

Dear Greg Barker,

I am very pleased that you have requested benchmark advice from the Committee on Climate Change on “the scale of ambition that Local Authorities may set themselves, possible approaches to deliver that ambition and how this would contribute to national carbon budgets”.¹ This is exactly what is needed to be able to plan our fair share of climate action locally.

I was also pleased that David Kennedy, Chief Executive of the Committee on Climate Change said at Friends of the Earth's *Councils, Communities and Climate Change* conference on 2 November 2011 that this work could include “a recommendation that we should have local carbon budgets or targets” and that “certainly a target as part of a local plan would have to be in there”.² I understand that the Committee’s report on this issue will be completed by April 2012.

I am therefore writing to request the following:

Firstly, if the Committee on Climate Change do conclude that targets or carbon budgets for local authority area emissions reduction are needed, Government provides the Committee with the resources to carry out the work needed for each national carbon budget period.

Secondly, that Government reports annually to Parliament about: the progress in emissions reduction in local authority areas; and the progress of council plans to cut emissions in line with the challenge of the Climate Change Act.

Thirdly that Government reviews annually the support, powers and duties on councils needed to drive emissions reduction in line with Climate Change Act commitments; and introduces additional measures if insufficient progress is made.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Janke
Liberal Democrat Leader
Bristol City Council

Sir Richard Leese
Labour Leader
Manchester City Council

Louise Goldsmith
Conservative Leader
West Sussex County Council

¹ Letter from Greg Barker to Lord Adair Turner, 13 June 2011

² David Kennedy, speech to *Councils, Communities and Climate Change* conference, 2 November 2011