

**RTPI**

mediation of space · making of place

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14<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Mr Paul Egerton  
Department of Energy and Climate Change  
3 Whitehall Place  
London, SW1A 2HH

Email response sent to: [CERT\\_UPLIFT@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CERT_UPLIFT@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Egerton,

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET: RESPONSE BY THE ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation. The RTPI is a membership organisation representing over 23,000 spatial planners. It exists to advance the science and art of town planning for the benefit of the public.

The RTPI promotes a positive and realistic response to the challenges of climate change on behalf of the planning profession. The Institute is currently consulting members on the review of its New Vision for Planning and the position that climate change must now be recognised as the fundamental driver behind sustainable development. In the Consultation on the review of the New Vision for Planning the RTPI proposes that the initial focus of the response should be on how to facilitate the movement towards more sustainable energy generation and use, and on how to develop more sustainable forms of communities which are based on lower energy and de-carbonised systems of movement.

This letter responds to the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Consultation on Amendments to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target.

The reduction of emissions from the existing domestic stock is vitally important and the RTPI welcomes the government's efforts to strengthen its commitments in this area through the proposed amendments to the CERT. In addition to the actual reduction of carbon emissions, the measures encompassed by CERT have an important role in raising awareness and demand for low-carbon energy efficiency technology in the residential sector, and in facilitating informed public engagement with the planning and delivery of low carbon energy infrastructure. The 'market transformation measures' such the provision of Home Energy Advice and Real Time Energy Displays are particularly valuable in this regard. It is correct to accord them a pre-determined carbon score in the order, and it is also right to increase the proportion of a suppliers' obligation which can be met through innovation activity to initiate and promote more ambitious carbon emission reduction measures. The RTPI would also like to stress the importance of making datasets on the geographical scope of the implementation of the CERT available to Local Authorities to ensure that they have access to accurate

baseline information when drawing up their Infrastructure Delivery Plans.

The RTPI acknowledges that the role of the CERT is to disperse low-cost energy efficiency measures as widely as possible within the domestic sector. However, given the urgency the issue of climate change represents there is a real need for measures commensurate to the Government's proposals for the achievement Zero Carbon standards for new residential development, to be applied to the existing housing stock. The RTPI understands that the proposed Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) entails the piloting of a more far reaching scheme and the Institute will provide a response to the current Consultation on this in due course.

I trust the above comments are useful.

If you require any further assistance, please contact Luke Dickson, Planning Policy Officer on 0207 929 9489 or email [policy@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:policy@rtpi.org.uk) .

Yours sincerely,



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