

Gregory Barker MP

Minister of State

Department of Energy & Climate Change

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www.decc.gov.uk

13 April 2011

Dear Chief Executives of Councils in England,

SHARING INFORMATION ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITY OWN ESTATE AND OPERATIONS

On 9 March 2011 Chris Huhne, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Local Government Group that recognised the pivotal role that local councils have in tackling climate change. The MOU, available at http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/local/local.aspx outlines how my Department and the LG Group want to work together to help councils reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- on their own estate and operations;
- in their areas within local council control and influence; and
- through participating in national carbon reduction initiatives such as the Green Deal and renewable energy deployment.

To support the principles of the MOU, I would request that local councils measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions from their own estate and operations in accordance with the joint DECC-Defra guidance that was published in September 2009 and available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/economy/business-efficiency/reporting/> by the end of July each year.

My officials requested views from local councils in January on this new, less burdensome process, and there is broad support across the sector. I understand that many local councils asked for clarifications on the process and in response I will be publishing a Frequency Asked Questions document on the DECC website to help answer these. This is available at <http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/indicators/ni185/ni185.aspx>

Data on area emissions and fuel poverty (formally covered by NI 186 and NI 187 respectively) will continue to be collated and modelled centrally by my department with no burden on councils.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Barker', with a horizontal line underneath it.

GREGORY BARKER