

Response by the UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy

Consultation on Guidance to Local Authorities in England and Wales on Climate Change Mitigation and Fuel Poverty

INTRODUCTION

The UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy brings together the key players in the energy sector to develop an effective dialogue with Government that can help strengthen the UK's strategic agenda for sustainable energy.

The Council welcomes the opportunity to offer its views on the approach the Government should take in developing the 'energy measures report' committed to in the *Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006*.

KEY POINTS

The Council welcomes the Government's intention to develop an 'energy measures report' by August 2007 to provide guidance to local authorities on measures to increase energy efficiency, increase the uptake of microgeneration, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce fuel poverty.

The setting of clear targets and objectives through the Climate Change Bill and the local authority performance framework will also be central to the approach that local authorities take to tackling climate change and delivering sustainable and affordable energy in local communities.

The 'energy measures report' has the potential to support delivery of such targets by acting as a resource for local authorities on the practical actions they can take.

While the Council notes that the legislation limits local authorities to 'have regard' to this report when exercising their function, it remains to be seen if this will be sufficient to effectively secure practical action on the ground. Potentially more significant is the achievement of the objectives set out in the local authority performance framework and the Climate Change Bill.

The Council welcomes the inclusion in the report of key delivery partners, and is keen to play an active role in facilitating dialogue between local authorities and energy companies to promote the development of energy service companies, and the delivery of sustainable energy solutions.

CONCLUSION

The Council welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Government's considerations about the approach it should take towards the 'energy measures report'.

This report has the potential to be a useful resource to assist local authorities to deliver action to tackle climate change in a sustainable and affordable way consistent with the wider energy policy objectives of Government.

UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy
August 2007

The views expressed in this paper cannot be taken to represent the views of all parts of all the companies in the UKBCSE. However, they do reflect a general consensus.