Local Government and Communities Committee

The Draft Climate Change Plan (RPP3)

Written Submission from the Energy Agency

Introduction

In order to meet our climate change targets, the reduction of emissions from homes, communities and transport are key components. The Draft Climate Change Plan sets an ambitious vision for homes and communities and strengthens the commitment to the national infrastructure programme. Scotland already has an excellent reputation across Europe for tackling climate change. The Plan should continue to reflect this lead and the exemplar progress to date. Local Government has an essential role in the development, delivery and evaluation of the progress to reduce emissions. There are some excellent examples of current work, investment and integration across sectors in Scotland due to the existing funding.

Recommendations

- The climate change plan needs more clarity to give confidence for the long term volume of work for the industry (policy outcomes are vague and suggest little expansion to at least 2021). The huge advantage of the current area based schemes funded through Local Authorities is the distribution of work across Scotland. This ensures energy efficiency improvements, fuel poverty alleviation, health improvement and employment opportunities are distributed evenly. Local authorities continue to be seen in a positive light by the communities they serve.
- Infrastructure programs offer real opportunities to develop supply chain capacity and demonstrate the potential for the construction industry
- The government’s strong track record on energy efficiency and the resulting supporting evidence from individuals and communities highlights the positive political profile of this work.
- It is an essential requirement for multi-year funding to give confidence to the industry (lengthening the pledge of funding to 2021 and beyond provides the background for steady growth)
- An increased funding commitment for energy efficiency will support transformational change in energy efficiency.

Existing work under the area based schemes, Home Energy Scotland and work with the NHS in south west Scotland highlights the huge benefits in insulation programmes and the impacts this work has on the vibrancy of communities – the social and economic impacts, benefits to health and well being, employment opportunities and the very positive experiences of installed measures.
Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Heat

- The Plan should set a ‘transformational’ pace of change with an aim to achieve whole house energy efficiency.
- Include the objective that by 2025 most homes achieve an EPC level C or above.
- Increased regulation for private housing and private rented sector housing.
- Increased regulation and enforcement for commercial building sector.
- Increase the annual budget for energy efficiency measures and agree to long term funding in line with the commitment to the National Infrastructure Priority
- Utilise the existing monitoring and evaluation results to demonstrate the positive impacts for society and individuals in effective energy efficiency programmes.
- Ensure that Government supports the joined up delivery objective covering housing, communities, local government, health, poverty and carbon emission reductions.

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