme and are constructed in accordance with the EPA2000 "Treatment Systems for Single Dwellings" and any subsequent updates of this document from the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A). All installations must be guaranteed by the manufacturer in all aspects for a minimum of 20 years. All percolation areas for any systems must be certified by a competent person carrying appropriate indemnities as being fit for the purpose.

ENV4 Group Water Schemes

It is Council Policy to:

- Improve the quality of drinking water throughout rural areas of the County;
- Prevent pollution of groundwater and water courses;
- Encourage extension of water supply throughout the county;

Surface Water Drainage

7.28 The discharge of surface water to foul sewage systems will not be permitted. In general surface water will be required to discharge to a watercourse or surface water drain as conditions allow. The discharge of surface water from roofed and paved areas onto the public road will not be permitted. Adequate provision shall be made for the disposal of surface water and no development shall be permitted to interfere with the existing road drainage system. Hard surface areas (car parks, etc) should be constructed in permeable or semi-permeable materials as conditions allow.

7.29 The Council notes the damage caused to public roads as a result of roadside development. This is due to interference with surface water disposal off the public road. It is the Councils policy to ensure that new developments shall not interfere with road drainage and shall comply with any conditions necessary to maintain the integrity of the road and its drainage system.

- 7.30 Existing road drainage to grass verges shall be incorporated into any new surface water drainage system where circumstances necessitate e.g. where streams, open drains or other watercourses are being culverted. Adequate provision shall be made for the disposal of surface water runoff, from the public road, in hydraulic calculations submitted with new planning applications.

ENV5 Surface Water Drainage

All development proposals in urban and rural areas will comply with the Sustainable Urban Storm Water Drainage standards.

Flooding

- 7.31 All new development should where appropriate be designed and constructed to address the following flood design benchmarks:
- *In urban areas or where developments (existing, proposed or anticipated) are involved-the 100 year flood;*
 - *In rural areas or where further developments (existing, proposed or anticipated) are not involved-the 25 year flood.*

ENV6 Flooding

It is Council Policy to:

- Restrict development within the catchments of flood plains of rivers or of other known flooding areas, in order to prevent an increase in the risk of future flooding;
- Require that where developments are proposed in floodplains, flood studies should be required with the application;
- Liaise with the Office of Public Works (OPW) on issues involving river drainage and flood relief.

Waste Management

- 7.32 The control and management of waste in terms of volumes, composition, recycling and management at a local, regional and national level is fundamental to sustainability and environmental protection. The Midlands Region Waste Management Plan which includes the functional areas of Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, North Tipperary and Laois was adopted in 2001. This plan was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management Acts 1996 – 2003. The Plan aims to alter the approach to waste and the level of waste produced in the Region up to 2013. It sets out the hierarchy of preferential modes of waste management which include prevention, minimization, reuse, recycling, disposal with energy recovery, and disposal of residual waste. This plan is currently under review and is due for adoption in 2006
- 7.33 It is proposed that greater resources will be devoted to reducing the quantities of waste produced and also the re-use and re-cycling of materials where possible. The Council will co-operate with groups such as Environmental Groups, Tidy Towns Committees, I.C.A and schools etc whose objectives include the reduction of waste production, the implementation of recycling measures, and the dissemination of information.

ENV7 Waste Management

It is Council Policy to:

- Plan, organise, authorise and supervise waste operations in the County;
- Secure the objectives of the Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region made in September 2001 in so far as it relates to County Laois and the new plan to be adopted in 2006;
- Enforce the provisions of the Waste Management Acts 1996-2003;
- Maintain and develop its landfill site at Kyletalisha in accordance with E.U. Directives and Irish Legislation;
- Facilitate recycling by providing 'bring' facilities throughout the county and civic amenity sites in accordance with the Waste Management Plan, these sites should be of high quality and in well maintained visible locations;
- Require new developments to have facilities to foster the recycling of waste material.

Noise Pollution

- 7.34 The planning authority notes the detrimental impact excessive noise can have on quality of life. The authority will strive to shape development throughout the county to minimize the harmful impacts of noise pollution on the community in County Laois. Furthermore, the Council shall have regard to Noise regulations published by the EPA.

ENV8 Noise Pollution

It is Council Policy to:

- Carry out their statutory functions in relation the Noise Pollution.

