

Sustainability Committee

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

13 August 2008

Dear Colleague,

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO CARBON REDUCTION IN WALES: RURAL LAND USE MANAGEMENT AND CARBON REDUCTION

The National Assembly for Wales Sustainability Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into Carbon Reduction in Wales.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are:

To scrutinise the Welsh Assembly Government on its progress in contributing to the UK's carbon reduction targets and its proposals for meeting the 3% per year carbon reduction target for Wales contained in the One Wales document.

The inquiry is split into the following topic areas:

- Residential carbon reduction
- Carbon reduction by transport
- Carbon reduction by industry and public bodies
- Carbon reduction from electricity generation (including renewable energy)
- Rural land use management and carbon reduction
- The role of the planning system in carbon reduction

Written consultations are carried out at the start of each topic area and the first four consultations are now closed.

The Committee is now issuing a call for written evidence for its fifth topic area – rural land use management and carbon reduction – and is keen to gather your organisation's views in the attached questionnaire.

I would be grateful if you could submit any written evidence by **Friday 17 October 2008**. If possible, please supply an electronic version in MS word or

Rich Text format, by email to Virginia Hawkins, Clerk to the Committee, at Sustainability.comm@Wales.gsi.gov.uk or on a disk. Disks or hard copy versions should be sent to the heading address.

Calls for evidence on subsequent topic areas will be issued to coincide with the Committee's evidence sessions.

Further information regarding the Committee's inquiry into carbon reduction can be found on the Committee web pages at:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third-assem/bus-committees-third-sc-home.htm>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mick Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mick Bates
Chair, Sustainability Committee

Written questions for carbon reduction inquiry

General questions

1. Is the proposed 3 per cent annual reduction target by 2011 'in areas of devolved competence'¹ sufficient to enable Wales to make its full contribution to meeting UK-wide targets? If not, what targets should be put in place?
2. Should the emission reduction target be based on Welsh consumption, or production, or both (ie should it take into consideration the carbon dioxide generated in Wales (production), or the carbon dioxide emissions that Wales' residents are responsible for, regardless of their source (consumption))?

Questions specific to carbon dioxide reduction and rural land use management:

3. What particular challenges do rural land managers in Wales face in reducing carbon dioxide emissions from their activities, and how can these challenges be overcome?
4. To what extent has the Welsh Assembly Government been successful in utilising the powers available to it in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from rural land use?
5. What opportunities does the Welsh Assembly Government have to help rural land managers:
 - a. reduce their carbon dioxide emissions, and
 - b. better manage the storage of carbon within the land?
6. Could alternative targeting of Welsh Assembly Government financial resources lead to greater carbon dioxide emissions reductions within the context of rural land use than are currently being achieved? If so, where could additional resources lead to greatest impact? (Please provide detail to support your evidence).
7. What examples from other administrations (devolved, UK, and overseas), where other means have been used to achieve reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from rural land use, could be adopted in Wales under current powers?
8. In the context of the Government of Wales Act 2006, which further means of reducing carbon dioxide emissions from rural land use could *only* be achieved

¹ Welsh Assembly Government, [One Wales: A progressive agenda for the government of Wales](#), webpage [on 6 August 2008]

with the introduction of further legislative competence for the National Assembly for Wales?

9. How can land managers in rural areas contribute towards the Welsh Assembly Government's 3% reduction targets and how much reduction in CO2 in Wales could realistically be achieved through improved land management?

Please note:

It is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a committee. Consequently your response may appear in a report or in supplementary evidence to a report. The National Assembly will not publish information which it considers to be personal data.

In the event of a request for information submitted under UK legislation, it may be necessary to disclose the information that you provide. This may include information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes.

If you are providing any information, other than personal data, which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, it is up to you to stipulate which parts should not be published, and to provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing information or responding to requests for information.