

Energy Efficiency and Microgeneration Strategy
Energy Efficiency Unit
Scottish Executive
Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning Department
2nd Floor, Meridian Court
5 Cadogan Street
Glasgow, G2 6AT

eemstrategy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

11 June 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

Achieving a Low Carbon Future - A Strategy for Scotland – Consultation Response

The Sustainable Development Education (SDE) Policy Network warmly welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Scottish Executive's consultation on its draft Energy Efficiency and Microgeneration Strategy for Scotland.

The SDE Policy Network believes that education and learning about energy efficiency and microgeneration are vital to achieving the UK carbon reduction and energy efficiency targets, and those to be set as a result of this Strategy. As the first step towards reducing energy demand and creating a low-carbon market, education provides the underlying basis for all other policy measures. The education of both adults and children concerning how they can reduce their energy use and adopt low and zero-carbon technologies in schools, homes, businesses and the public sector can be delivered through a wide variety of means (both directly and indirectly); some of which are highlighted in this response.

We welcome the actions proposed in the draft Strategy and support the development and implementation of the proposed Action Plan without delay. The length of time taken to deliver this draft Strategy and the timing of the 2007 Scottish Parliamentary elections mean that there is considerable uncertainty about a future Strategy on energy efficiency and microgeneration. We would therefore urge the Scottish Executive to provide prompt reassurance that the proposed Action Plan and key actions outlined in this consultation document will be pursued as quickly as possible.

The SDE Policy Network has responded to the Scottish Executive's consultation questions in turn, offering the following comments.

1. Do you agree with the overall approach taken in this draft strategy for improving energy efficiency and encouraging greater uptake of microgeneration? If not, why not?

The SDE Policy Network supports the overall approach taken in the draft Strategy and welcomes the Scottish Executive's commitment to publish an Action Plan in 2007, drawing together existing and future commitments towards promoting energy efficiency and microgeneration, and setting targets. This Plan should give the Executive strategic purpose and the confidence to be ambitious.

When completing the final Strategy and compiling the Action Plan, we would urge that the work currently underway by the Executive towards producing a Renewable Heat Strategy, including the outcomes of the [FREDS](#) (Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland) sub-group on Renewable Heat, is fully taken into account. This should ensure that a streamlined, integrated approach is taken across these inter-related areas and avoid conflicting measures and duplication.

The Executive's commitment to report on progress towards targets and carbon savings associated with the various actions on an annual basis is welcome provided it is measured using a robust methodology. Progress reports, targets and measuring the carbon contribution of policy require a sound statistical base otherwise the management required to help grow the sector to provide solutions in this area will be difficult to achieve.

2. Do you have any views on the key actions covered in the draft strategy summarised in Chapter 8 - Conclusions and Next Steps?

The SDE Policy Network supports the key actions highlighted in the draft Strategy. Due to the importance of education and learning in increasing energy-saving behaviour and encouraging uptake of microgeneration technologies, we particularly commend the following proposed actions:

- ***Introduce a one-stop shop approach to advice for householders on energy efficiency, sustainable transport and renewable energy.***

The SDE Policy Network would like to stress that this advice portal should also cover low-carbon microgeneration technologies, such as gas-fuelled CHP¹ and fuel cell systems in order to provide a holistic, integrated service. Clear priority should be given to the promotion of energy efficiency as a 'the first step', with microgeneration seen as 'the next step', to achieve the greatest carbon savings at least cost.

- ***Invest an additional £4 million in the Central Energy Efficiency Fund for the further and higher education sector.***

We would recommend that the measures adopted through this scheme be enhanced by resources and training on energy efficiency and microgeneration to make both institution staff and students aware of the existence and importance of these measures. This will ensure that the outcomes of the Fund result in wider education and training benefits.

- ***Encourage greater energy efficiency and uptake of microgeneration across the public sector estate, especially in schools and encourage every school to register on the Eco Schools Programme and striving for the Green Flag.***

The SDE Policy Network welcomes this action but would urge the Executive to strengthen this action by setting targets for the proportion of schools achieving an Eco Schools Green Flag. These targets should be put in place as soon as practicable.

