



WWF-UK
Registered office
Panda House, Weyside Park
Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1XR

Tel: +44 (0)1483 426444
Fax: +44 (0)1483 426409
info@wwf.org.uk
wwf.org.uk

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Minister for Housing and Local Government
Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

RE: Resignation from the Zero Carbon Taskforce

1 April 2011

Dear Minister

I am writing regarding the recent announcement in the Budget that the definition of Zero Carbon Homes will no longer include the emissions from unregulated energy use within the home. WWF has been a member of the Zero Carbon Taskforce since its inception in 2007 and we believe that this announcement is a fundamental shift in policy. The redefinition will not result in newly built homes being truly zero carbon as it will add to the overall emissions burden of UK homes. We do not believe that enforcement of existing regulation will deliver this; nor would the existing policy have had a detrimental effect on those on lower incomes, the initial, up front costs to the new home owner would have been minimal and saved in fuel bills in the long run, while now the costs will simply be defrayed across the board, regardless of ability to pay.

It is our belief that reducing emissions from homes, both new and existing, is critical to the Government achieving its targets under the Climate Change Act. The zero carbon homes policy, as it stood, would have been a pioneering policy instrument for the UK putting us not only ahead of European housing policy but globally as well. Such leadership had the potential to provide the UK with clear economic and environmental benefits.

In addition, the last four years has seen a real change across industry and supply chains for zero carbon homes with house builders and suppliers gearing up to deliver this policy from 2016. This is in no small part due to the excellent work of the Zero Carbon Hub and in particular the energy of David Adams, Paul King and Stewart Baseley. Given this level of progress and commitment from our counterparts in industry WWF is disappointed at such a U-turn. It also



President: HRH Princess Alexandra,
The Hon Lady Ogilvy KG, GCVO
Chair: Ed Smith
Chief Executive: David Nussbaum

WWF-UK a charity registered in England and Wales number 1081247 and in
Scotland number SC039593, a company limited by guarantee registered in
England number 4016725. VAT number 733 761821
100% recycled paper

sends the worst possible signal to companies that have planned their investments on the basis of the original zero carbon homes policy.

WWF believes that the alteration to this policy is a fundamental one which significantly undermines the original intent of this policy – for new homes to add zero net carbon emissions. Therefore, as WWF's representative on the Zero Carbon Taskforce I find that I am reluctantly no longer able to support the zero carbon homes policy or remain on the Zero Carbon Taskforce. Please accept this letter as formal notification of WWF's resignation from the taskforce with immediate effect.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin Butfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colin Butfield
Head of Campaigns