

Margaret Beckett MP
DEFRA
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

December 2001

Dear Mrs Beckett

We are writing regarding DEFRA's review of Local Authority Energy Efficiency Activity.

We are very concerned by the suggestion in your paper of draft recommendations that the Home Energy Conservation Act targets be non statutory and indicative only. This is totally unacceptable and a complete climb-down on previous commitments from your government and ministers. There have been numerous statements from Michael Meacher calling for more robust targets and he has described current performance in this area as 'wholly inadequate'. It is totally inconsistent to now be recommending this downgrading. Can I remind you that in opposition 16 Labour cabinet members voted for statutory targets.

Please can you assure us of your commitment both to statutory HECA targets and to taking all action possible to ensure they are included in DEFRA's recommendations.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Lucas MEP
South East

Jean Lambert MEP
London