

Summary of NPPF changes on climate policy areas compared to December 2024 NPPF

Topic (from climate guide)	Major progress	Minor progress	Neutral / uncertain	Minor regression	Major regression	Notes
Carbon literate planning				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon assessments - no change in status Relationship to current carbon budget not clarified Narrows 'radical reductions' to spatial strategy and allocations Nothing on emissions from speculative applications
Operational emissions					✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curtails ability to set higher standards than building regs, even where demonstrably viable
Embodied carbon			✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harder for LPAs to require whole life carbon assessment Unclear – contradiction between plan making and design policy
Sustainable transport			✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM policy further supports vision led transport approach But DM policies provide weak basis for refusal of development with significant carbon emissions from transport
Renewable energy		✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further embeds December 2024 NPPF policy changes Strengthened requirement on identification of areas for renewables and electricity infrastructure
Resource efficiency				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No PM hook – limits to DM consideration Scope of action limited by other areas of the NPPF (PM13) Harder for LPAs to require assessment (e.g. whole life carbon)
Retrofit			✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No PM hook – limits to DM consideration Limited scope – energy efficiency and heat (not overheating, flood resilience, avoiding demolition)
Long term adaptation				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on design and site level interventions, rather than strategic Missed opportunity to ensure key objective of SDSs More proactive approach to planning for water (W1)
Planning for flood risk					✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface water flood risk removed from sequential test Permanent presumption in favour undermines strategic approach Weakened consultee oversight (EA and LLFA)
Coastal change		✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More precautionary approach to coastal development Reference to Shoreline Management Plans
Water scarcity		✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New policy on water infrastructure (W4) and planning for water (W1) Water efficiency measures appear limited (PM13)
Design for climate resilience			✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design principle on climate (DP3 1 c) Standards for green infrastructure (N1) However, scope is curtailed by policy elsewhere (PM13) More detail on tree lined streets and selection of resilient species
Overheating			✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contradictory - design hooks curtailed by policy elsewhere (PM13) Building regs on overheating not fit for purpose for many urban areas