

# DO MORE

## WITH LESS

**This Charter sets out our key ideas for doing just that.**

- > Warmer, more comfortable homes and reduced fuel bills
- > More competitive businesses and lower impacts on the environment
- > Enhanced energy security and reduced carbon emissions
- > More jobs in these leaner times

**40% of the UK's energy is consumed in buildings. That's around 40% of our carbon emissions too.**

**Doing more with less. That's the message at the heart of this energy efficiency charter. We invite you to support it.**

## OUR HOMES

- > **Economic incentives for householders installing energy saving products**
- > **A national programme to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016**
- > **Energy ratings to play their fullest role in informing consumer choice**
- > **Require private landlords to improve the energy efficiency of rented homes**
- > **Improve the Decent Homes standard for social housing**

**>> FOR FULL DETAILS PLEASE TURN OVER**

### Our Homes

#### **Economic incentives for householders installing energy saving products**

These should include Stamp Duty and Council Tax rebates, and VAT reductions on the full range of energy saving products. Householders should also be offered loans at below-market rates for energy-conscious home improvements.

#### **A national programme to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016**

#### **Energy ratings to play their fullest role in informing consumer choice**

The law requires home energy ratings to be made available to home buyers and tenants when properties are marketed. However, this often doesn't happen – or the energy rating is buried in the small print. Ratings must be prominently displayed in the property details from Day One, so consumers can choose between properties on the basis of energy performance and anticipated fuel bills.

#### **Require private landlords to improve the energy efficiency of rented homes**

The private rented sector contains the worst housing, which is often occupied by the poorest households. Private landlords should be required to improve the energy efficiency of their property in line with the cost-effective recommendations in the energy rating within five years of the certificate being issued or by 2016, whichever is the sooner.

#### **Improve the Decent Homes standard for social housing**

The current Decent Homes Programme aims to make all social housing decent by 2010. But experts agree that after 2010 more needs to be done to improve the energy efficiency of social housing to provide affordable warmth, with a view to all social housing reaching energy rating grade B where cost-effective and feasible.

## OUR WORKPLACES

- > **Big commercial landlords to upgrade the energy efficiency of our office buildings whenever they change hands and at rent reviews**
- > **All buildings with staff or visitors to display energy certificates to raise awareness of energy use**
- > **Require all commercial and public buildings – not just the very largest – to be made energy efficient when undertaking major building work**
- > **More rigorous enforcement of Building Regulations**

## OUR COUNCILS AND COMMUNITIES

- > **Councils and communities to take a lead on local initiatives on climate change and sustainable energy**

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### Our Workplaces

#### **Big commercial landlords to upgrade the energy efficiency of our office buildings whenever they change hands and at rent reviews**

This will improve the efficiency and competitiveness of UK businesses by protecting them from future energy price rises.

#### **All buildings with staff or visitors to display energy certificates to raise awareness of energy use**

This requirement currently only applies to buildings over 1000m<sup>2</sup> occupied by public bodies or those providing a public service. But everyone – from the office worker to the supermarket user – should be able to know how much energy that business uses.

#### **Require all commercial and public buildings – not just the very largest – to be made energy efficient when undertaking major building work**

Again this requirement currently only applies to buildings over 1000m<sup>2</sup>.

#### **More rigorous enforcement of Building Regulations**

Currently one in three buildings don't comply with the law of the land.

### Our Councils and Communities

#### **Councils and communities to take a lead on local initiatives on climate change and sustainable energy**

They have given powers to draw up together and then implement their own sustainable energy plans.

## JOBS AND INDUSTRY

- > **Strengthening UK plc's competitive edge by guaranteeing industry the breaks it needs to further improve energy efficiency**
- > **Support for new home-grown industries**

## EVERYONE DOING THEIR BIT

- > **Sustainable energy targets to fulfil our energy needs and statutory CO<sub>2</sub> reduction pledges**
- > **The public sector to lead by example – starting by meeting its existing targets**
- > **Invest European emissions trading revenue in transforming our homes and businesses**

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### Jobs and Industry

#### **Strengthening UK plc's competitive edge by guaranteeing industry the breaks it needs to further improve energy efficiency**

This is particularly crucial in the industrial sector, where energy costs make up a large proportion of overall production costs.

#### **Support for new home-grown green industries**

This must include closing the green skills gap and promoting green career paths.

### Everyone doing their bit

#### **Sustainable energy targets to fulfil our energy needs and statutory CO<sub>2</sub> reduction pledges**

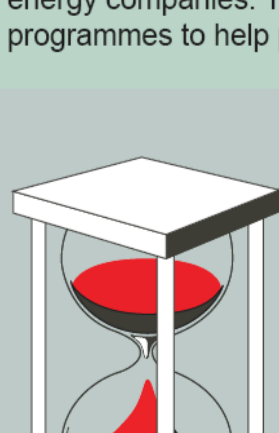
As a first step, make legally binding all current aspirations for energy efficiency and renewable and low carbon technologies (Combined Heat & Power and Carbon Capture & Storage). We must then set longer-term targets for all these sectors, including microgeneration.

#### **The public sector to lead by example – starting by meeting its existing targets**

Current public sector targets – on energy efficiency and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – are not being met. This must be rectified.

#### **Invest European emissions trading revenue in transforming our homes and businesses**

Auctioning the permits for the European Emissions trading system (EU ETS) will generate revenue of £4-£8 billion by 2013. The cost of the EU ETS is passed onto customers' bills by energy companies. This revenue should be ring-fenced to fund energy efficiency and fuel poverty programmes to help protect householders and industry from energy price rises.



## Association for the Conservation of Energy

**ACE aims to reduce overall energy demand to ensure a secure and sustainable energy future. Through our lobbying, campaigning and research we help to achieve sensible and consistent policy, legislation and targets. ACE works to raise a positive awareness of energy conservation and encourage increased investment in all energy saving measures.**