

**Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee**

**Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill**

**SUBMISSION FROM** Jonathan Russell

Evidence is suggesting the Climate Change is accelerating which makes the need to tighten up on emissions. As such the targets and actions have to be tightened up on.

**Environmental standards in housing**

In relation to Climate Change we need standards that both reduce emissions but also create the right kind of buildings that will cope with local climate changes

Financial assessments of any building project should consider the building's Whole Life Costs, including its design, construction, running and eventual deconstruction, rather than focussing purely on initial design and construction costs.

All new developments should be required to minimise energy consumption and maximise energy efficiency. This should be achieved through the design of buildings including their location, grouping, orientation and layout, making use of solar heating and natural daylight and ventilation.

Building materials should be resourced where possible locally including from the use of materials from demolished houses. Materials where possible should be those that would enhance energy efficiency. Design teams should demonstrate clearly how the building will cope (or be adapted to cope) in so far as it is practicable with the effects of climate change.

Buildings should be located so as to make the most of solar energy and or wind energy. There should be a requirement that all new buildings are able to get their energy from local energy sources

*New building standards should specify high levels of insulation to reduce unwanted heat loss or heat gains through the roof, walls, doors, windows and floors.*

Exemplary sustainable buildings do not necessarily have to cost more, provided that good design features are fully integrated into the design process from the earliest stages rather than tacking on expensive overtly environmental features to fix problems that could have been designed out in the first place.

The builder should have an appropriate system of site inspection in place to give confidence in the construction process.

The general public should be encouraged to use less heating and to dress as people would have done in past generations. Obviously this would not pertain to the infirm.

**Transport**

We need measures to shift the use of traffic away from, cars, lorries, aeroplanes.

We need a much bolder policy to bring about this change in a similar way that a dramatic shift was made away from smoking.

This will require shifts in tax regimes making it more expensive to use your car, transport goods by lorry's and fly by plane.

Traffic Congestion charging needs to be introduced to reduce the use of cars, money raised should then be spent in building and subsidising cycle, bus and train infrastructure.

We need to have more goods going by rail and should be putting more rail infrastructure into place to enable this to happen. Once the infrastructure is in place goods going by road should be taxed and goods going by rail subsidised.

Again, we should be getting people to travel by train rather than planes. Increasing costs to fly and reducing train costs. Tax's raised on-air travel should be used to subsidise rail travel and improve infrastructure.

We need public information on this getting people to shift to healthier and less climate damaging and polluting ways of travel. This would also have a side effect of reducing levels of obesity. In relation to climate change we should be put on a war like footing with no more pussy footing. Climate Change will lead to horrendous results unless we take it more seriously.

#### Food

We need to be eating food produced more locally to save the vast number of air-miles being used to transport food. We also need to cut down substantially on the use of cattle for both meat and dairy and transferring land-use for the production of vegetables and fruit.. Again, financial incentives and public education should be used.