Air Pollution

- 7.35 The Council is the regulatory authority for the purposes of the Air Pollution Act 1987 and (Licensing of Industrial Plant) Regulations 1988. Under the above legislation Laois County Council is empowered to control air quality and prevent pollution.
- The occupiers of all premises except private dwellings are required under the above legislation to use the 'best practicable means' to limit emissions from the premises.
 - Laois County Council can serve notices requiring the occupier of any premises to take measures which it considers necessary to prevent/limit pollution.
 - Laois County Council may apply to the High Court for an order to prohibit or restrict any emissions.
 - A licence must be obtained from Laois County Council for the operation of certain industrial plants.

ENV9 Air Pollution

It is Council Policy to:

- Carry out their statutory functions in relation to Air Pollution.

Litter

- 7.36 Litter is a continuing problem in both urban and rural areas. The Council recognise the importance of protecting the urban and rural areas from indiscriminate dumping and bill posting and in keeping the environment in general, free from litter. The Councils Action Plan for Litter establishes the policy parameters that the Council will pursue during the period of the Plan.

ENV10 Litter Control

It is Council Policy to:

- Carry out their statutory functions in relation to the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

COMAH DIRECTIVE

(Control of Major Accident Hazards involving dangerous substances – commonly known as the Seveso II Directive)

- 7.37 Unlike the earlier Seveso I Directive (82/501/EEC), Seveso II includes provisions relating to land use planning. Article 12 of the Directive requires member states to ensure that the objectives of preventing major accidents and limiting the consequences of such accidents are taken into account in land use policies and other relevant policies. These objectives must be pursued through controls on the following:
- The siting of new establishments;
 - Modifications of existing establishments;
 - Development in the vicinity of an establishment which by virtue of its type or setting is likely to increase the risk of consequences of a major accident.
- 7.38 Atlas Environmental Ireland Limited, Clonminham Industrial Estate, Portlaoise Co Laois comes under the jurisdiction of the European Communities (Control of Major Hazards Involving dangerous substances) Regulations,2000(S.I. No 476 of 2000) as a temporary lower tier site. The establishment has been brought within the scope of the regulations by virtue of a change of classification of petroleum products.

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY

- 7.39 The county contains significant deposits of rock, sand and gravel and to a lesser extent coal and ores. These deposits have the potential to provide employment and to contribute to development and the provision of major infrastructural projects. The deposits are vital to the implementation of the National Roads Plan. It is the policy of the Council to eliminate all unauthorized fly tipping and to regulate and control the disposal of all builders spoil and rubble arising within the county.
- 7.40 The operation of quarries, gravel extraction and mining can have impacts on the environment. These activities need to be operated in an appropriate manner to minimise impacts. These activities also have the potential to affect groundwater sources. Regard will be had to Catchment Management Plans in relation to ground and surface water protection when dealing with planning applications for these activities.

- 7.41 The implementation of Section 261 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 allows for the regulation of all extractive industry in the county.

ENV11 Extractive Industry

It is Council Policy to:

- Safeguard valuable unworked deposits for future extraction;
- Regularize the existing extractive industry in line with the requirement of Planning and Development Act 2000;
- That quarries will not be permissible in areas of high landscape value, on European sites, N.H.A.s, nature reserves and other areas of importance for flora and fauna unless it can be clearly demonstrated that such quarries will not have significant adverse impacts on amenity and the environment;
- Attach planning conditions requiring a financial bond to ensure satisfactory completion of extraction;
- Apply special financial contributions for the carrying out of road works in the vicinity of extraction activities which will minimise the impact of the activity on local road structure;
- Safeguard future extractive areas by ensuring that incompatible uses are not located in the vicinity of extractive areas;
- Require site management plans to be in place for the life of the operation.

- 7.42 It is an objective of the County Development Plan to identify deposits and reserves and protect same from development which would compromise economic development as set out by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local governments (quarries and ancillary activities – Guidelines for Planning Authorities April 2004);
- 7.43 The council further recognises that the aggregates and concrete products industries have a particularly sensitive role in relation to the environment and as such any development for aggregate extraction, processing delivery and associated concrete production must be carried out in a manner which minimises adverse effects upon the environment and the local community;
- 7.44 Preference will be given to developments where the applicants can demonstrate their commitment to good environmental management through implementation of a recognised environmental code of practice. Developers must ensure that on completion of operations that the site is left in a satisfactory state and be of benefit for after use;
- 7.45 There will be a positive presumption towards applications to extend and/or intensify extractive industry, including the production of by-products at existing pits and quarries subject to development control standards and environmental legislation.

