



Department of Energy & Climate Change



Memorandum of Understanding between the Local Government Association and the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Vision

The Local Government Association (LGA) and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) know that action on energy efficiency and carbon reduction yields significant benefits for residents and businesses across the country. Leadership is needed at both the national and local level to meet UK energy and climate change objectives: saving residents and businesses money on energy bills, generating income from local energy schemes (including renewable) and driving growth through investment and jobs in green industries.

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to provide a framework for how we will work, individually and together, to achieve our shared vision. It is based on the recognition that councils have a unique insight and reach into communities that can ensure carbon reduction policies and programmes benefit communities and protect the most vulnerable. To that end, direct engagement between local government and DECC policy teams will make for more effective policy and help councils to lead local carbon reduction initiatives.

Priorities and challenges will be different in different places and the MoU recognises the value of councils developing the right solutions for their areas. It also recognises that action on improvement and engagement of councils on carbon reduction will be most effective when they are sector-led.

Principle

The following are the principles that we will observe in order to achieve our shared vision:

DECC and the LGA will

- work together to ensure that councils' experience and ambition is reflected in the development of policies to deliver energy efficiency local energy generation to communities.
- consider the impact on councils of DECC policies and how they can play a role in their delivery or as active partners in achieving the objectives of the policy.
- facilitate engagement and discussion between councils and DECC

- engage other government departments to recognise the value of central –local partnership in the contribution they have to make to the climate change and energy efficiency agenda
- engage at senior level to share information and develop policies to achieve the objectives set out in this MoU.
- support, promote and encourage council led action on reducing carbon emissions and delivering renewable energy, particularly through the Climate Local programme.

Year 1 Deliverables

DECC and the LGA will work together to:

- Agree and promote ways that councils can play a lead role in the delivery of the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation, as well as disseminate examples of good practice to encourage local leadership (e.g. building on the current Green Deal Pioneer Places programme);
- Identify and promote ways in which councils can use local knowledge and delivery experience to tackle fuel poverty; and
- Raise awareness of council action and support councils to deliver carbon reduction and energy efficiency initiatives and renewable energy generation through the Climate Local Programme, with a view to achieving a continued increase in the numbers of local authorities signed up to Climate Local.

Governance & evaluation

- The Minister for Energy and Climate Change and the lead members of the LGA's Environment and Housing Board will meet at quarterly intervals to discuss progress and issues relating to the objectives set out in the MoU.
- DECC and the LGA will appoint a senior responsible officer from each organisation to work together to ensure that the deliverables are achieved.
- The effectiveness and impact of the MoU will be reviewed annually.



Greg Barker MP
Minister of State for Climate Change



Councillor Mike Jones
Chairman, LGA Environment and Housing Board