



**COMMUNITY  
ENERGY PLUS**

Lord Adonis  
National Infrastructure Commission

4<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Lord Adonis,

**Home energy efficiency infrastructure opportunity**

I am writing to add my support to the briefing which has been submitted by Energy Bill Revolution and the UK Green Building Council. Their briefing paper titled 'Fixing the roof while the sun is shining' highlights the home energy efficiency infrastructure opportunity which is presented by the country's move towards decarbonised heat.

Community Energy Plus is a charity and social enterprise providing services to help householders and communities in Cornwall to enjoy warmer, more energy efficient homes. Up until 2014, a significant focus of our charity's work was centred on the delivery of energy efficient home improvements and we are proud to have installed loft and cavity wall insulation and heating improvements in over 25,000 Cornish homes.

We believe that the government has previously taken a 'one size fits all' approach to the design and delivery of energy efficiency initiatives which have failed to meet the needs of rural housing stock. Successive schemes have focused on delivering the most cost effective measures and have not tackled the problem of improving the energy efficiency of homes with solid walls, which account for 35% of the Cornwall's housing stock.

Cornwall currently ranks as having the twelfth worst problem with energy affordability in the country due to a combination of low incomes, a high number of homes with solid walls and high proportion of properties which are not served by the gas network which are reliant on expensive forms of heating. The latest report on fuel poverty in England has shown that 14.4 percent of households in Cornwall, which is almost 35,000 homes, have above average energy costs.

Community Energy Plus strongly believes that energy efficiency needs to become a UK national infrastructure priority and be allocated sufficient funding to make cold homes and fuel debt part of our history, with assistance prioritised to the most vulnerable in our society.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to echo the call made by the Energy Bill Revolution and the UK Green Building Council for the National Infrastructure Council to carry out a full investigation as soon as possible to investigate the opportunity to improve the energy efficiency of the UK's housing stock as a crucial part of the infrastructure that is required to de-carbonise heat.

Yours sincerely,

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