



**Demand a
BETTER Bill**

Warm HOMES amendment

THE JOINT STATEMENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:



Federation of Small Businesses
The UK's Leading Business Organisation



waterwise



YOUR M&S

ASDA



Campaign to Protect Rural England



Friends of the Earth



a million voices for nature



Climate and Health Council



tearfund

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BRITISH RETAIL CONSORTIUM
for successful and responsible retailing



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national union of students



Joint Statement on the Need for Ambition on Energy Efficiency in the Energy Bill

31st March 2011

Our organisations strongly support ambitious action to improve the energy efficiency of people's homes. We welcome the Government's focus on energy efficiency in the Energy Bill, but at present we are not satisfied that the policies proposed will deliver the action needed. We urge MPs from all parties to support the Warm Homes Amendment to the Energy Bill.

The very significant contribution to the UK's carbon emissions from the building stock (43% overall – 26% for homes) means that an ambitious programme of low carbon retrofit is a pre-requisite for the UK to meet its carbon targets. A strong Energy Bill could hold back domestic fuel bill increases, end fuel poverty in line with the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act, help reduce carbon emissions in line with the Climate Change Act and provide tens of thousands of new jobs.

To drive the change needed, **the Government must set out a level of ambition for the Bill on energy savings and commit to issuing a plan to meet this level of ambition.**

The Government has not outlined the actual ambition for its flagship Green Deal policy as it wants to leave it predominantly up to the market to decide on what is delivered. Consequently, it is unclear what energy savings the Government intends to deliver through its programme. There is currently no plan outlining the expected uptake rates of the Green Deal or the depth of carbon savings to be achieved in each home to make them fit for a low-carbon 2050. There is even less detail about the Energy Company Obligation and its role in supporting the energy efficiency programme.

The Warm Homes Amendment introduces to the Energy Bill provisions to ensure that Government's programme on energy efficiency, including the Green Deal, fit within an overarching strategy for energy saving that is sufficient to meet the ambition of the Climate Change Act – specifically an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050, and the intended 2020 target of a 42% reduction. It also reinforces the need for energy efficiency policies to contribute to eradicating fuel poverty by 2016.

Without an overall strategy or plan for energy efficiency Parliament and the public will be unable to assess whether the Government is on track to deliver its legally binding requirements, and what other measures might be needed. The amendment would bring ambition, transparency, accountability and cohesion to the Government's policy package on energy efficiency.

Clarity on the scale, pace and timings of the programme, including the energy savings required if the UK's carbon targets are to be met, is essential for establishing confidence in the programme, giving business certainty, and attracting sufficient large-scale investment. Businesses and investors are unlikely to see the Green Deal as an opportunity they wish to pursue without the certainty this will provide.

A stated minimum level of ambition by the Government is vital to help determine the size and scope of the market. This would provide certainty that further policies would be forthcoming, if needed, to ensure the Government's objectives are delivered.

UK ENERGY BILL 2010 - WARM HOMES AMENDMENT

Page 1 Line 3 under "Part 1 Energy Efficiency" insert new clauses:

Clause 1 **Purpose of Part 1**

- (1) *The principal purpose of this Part 1 is to deliver energy savings from the building stock which will make commensurate contributions to -
 - (a) *the achievement of the target contained in Section 1(1) of the Climate Change Act 2008 and the carbon budget set for each budgetary period under Part 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008; and*
 - (b) *the elimination of fuel poverty by the target date required by Section 2(2)(d) of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000**
- (2) *In performing functions under this Part the Secretary of State will have regard to-
 - (a) *the principal purpose set out in subsection (1) above, and*
 - (b) *the recommendations from time to time of the Committee on Climate Change where these are adopted by the Secretary of State.**

Clause 2 **Duty of the Secretary of State to improve energy efficiency**

- (1) *The Secretary of State must prepare and publish a plan for achieving the principal purpose set out in Section 1(1) in England*
- (2) *The plan must establish specific aims and describe the proposed means of achieving them together with methods for reporting on progress towards meeting them.*
- (3) *In preparing the plan, the Secretary of State must take account of any plans produced under section 60(2) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009*
- (4) *Where an aim is designated under this section, the Secretary of State must take all reasonable steps to achieve the aim*
- (5) *The plan prepared under subsection (1) must be published no later than 12 months after the day on which this section comes into force.*
- (6) *The Secretary of State must, as soon as reasonably practicable after publishing a plan under this section lay it before Parliament.*
- (7) *The Secretary of State must, within 1 year of each order setting a carbon budget under section 8(1) of the Climate Change Act 2008, review the plan prepared and published under this section.*
- (8) *Where, following a review under subsection (7), the Secretary of State varies the plan, he must, as soon as reasonably practicable after so doing, publish the plan as so varied.*

Clause 3 **Annual report on progress**

- (1) *Section 1 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2003 (annual reports towards sustainable energy aims) is amended as follows*
- (2) *In subsection (1) (sustainable energy report) after paragraph (e) insert "and (f) achieving the aims established by the plans produced under section 2 of the Energy Act 2011 and section 60(2) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009"*

Warm Homes amendment

THE JOINT STATEMENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

GREENPEACE



BUILDING REPUTATIONS



MAKE POVERTY HISTORY NORTH EAST



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