

Section 7.5a

Title: Draft 1 Renewable Energy

1. Overview

BGCBC has confirmed it will continue to explore options to increase renewable energy from all sources, including Building Integrated Renewables, energy from waste, hydro power, biomass and wind. This is part of its wider commitment to see a transition to a low carbon economy in line with WG aspirations.

What else do we know about environmental well-being across Blaenau Gwent?

Figure EN1 shows the capacity, in megawatts (MW), of renewable energy equipment installed across the Gwent region in 2015. This ranged from 6.7MW in Torfaen to 53.0MW in Caerphilly. The figure for Blaenau Gwent was 19.1MW.

Figure EN1

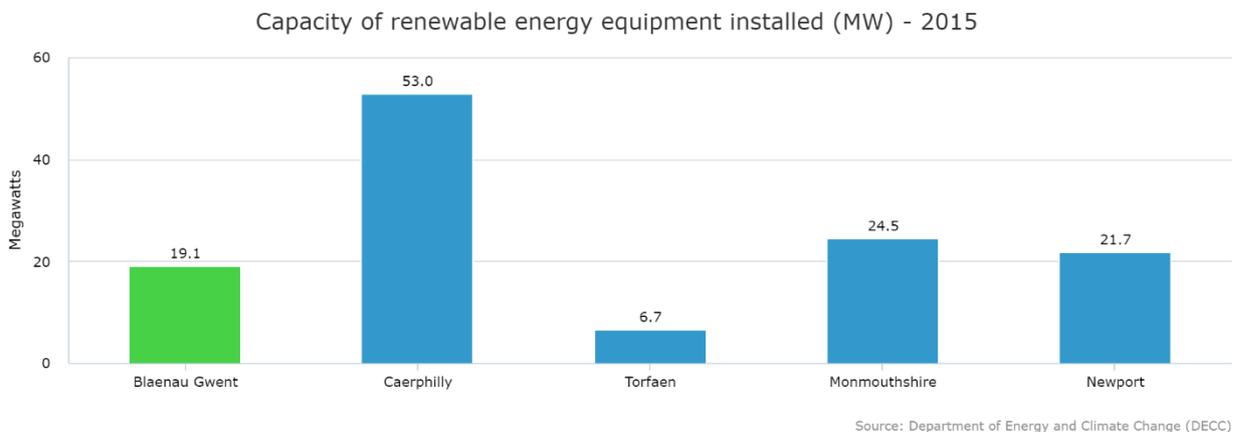
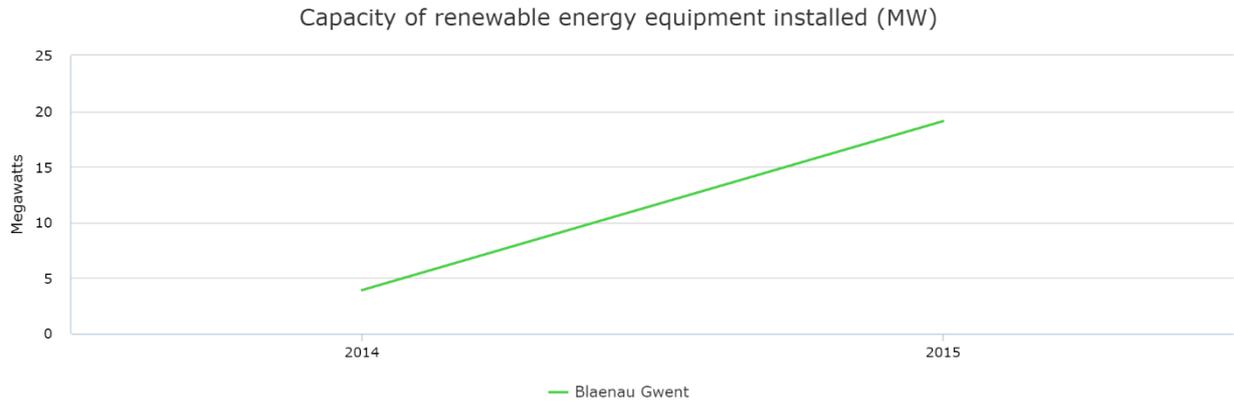


Figure EN2 shows that the capacity of renewable energy equipment installed in Blaenau Gwent has increased by 15.2MW between 2014 and 2015.

Figure EN2



	Blaenau Gwent
2014	3.9
2015	19.1

Source: Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

2. Story behind the data

The sharp increase in renewable energy capacity in 2015 is largely as a result of a major solar farm project which contributed approximately 70% of the 15.2 MW. Other traditional sources of renewable energy contribution in Blaenau Gwent are biomass boilers, wind turbines and Building Integrated Technologies (e.g solar panels, ground source heat pumps). The number of large wind turbines in the Borough have increased quite dramatically recently rising from 1 in 2012 to 6 in 2016.

A county borough wide Renewable Energy Assessment has been prepared to assess the potential of the Blaenau Gwent area to contribute to national greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. The Assessment found that there was potential to meet the target of 38% of our total electrical energy need from renewable sources. There was however insufficient potential to meet our heat energy from renewable

sources. The potential was 6% which was half of the national target of 12%. The document helped inform corporate objectives and Local Development Plan Policy.

3. What we know from engagement?



During the Blaenau Gwent We Want Engagement exercise, the partnership undertook and attended numerous engagement activities and events throughout the borough to gather people's views.

Residents also took part via the Blaenau Gwent We Want Facebook page and partnership websites. Links to an online questionnaire were also distributed to many residents known to the partnership, such as members of the Blaenau Gwent Citizen Panel.

Residents were encouraged via the methods above to answer a range of questions that sought to capture:

- Citizen values, aspirations and priorities;
- Citizen needs – insight into the needs they and their communities encounter within daily life and what the best solutions may be and
- Citizen assets – what people can and already contribute themselves such as self-care, citizen and community action and volunteering.

Q1. What do you think is special about BG?

Q2. What things are important to you to live well and enjoy life?

Q3. What would make BG a better place?

Q4. What can you do to help make BG a better place?

Approximately 1,000 residents were engaged with (across all groups) during the engagement phase.

During phase 1 of our engagement we have received very limited feedback from people on their views around renewable energy. For this reason we would welcome your feedback for this area.

4. What we know from existing research?

Further work will be undertaken dependant on the direction given by the public service board on priorities following its 21 March 2017 meeting.

5. What this tells us about Well-being in Blaenau Gwent?

It is difficult at this stage to summarise what this means for us in terms of Blaenau Gwent. This will be revisited post the phase 2 element of our public engagement and priority setting by the Public Service Board on 21 March 2017.