The SDE Policy Network also recommends that resources and training are put in place to enable school staff to use energy efficiency and microgeneration technologies to make their school a 'building that teaches'. These resources should be strongly linked to the new *Curriculum for Excellence* and Eco Schools Programme to ensure that energy efficiency and microgeneration are embedded within learning and teaching activities and not seen as an 'add on'. The SDE Policy Network would

¹ Combined heat and power

further recommend that the Scottish Executive works with the Sustainable Development Education Liaison Group (SDELG), managed by Learning and Teaching Scotland, to develop these resources.

3. The draft Strategy states that we will consider targets to be included in the final Strategy and Action Plan:

- a) Do you have any views on specific targets referred to within the draft?
b) Are there any other targets which you believe should be considered?**

The SDE Policy Network welcomes this commitment provided it translates into policy initiatives in awareness raising, education, financial support, planning and building standards. Targets can provide strong market signals to potential investors in the microgeneration sector and also provide an inspirational vision for policy makers if set in a positive context. However, any targets must be supported by holistic and robust policies in order to stimulate investors.

4. Are there any other comments you would like to offer on this strategy in relation to the promotion of energy efficiency and microgeneration in Scotland?

The SDE Policy Network welcomes the pilot schemes underway in Scotland and UK-wide to test the potential of improved billing methods, real-time displays showing electricity use and cost, and smart meters to provide instant updates on energy consumption (and generation). We believe that such measures could play a significant role in raising awareness of energy use among consumers and promoting energy-saving behaviour. In order to reap these benefits at the earliest opportunity, we would urge the Executive to work with the UK Government to ensure that these measures are rolled out to homes, businesses and the public sector as soon as possible.

We support the Executive's commitment to make it easier to install microgeneration technologies by removing planning barriers. However, in order to ensure that planning policies are implemented appropriately and in a consistent manner across all planning authorities, we would urge the Executive to ensure that planners are provided with sufficient training to implement microgeneration policies with complete confidence. The SDE Policy Network would be delighted to work with the Scottish Executive to bring together organisations and individuals with the appropriate experience and expertise to develop this training.

5. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, how do you think your organisation will/can contribute to the success of the strategy?

Research by both SDE Policy Network members and others has demonstrated that simply building knowledge and understanding of sustainable development issues, such as energy efficiency, is unlikely to result in the behaviour change necessary to move towards a more sustainable lifestyle. For behaviour change to occur measures must be put in place to ensure that knowledge and understanding are supported by increased skills and changes in attitude. The SDE Policy Network members have wide experience in developing and delivering Sustainable Development Education (SDE) – education that builds knowledge, understanding, skills and positive attitudes. The SDE Policy Network members would be delighted to work with the Scottish Executive to ensure that the education and training opportunities that are integral to this Strategy incorporate SDE techniques and methodologies.

Summary

The SDE Policy Network welcomes the actions proposed in the draft Strategy and supports the development and implementation of the proposed Action Plan, including targets where appropriate, as soon as possible.

Our members would be delighted to offer their experience and expertise to help make the Energy Efficiency and Microgeneration Strategy a reality and would be pleased to meet with you if clarification or further detail is required.

Yours sincerely

Morag Watson – Chair, SDE Policy Network

Education Policy Officer, WWF Scotland

NOTES

The Sustainable Development Education (SDE) Network is the Scottish network for organisations and individuals involved in sustainable development education. Members are committed to helping people develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and values needed to improve their wellbeing without compromising others' opportunities to do the same locally, globally, now or in the future. The Network brings together those involved in sustainable development education and the related fields of environmental, development, citizenship, global and outdoor education. Our members are:

Changeworks	Scottish Civic Forum – Sus it out
Eco Schools Scotland	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Forward Scotland	Scottish Qualifications Authority
Friends of the Earth Scotland	Sustainable Scotland Network
IDEAS (International Development Education Association Scotland)	SUST at the Lighthouse
OXFAM in Scotland	SUSTRANS
RSPB Scotland	June Thomas (individual member)
Kate Sankey (individual member)	WWF Scotland
Scottish Seabird Centre	The Network is supported by SNH
Scottish Centres	

This response is the consensus view of the SDE Network's members.