

Dear Secretary of State/Minister,

You may be aware that the Planning and Climate Change Coalition has worked hard to ensure that that the planning system makes a full contribution to meeting the climate change challenge. The Coalition published highly regarded policy guidance last year which received cross party support and laid the foundation for a new draft planning policy statement (PPS) on energy and climate.¹ Planning is a vital tool in delivering on the Government's ambitions for climate change as set out in the Government's coalition agreement and in particular on issues such as flood risk, energy and our future quality of life.

The Government has made clear that it will publish consolidated new guidance in a National Planning Framework and that the existing PPS's will be withdrawn. We understand the draft PPS, *Planning for a Low Carbon Future* will not be issued in its current form and that the standards in the eco towns PPS will also be withdrawn. We also understand that the national indicators set for local government, and in particular those indicators that relate to climate mitigation and adaption, will also be removed. In addition, we are acutely aware of the uncertain future of many of the critical studies carried out on energy capacity and adaptation by the English regions.

We acknowledge the Government's policy drive to streamline planning and make it sensitive to community needs and aspirations, for example by removing the regional tier. However, the climate challenge does require some level of cross boundary response if communities are to be enabled to act most effectively. Many of the impacts, like the severe risk of sea level rise, play out at a large geographic scale – thereby requiring local authorities to work together. Furthermore, many of the opportunities which are identified in the Government's coalition agreement on energy require communities to have access to the best information and technical advice on their local options. Climate change science is also a rapidly changing field where impacts and solutions are evolving and where the professional skills of local planners need active support.

This is not about top down imposition but about access to good advice and guidance for professionals and communities. We strongly urge that those parts of the draft energy and climate PPS which relate directly to

¹ 'Planning and Climate Change coalition: position statement', published October 2009 and launched in the House of Commons. The coalition was led by the TCPA and Friends of the Earth. The statement had input from around 100 individuals and organisations from across the social justice, environmental and private sector.

local action be published now to ensure transformational change is enabled quickly. We know that local authorities want to reduce their communities' vulnerability to climate change and wish to have guidance to give clarity to their decision making and provide certainty for the public and private sector alike. We also strongly urge you to consider how the best technical advice already captured can be saved and made available to local communities.

We stand ready to help in any way we can to support the coalition Government's ambitions on climate change and drive cost effective and efficient progress both for our communities and the wider economy.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Simmonds	AECB the sustainable building association
Ed Cotter	BRE and BREEAM Centre
Martin Warren	Butterfly Conservation
Stephen Joseph	Campaign for Better Transport
Chris Shepley CBE	Chris Shepley Planning Consultancy
Chris Tivey	Chris Tivey Associates
Dr Gill Chitty	Council for British Archaeology
David Howard	David Howard Property Services Ltd
Sophie Christopher	Eco-architecture Planning Consultants
Adrian Hewitt	Energence Ltd
Sean Rendall	Energy Centre for Sustainable Communities
Dr Anna Watson	Friends of the Earth
John Walker	Green Gauge
Adam Broadway	Instinctively Green
Alastair McCapra	Landscape Institute
Rob Shaw	LDA Design
Seema Manchanda	London Borough of Islington
Cllr Colin Hall	London Borough of Sutton
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Jim McAllister
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Murray Graham
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Prof Yvonne Rydin
The Revd Dr Tony Barker

Rutland Group
Sheppard Robson
Sustainable Works Ltd
The Grasslands Trust
The National Trust
Town and Country Planning Association
UK Green Building Council
Urban Roots Planning