

Local Government offer on climate change to Secretary of State Chris Huhne

Dear Chris Huhne,

As councils championing work to tackle climate change in our local areas, we share the Government's commitment to meeting the Climate Change Act targets and the Committee on Climate Change's concern that a step change in the pace of implementation is needed across the range of measures to cut emissions.

The work of councils across the country has shown that action to tackle climate change, coordinated in local areas, can deliver significant emissions cuts in a cost effective way, bringing tangible benefits to local residents, employees and businesses.

We think it is essential that such area-based action to tackle climate change is rolled out nationwide. Meeting our national targets will require all areas to make substantial emissions cuts, and coordinating action between our areas will bring efficiency gains and scales of economy that benefit us all.

We propose that Government introduces legislation for local carbon budgets. Local carbon budgets would help drive the ambitious emissions cuts needed by supporting and empowering local authorities nationwide to lead effective carbon reduction strategies across local areas, working in partnership with national Government and local stakeholders.

Fair budgets would be based on both the need to meet UK Climate Change Act commitments and local circumstances. Each council or group of councils would work with partners to draw up a climate change strategy and action plan showing how emissions will be cut in the area to meet the budget. The document would set out the partnership between the local authority, local stakeholders and national Government and the measures each will take. Partners would have a duty to cooperate to ensure the strategy is successful. The budget and strategy would be based on a rigorous evidence base of timely emissions data and opportunity mapping of the technical feasibility for emissions cuts in the local area. Local people and stakeholders would have a say in the low carbon future of their communities through consultation and community panels.

We propose that Government works with councils and stakeholders, including the Local Government Association and Friends of the Earth, to develop this model of local carbon budgets and introduce them during this session of Parliament.

We think this offer of a nationwide system of local carbon budgets would introduce a coherent and coordinated approach to tackling climate change between local and national Government, and between local authorities, and would deliver substantially on the task of meeting UK climate targets.

Yours sincerely,

(Please see overleaf)

Barbara Janke

Cllr Barbara Janke

Leader
Bristol City Council (Liberal Democrat)

Louise Goldsmith

Cllr Louise Goldsmith

Leader
West Sussex County Council (Conservative)

Richard Leese

Sir Richard Leese

Leader
Manchester City Council (Labour)

David Faulkner

Cllr David Faulkner

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Claire Kober

Cllr Claire Kober

Leader
Haringey Council (Labour)

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Cllr Paul Tilsley MBE

Deputy leader
Birmingham City Council (Con- Lib Dem coalition)

Mike Heenan

Cllr Mike Heenan

Leader
Stafford Borough Council (Conservative)

Dorothy Thornhill

Dorothy Thornhill

Elected Mayor
Watford Borough Council (Liberal Democrat)

Mehboob Khan

Cllr Mehboob Khan

Leader
Kirklees Council (Labour)

J. Green

Cllr Jeff Green

Leader
Metropolitan Borough of Wirral (Conservative)

Sian Reid

Cllr Sian Reid

Leader
Cambridge City Council (Liberal Democrat)

Stuart Fraser

Stuart Fraser

Chairman of Policy and 2012 Strategy Officer
City of London Corporation

Ray Russell

Cllr Ray Russell

Leader
Chesterfield Borough Council (Liberal Democrat)

Steve Bullock

Sir Steve Bullock

Mayor
Lewisham (Labour)

Jeff Reid

Cllr Jeff Reid

Leader
Northumberland County Council
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Cllr Peter Charon

Leader
Bournemouth Borough Council (Conservative)



Cllr Andrew Waller

Leader
York City Council (Liberal Democrat)

Catherine West

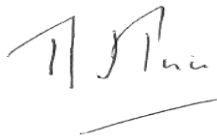
Cllr Catherine West

Leader
Islington Borough Council (Labour)

Dave Goddard

Cllr Dave Goddard

Leader
Stockport Council (Liberal Democrat)



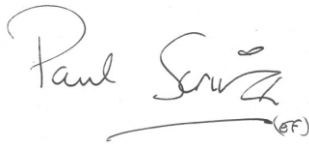
Cllr Bob Price

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Bob Young

Cllr Bob Young

Cabinet Member,
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Cllr Veejay Patel

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Craven District Council (Conservative)



Cllr Stephen Houghton

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Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (Labour)



Cllr Stuart Drummond

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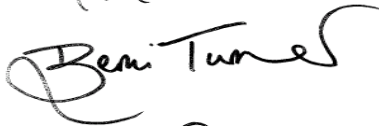
Hartlepool Borough Council

Iain Malcolm

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