

Efficient Affordable Energy for Buildings

c/o Sustainable Energy Association, Radcliffe House, Blenheim Court, Solihull B91 2AA

Email: ronbailey@btinternet.com Tel: 07951 761229



The Association for the
Conservation of Energy



AN OPEN LETTER TO THE RT HON ERIC PICKLES MP

12 March 2014

Dear Secretary of State,

Please don't stop local government delivering lower-carbon homes!

Your Housing Standards Review contemplates either repealing or amending the Planning & Energy Act 2008, which grants local government the power to set higher standards for new build homes than your Department. This power is popularly known as 'the Merton Rule'. **The signatories to this letter urge you to champion, not reverse, important local authority leadership on lower-carbon homes.**

The Act was brought in by your colleague, Michael Fallon MP with your support and with that of the Prime Minister. It has been an important factor in ensuring that new homes are more energy efficient than they otherwise would be, and that cost-effective small scale generation is included in new developments. In the London Plan, for instance, new homes will soon be 40% more efficient than they otherwise would be, resulting in substantial reductions in energy bills. Analysis by the STA shows that the additional costs for housing developments can be very affordable – from just £1,000 per house to include solar PV under a 10% Merton Rule.

It is essential to allow local Government to go beyond this year's modest improvements to energy standards in order to develop the skills needed across the construction industry to deliver Zero Carbon Homes in 2016, to which the Government remains committed. These important local Government powers are entirely in accord with the Government's localism agenda – a policy that was confirmed in the Coalition Agreement. Repealing or amending the Act will also send adverse signals to the energy saving industry and have a negative effect on future investment in low carbon British technology.

Our built environment is responsible for around a third of UK CO₂ emissions. **We urge you not to stop local authorities building the carbon impact, and energy bill anxiety, out of UK homes.**

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Warren, Director, Association for the Conservation of Energy

Kelly Butler, Marketing Director, BEAMA

Tim Rotheray, Director, Combined Heat & Power Association

Nina Skorupska, Chief Executive, Renewable Energy Association

CAMPAIGN SUPPORTED BY:



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chpa
Bringing Energy
Together



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