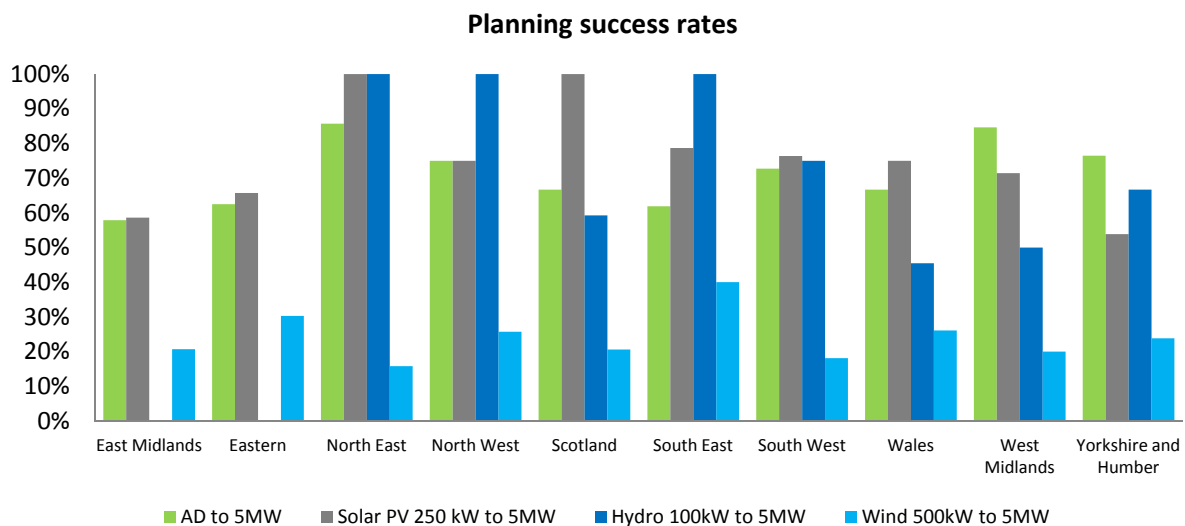


Historical UK planning success rates

Planning permission is often difficult to obtain for many renewable energy projects. As well as ecological and technical issues, there has been an inconsistent interpretation of policy by different local authorities. These factors combined make planning permission one of the most unpredictable factors in the development process.

As an investment fund which serves the project development community, we find it useful to monitor planning success rates for the technology types in our target market; anaerobic digestion (AD), ground mounted solar, hydro and wind. We take data from the Restats¹ planning data base (from 2010 onwards), and analyse success rates for projects up to 5MW. This is the first time we are publishing our analysis to the wider renewables community, and we hope it provides some additional insight.



Number of planning submissions by region

	EM	E	NE	NW	SC	SE	SW	WA	WM	YH
AD	19	24	7	8	15	21	22	13	26	17
Solar	29	37	1	4	3	63	227	20	7	13
Hydro	0	0	1	7	179	2	4	12	2	3
Wind	58	33	19	35	311	5	116	46	15	63

One of the consistently highest ranking technologies for planning success since 2010 has been AD. Most regions, apart from the North East and North West, have received more than ten applications; creating sample sizes large enough to draw useful indicators from. Outside of these two regions, the highest success rates are found in the West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humber and South West. In

¹ <https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/planning-database/>

general, success rates lie between 58% and 85%, making AD one of the least risky projects from a historical planning perspective.

The majority of solar development has occurred in southern regions. The South East and South West together hold 70% of all solar planning applications and have success rates of over 75%. Eastern and Yorkshire regions hold fair numbers of planning applications but success rates are much lower at around 50-65%. Though the North East and Scotland have success rates of 100%, readers should note that each of these regions has fewer than five applications.

Wales and Scotland are the main areas for hydro resources in the UK. These two regions provide the most appropriate indicators for hydro success and will see the most significant uptake in future. At 45% for Wales and 59% for Scotland, hydro sits in the middle of the planning risk spectrum.

Success rates for wind are significantly lower than any other technology and lie between 15% and 40% depending upon the region. The average success rate across the UK is 24%. The South East appears to buck this trend, with success rates at 40%, however it received fewer than ten applications.

We will update our analysis every 6 months to monitor changes in planning approval rates. If you would like to keep abreast of our latest views on planning trends, project risks and industry policy, make sure to visit our website regularly.