

DOE INPUT TO INQUIRY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Key European commitments

- To agree EU position on a comprehensive post-2012 agreement including the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.
- Committed to 20% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 on 1990 levels with 30% commitment if international UN agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009.
- an EU White Paper on adaptation is due to be published in April 2009.
- Whitehall Departments take UK lead, though DAs are consulted regarding the EU climate and energy commitments.

Key UK Commitments

- Key initiative has been UK Climate Change Act 2008. This provides for UK statutory targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions (80% by 2050); an Independent Committee on Climate Change (CCC) established to advise on UK carbon targets and budgets; enabling powers for trading schemes; and on adaptation to climate change impacts risk assessment and programmes to deal with impacts.

- Development of Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) as a UK-wide mandatory cap and trade emissions trading scheme due to commence April 2010.

Northern Ireland Executive Position

- The Programme for Government (2008-2011) commits the NI Executive collectively to reduce GHG emissions by 25% on 1990 levels by 2025.
- Gave policy agreement for Climate Change Act 2008 to be extended to Northern Ireland.
- Support in principle and committed to proceed with UK consultation re Carbon Reduction Commitment.

DOE Contribution to PfG targets

- Responsible for progressing Climate Change Act 2008 reporting requirements including links with CCC and UK risk assessment on impacts of climate change.
- Input Northern Ireland relevant aspects to policy developments relating to EU climate and energy

including EU ETS, and UK policy development including CRC.

- Works with UK colleagues to provide for Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventories and projections.
- Ensures Northern Ireland public service organisations are aware of impacts of climate change and of need to adapt. Published in January 2007 with Scottish and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research (SNIFFER), the report “Preparing for a Changing Climate in Northern Ireland”.
- Supports the Northern Ireland Climate Change Impact Partnership which is charged with improving climate change understanding in the business, government, non-government and voluntary sectors.
- On planning policy, Planning Policy Statement 18 (PPS 18) on renewables has been issued for consultation.
- PPS 15 ‘Planning and Flood Risk’ sets out the Department’s planning policies to minimise flood risk to people, property and the environment. DOE and the Rivers Agency jointly launched Flood Risk Maps in November 2008.

