

Ken Livingstone
Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

11 June 2007

Dear Ken

The Mayor's Climate Change Action Plan

Congratulations on the release of the above Action Plan. It offers a world first approach to managing and actively reducing the impacts of climate change. This is an approach the London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC) endorses and fully supports.

The Action Plan rightly highlights two key approaches to tackling climate change:

- tightening regulations and controls to demand less energy intensive development and a focus on decentralised low carbon energy supply; and
- tackling behavioural change so that Londoners understand, and will implement, the spirit of the Action Plan.

Our overarching observation is that the Plan offers an opportunity to achieve additional powerful health, social and economic benefits, but that these will only be fully realised if Londoners are empowered and involved in implementing key elements of the Action Plan. We believe that a proactive approach to involving communities through mechanisms such as local energy supply companies will have the additional benefit of bolstering the success of the crucial behaviour change strategies.

The Commission wishes to provide the following additional feedback on the Action Plan:

- 'Integrated Utility Facilities' (such as Multi-Utility Services Companies, Combined Heat and Power and waste water treatment) will become increasingly important to make better use of energy. This has implications for the London Plan, the new Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Strategy and the 2012 Games.
- Issues exist around the capacity of London boroughs to deliver decentralised energy, in terms of resources and knowledge available at borough level. Whilst the Action Plan takes steps to support boroughs in promoting more energy efficient behaviour, private sector support will be required to establish decentralised energy supply.

- A recent study by ARUP looking at strategies to reduce carbon in the Thames Gateway has highlighted that current approaches (including the Climate Change Action Plan) may be underestimating our carbon footprint. The study has highlighted the true cost of 'hidden' carbon embodied in materials, goods and services.
- The Action Plan mentions development and delivery of mechanisms to produce energy from waste. We feel that London has an opportunity to go further and become the European hub for the re-use and remanufacturing industry, utilising existing port facilities and developing major new industry in the Thames Gateway. Some UK companies are already active in this area (such as Caterpillar who take back all used components and turn them into new products) and the expertise and infrastructure exists in London to develop these industries further.
- We also believe that another source of carbon reduction could be the development of consolidation centres for goods deliveries using fleets of green vehicles. This could reduce air emissions as well as reducing congestion.

On behalf of the Commission I would like to offer any further assistance that we may be able to provide in support of advancing the Mayor's Climate Change Action Plan. We believe we have real value and expertise to add in this area. You may be aware that the LSDC jointly with the GLA has commissioned ARUP to pilot the use of the Integrated Resource Management approach to help inform decision-making and strategic policy development. We hope this will help us understand how to better assess the combined social, economic and environmental impacts of proposed strategies and plans. The pilot will consider a range of climate change policies linked to development in London and may be beneficial in developing ways to harness the additional benefits that could be derived from implementing the Climate Change Action Plan. We look forward to being able to provide you with the results of this work when it becomes available.

We are also developing our new work programme 'Challenge London – London Leaders' which has stemmed from international research into the key components required to establish truly sustainable practices in cities across the world. You have kindly agreed to launch this new work programme later in the year and we appreciate your support in making this happen.

We look forward to the release of the upcoming Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Strategy and providing input to future strategies to ensure London continues on its path to become a world-class sustainable city.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Stott
 Chair - GLA Sub Group
 London Sustainable Development Commission