ENERGY

- 7.46 Energy is essential to daily lives. It heats homes, fuels transport and supplies electricity. At the moment, most of the energy used comes from fossil fuels such as oil, gas, coal and peat. Unfortunately there is a limited supply of fossil fuels in the world and they are being used up at a fast rate. The downside to fossil fuels is that burning them for energy also produces CO₂, a greenhouse gas, which may cause climate change. Sustainable energy is now being encouraged. Alternative forms of energy are encouraged to promote this concept.

ENV12 Energy Policy

It is Council Policy to:

- Seek to implement a share of national targets for renewable energy;
- Encourage best practice development to ensure the long term success of these endeavours; regard will be had to relevant guidelines such as may be published from time to time by Government departments or agencies, or appropriate professional bodies.

Renewable Energy

- 7.47 The Council supports national and international initiatives for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases and encouraging the development of renewable energy sources. Renewable energy comes from natural, inexhaustive sources such as the sun (solar), wind, falling water (hydro), oceans, plants (biomass and biofuels) and the earth (geothermal heat pumps). Renewable energy can also be derived from a range of waste products (sewage, municipal and agricultural waste).
- 7.48 The Green Paper on Sustainable Energy states that a sustainable energy policy should:
- Ensure security of supply in order to support economic and social development;
 - Protect the environment ;
 - Maximise efficiency of generation;
 - Emphasise the use of renewable energy resources;
 - Promote a culture of energy conservation by all users;
 - Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, both by clean generation, and by sustainable consumption;
 - Maintain local air quality and;
 - Limit or reduce the Irish contribution to regional and global environmental problems;
- 7.49 The Council will endeavour to develop a Sustainable Energy Policy by seeking to implement these strategies in its own area.
- 7.50 The Council will seek to provide positively for the development of appropriate renewable energy sources. The Council will respond to planning applications for renewable energy developments on a case by case basis. They will be considered in the context of the government strategy, taking into account other Council policies on land usage relating to sectors such as agriculture, tourism and outdoor recreational activities, and any relevant planning guidelines issued from time to time by the Department of the Environment.

Wind Energy

- 7.51 Regarding wind energy specifically, the Council will respond to applications in the context of a sustainable energy policy. Where developers wish to install wind measurement masts and carry out wind resource analyses, the Council will seek to facilitate this through the granting of temporary planning permission, for up to 2 years. If the Council has strong reservations about the site the developer will be advised accordingly.

ENV13 Wind Energy Policy

It is Council Policy to:

- Facilitate wind energy proposals at appropriate locations subject to the standard development control criteria and the "Windfarm Development" - Guidelines For Planning Authorities published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DOEHLG).

Energy from Biomass and Waste

- 7.52 The Council will seek to respond positively to applications for biomass or waste to energy projects, in the context of a sustainable energy policy with the exception of thermal treatment plant.

Hydro Energy

- 7.53 Regarding hydro energy specifically, the Council will seek to respond positively to applications in the context of a sustainable energy policy. In responding to applications, the Council will seek to ensure that the free passage of fish is provided for by incorporating a fish pass. Where considered necessary in consultation with the relevant fisheries Board and the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources fish passes should:

- Be negotiable by the fish without undue effort
- Not expose the fish to risk of injury
- Be easily found by fish.

- 7.54 The Council will further seek to ensure that where necessary the tail-race will be screened at the point of return and that sufficient residual flow is left in the main river channel to allow migration of ascending fish. In order to ensure that descending fish are not drawn into the turbines of a hydroelectric scheme, or are delayed or injured at the water abstraction point, a head-race screen will be placed where necessary at the point of divergence from the main river. Appropriate proposals for the reinstatement of mills and associate power generation will be encouraged. Under Section 123 section 3 of the 1959 Fisheries Consolidation Act, the provision of Head Race and Tail Races screens are mandatory and not optional. There is also an obligation to install smolt screens for the duration of March to May in accordance with Section 123 (b) of the same Act.

Solar Energy

ENV 14 Solar Energy

It is Council Policy to:

- Encourage the provision of solar energy.