

# Communities Scotland

Our ref: 12/50

Date: 18 July 2005

## **RSE INQUIRY INTO ENERGY ISSUES FOR SCOTLAND**

Thank you for the letter of 13 May to **Angiolina** Foster inviting Communities Scotland's views on the issues involved in the supply and demand of energy for Scotland. I am responding on behalf of Angiolina.

I understand that the Royal Society of Edinburgh has made a similar request to the Enterprise, Transport & Lifelong Learning Department who intend to provide a substantive response through Mr Peter **Cullen**, on the wider issues facing Scotland in relation to the supply and demand for energy. Communities Scotland does, however, have responsibility for the delivery of several Scottish Executive Programmes that contribute significantly to energy usage and energy efficiency policies in Scotland's domestic sector.

Our specific roles cover:

- Central Heating and Warm Deal Programme
- Scottish Housing Quality Standard
- Home Energy Conservation Act (**HECA**) monitoring; and
- **Sustainable** Development

The Central Heating and Warm Deal Programmes are central to the Scottish Executive's aim of ensuring that every household in Scotland has a warm, dry and affordable home. The Programmes provide modern fuel efficient central heating systems combined with insulation to reduce fuel use. Properties benefiting from the Programmes report an increase in their National Home Energy Rating, annual average savings on fuel bills and CO2 emissions are reduced tackling the problems of climate change. Further information on the Programmes is available from the 'Benefits From Home Energy Efficiency Schemes In Scotland 2003/04', a Report by the Scottish Executive. The report can be obtained from the Scottish Executive's **website** at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/chpwd-00.asp>

The Minister for Communities introduced the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in February 2004. This standard has five Housing Quality Criteria of which 'Energy Efficiency' is one.

Full details are available from the Communities Scotland [website](http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/cs006672.hesp#TopOfPage) at:  
<http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/cs006672.hesp#TopOfPage>

Communities Scotland monitors progress on targets set for the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) on behalf of Scottish Ministers. The Third HECA Progress Report covering the period April 2001 to March 2003 was published in February 2005.

From these reports, it can be seen that local authorities are continuing to develop partnership arrangements that enable them to undertake practical projects that contribute to improving energy efficiency, but also contribute to meeting other priorities and commitments, including contributing to international agreements related to sustainable development and climate change, improvements to health, tackling social exclusion and alleviating poverty, particularly fuel poverty. The Third HECA Report can be obtained from the Scottish Executive's website at:

<http://www.Scotland.gov.uk/library5/development/hecar5-00.asp>

Communities Scotland is also committed to further sustainable development in its development programme (primarily through grant funding for Housing Association projects).

### **Communities Scotland's Sustainable Development Policy**

Communities Scotland's Sustainable Development Policy (2003) focuses on a more efficient use of energy and resources, reducing pressure on the environment and reducing the number of households in fuel poverty. Communities Scotland is currently revising the policy to better reflect the agency's broader community regeneration role.

The policy is currently targeted at anyone in receipt of funding from Communities Scotland. From 1 September 2000, minimum target energy ratings using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) were set for new build housing (85- 90) and rehabilitation (65-70). From 1 April 2002, the agency introduced sustainable development indicators, applicable to all housing development we fund. These include the average annual carbon dioxide emissions and average annual energy (i.e. space and water heating) costs. Full details are available on Communities Scotland's website at

[http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/cs\\_006583.hcsp#TopOfPage](http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/cs_006583.hcsp#TopOfPage)

### **Sustainable Housing Design Guide**

When first published in March 2000, the Sustainable Development Policy was supported by the Sustainable Housing Design Guide. This is a useful first reference source to assist all developers in preparing development briefs, specifications and options for improving the sustainability of housing. In November 2004 Communities Scotland introduced an internet version to increase access and user-friendliness. Full details are available on Communities Scotland's website at

[http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/cs\\_006583.hcsp#TopOfPage](http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/cs_006583.hcsp#TopOfPage)

Communities Scotland has no objection to the content of this letter being made public as part of the Inquiry.

I trust this is helpful and look forward to publication of the findings of the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely



**ALISTAIR DICKSON**  
Head of Investment

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