

Response by the UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy

Building a Greener Future: Towards Zero Carbon Development

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 consultation on the package of measures announced by Government to achieve zero carbon homes within the next decade.

KEY POINTS

The Council welcomes the Government's announcement of a package of measures to achieve zero carbon homes within the next decade.

Timetable and targets

The Council supports the proposed targets and timetable for moving to zero carbon homes by 2016.

Scope

While the consultation is focussed on new homes, the Council also supports the introduction of measures to address the significant greenhouse gas emissions associated with existing homes and the non-residential sector.

Coordination

There are a number of initiatives currently in place designed to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the residential sector. For example, the proposed supplier obligation is in the early stages of design, and will focus on reducing energy demand from households.

It is important that the interaction between all these initiatives is clear and understood.

Role of local authorities

The Council supports a nationally consistent approach to building standards.

However, the Council also recognises the critical role local authorities have in addressing the greenhouse challenge.

In particular, local authorities will have a very important role in promoting renewable energy and low carbon energy supply that matches the characteristics of a particular area.

Local authorities will also have a key role in driving sustainable behaviour in their areas.

Onsite carbon neutrality

The Council supports the principle that carbon neutrality does not need to be demonstrated onsite.

However, the criteria for eligible activity offsite would need to be very clear and robust to ensure an equivalent saving in greenhouse gas emissions.

CONCLUSION

The Council is highly supportive of the Government's ambitions to achieve zero carbon homes within the next decade.

We look forward to continuing to work with Government to support the further development and implementation of measures to deliver this goal.