

Mr Carl Holmes
mailto:
@request- 22612-cofod1be@whatdotheyknow.com

3 Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HD
T: +44 (0)20 7215 5000
www.decc.gov.uk

Your ref:
Our ref: VK 159915

30 November 2009

Dear Mr Holmes

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 November regarding climate change. I have been asked to reply.

Renewable energy has a crucial role to play in reducing UK and global emissions and improving our energy security of supply.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change was set up to ensure Britain puts tackling climate change at the top of the national agenda. We have introduced the world's first legally binding framework to tackle climate change. We are increasing our use of renewable energy to help meet our challenging goal of reducing UK carbon dioxide emissions by 80% by 2050. In addition, increased renewable energy will also reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuel and reduce our exposure to increasing oil prices.

On 15 July, we launched the Renewable Energy Strategy. This document sets out our comprehensive action plan to deliver a seven-fold increase in renewable energy. By 2020, 15% of our energy – including electricity, heat and transport – will come from renewable sources. We are starting from a low base but we are already beginning to make progress. In 2008 only 2.25% of UK energy came from renewable sources but this is a 50% increase on 2006.

To help us meet this target, we are also creating one of the first truly comprehensive renewable energy financial incentive systems in the world, proving support for renewable energy generation for businesses, communities and individual households – worth around £30 billion between now and 2020.

Meeting our renewable energy target will offer significant benefits to the UK and could provide £100 billion worth of investment opportunities and up to half a million jobs in the UK renewable energy sector by 2020.

There will be costs associated with investing in all this renewable technology although we do not expect this to have any real impact on bills over the next 5 years. In the longer term, we will manage the cost impact by ensuring that we take the most cost-effective approach to meeting our targets. We will also continue to promote energy efficiency – spending on energy efficiency for vulnerable households is expected to rise by £680 million to around £2.3 billion in 2008-2011 – and we will continue with our programmes to tackle fuel poverty.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Violetta Kucharski
Correspondence Officer
DECC MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT