



Japan Local Government Centre, London

Monthly Report for April 2011 – Climate Change Agreement

The Local Government Group and the Department of Energy and Climate Change have reached an “historic agreement” setting out how local and central government will work together to tackle climate change. Co-signed by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Chris Huhne MP and LGA vice chair and Liberal Democrat group leader Cllr Richard Kemp, the Memorandum of Understanding will help local government work toward its aim of reducing its own carbon emissions by on average 30 per cent.

The purpose of the memorandum is to set out the partnership arrangements between the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the LG Group, including scope, governance, accountability and roles and responsibilities. This includes meeting climate change, fuel poverty and renewable energy targets.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out how DECC and the LG Group will work together to help and encourage all councils to take firm action – underpinned by locally ambitious targets and indicators - that enable councils to:

- reduce the carbon emissions from their own estate and operations;
- reduce carbon emissions from homes, businesses and transport infrastructure, creating more, appropriate renewable energy generation, using council influence and powers; and
- participate in national carbon reduction initiatives at the local level, particularly the roll out of the Green Deal, smart metering and renewable energy deployment.

The MOU will be reviewed annually and a report will be produced jointly by DECC and the LG Group by the end of May each year. DECC agrees in the MOU to work with the LG Group to ensure the experience of councils are reflected in DECC’s ongoing evaluation of policies, and that the Department’s future policy positions take into account local ambition and delivery.

Through the MOU, the LG Group agrees to take on a leadership role in encouraging all councils to demonstrate their ambition on climate change through a New Nottingham Declaration and other appropriate agreements or declarations. Climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation are the two components of the existing Nottingham Declaration.

The Nottingham Declaration was launched in 2000. By signing the declaration, councils and their partners pledge to systematically address the causes of climate

change and prepare their community for its impacts. Over 90% of English councils have signed the declaration. All Scottish and Welsh councils have signed similar versions.

The Department for Energy and Climate Change was created in October 2008, with the transfer of responsibility for energy from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and climate change from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Secretary of State since the May 2010 election has been the Liberal Democrat Chris Huhne.

Any opinions expressed in this report are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of JLGC or CLAIR.