



**Lake District**  
National Park Authority

# Planning Authority guidelines for small hydro schemes

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## Climate change challenge

- Government targets to cut UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 60% by 2050
- 10% of the UK's electricity to be from renewable sources by 2010
- LDNPA supports renewable energy technologies, particularly small scale and community-based schemes



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## Hydro in the National Park

- Significant hydro potential in the National Park
- 1% of our applications each year are for renewable energy projects
- We receive less than 1 application each year for hydro schemes
- And we approved them!



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## Borrowdale hydro scheme – supply to YHA







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## National Policy

- Planning Policy Statement 1 – Climate change supplement
- Planning Policy Statement 7 – Major developments should not take place within National Parks
- Planning Policy Statement 22 – Policies should encourage development of renewable energy resources



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## Regional policy

- Policy in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy tells us that we should develop renewable energy generation capacity that meets targets for the North West.
- Any schemes or proposals must not adversely impact on nationally designated areas like the National Park.



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## Local Policy

- Policy R45 – We will support proposals for renewable energy if their scale and design do not harm the appearance of the landscape or built environment.
- Such proposals must not adversely impact the local community, economy, nature conservation or historical interests.



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## What applications have we dealt with?

- High Gillerthwaite, Ennerdale – Scheme to provide electricity to YHA and camping barn
- Backbarrow Weir – Sluice gates to River Leven
- Church Beck, Coniston – electricity supply to 290 dwellings





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## Coppermines hydro scheme, Coniston





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- Glenridding Hydro Scheme – supply to 450 homes
- Barrow Beck, Borrowdale – supply to YHA
- Low Gillerthwaite, Ennerdale – supply to Field Study Centre





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## Glenridding hydro scheme







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## What are some of the issues?

- Visual and landscape impact
- Ecology
- Noise - amenity
- Archaeology
- Built environment, including any historical interests
- Rights of way
- Water quality
- Trees





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## How we can help

- Contact us for help with your proposal before you submit a planning application
- Provide as much detail as you can at the beginning – sketches, designs, photos, method statements, abstraction licenses
- Seek the advice of Environment Agency, Natural England or other relevant organisations



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## Future direction

- We support small scale and community based hydro schemes in the National Park
- We will promote use of renewable energy sources and new technologies that reduce carbon use
- We will develop policy that promotes community-level solutions to reducing carbon emissions
- We see hydro schemes as part of this future approach