

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENGLAND'S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

Introduction

This agreement sets out the strategic partnership arrangements between the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) and England's Regional Development Agencies (RDAs). DECC and RDAs have a shared commitment to promoting energy and climate change priorities as part of securing sustainable economic development. We therefore wish to develop strong and effective arrangements for collaboration on our shared priorities at all levels.

Shared priorities

DECC's objectives are to

- Secure global commitments which prevent dangerous climate change
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the UK
- Ensure secure energy supplies
- Help the most vulnerable to meet their household energy needs
- Meet energy and climate change objectives at home and abroad
- Ensure that the UK economy benefits from business and employment opportunities of a low carbon future
- Manage energy liabilities effectively and safely
- Develop DECC's capability and capacity, systems and relationships so that we improve engagement with and deliver effectively for the public

RDAs provide regional leadership on energy and climate change through:

- Development and delivery of Regional Strategies, including energy and carbon reduction plans/targets and supporting regional partnerships.
- Supporting the delivery of energy efficiency and carbon reduction across the business sector through Business Link brokerage, advice and coordination of resource efficiency business support for SMEs;
- Supporting the growth of key enabling sectors, such as construction, transport and low carbon technologies, to encourage progress towards a low carbon economy;
- Leading regionally-specific R&D, innovation and demonstration activity on low carbon energy technologies, efficient energy use/transmission and climate change;
- Improving the sustainability of physical developments through low carbon design of regeneration investments;
- Supporting the development of a skilled low-carbon and nuclear energy workforce, including improving sector skills and maximising local opportunities from energy investment and infrastructure, including nuclear legacy management;
- Encouraging the reduction of fuel poverty through joint working with local and health authorities on community-scale projects.

There are many areas where DECC and RDA priorities converge. Key shared priorities and outcomes are:

1. Developing low carbon, energy-efficient regional economies, with secure and sustainable energy supplies, well placed to exploit new opportunities and drive economic recovery.

2. Supporting the achievement of national climate change and energy targets through regional action.
3. Stimulating market, supply chain and skills development and innovation to deliver renewables, energy efficiency, nuclear power, clean fossil fuels and other low carbon technologies.
4. Ensuring businesses are well informed about carbon reduction and energy efficiency opportunities/support and deliver reductions in practice.

Working in partnership

DECC and RDAs are committed to developing close and effective working relationships at all levels, from Chairs/Ministers to officials, to provide the basis for strong collaboration on our shared priorities. This will be based on:

- Mutual understanding of our distinctive roles and responsibilities, the ways in which we work and our shared priorities;
- Establishing strong networks and other arrangements for regular and open communication at all levels, including with other key DECC delivery partners such as Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust and Government Offices;
- Developing strong dialogue on policy development and implementation, with opportunities for each partner to contribute their experience and ideas at all stages;
- Ongoing sharing of information, knowledge and good practice;
- Collaboration on areas of mutual interest to influence other departments, organisations and partners on broader agenda;
- A commitment to developing proactive, innovative and responsive ways of working together, including secondments, work shadowing and other means of staff interchange.

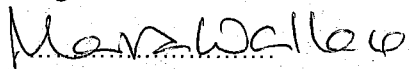
Delivery plan

We will develop each year a shared delivery plan setting out the areas on which we will collaborate, with detailed actions, specific deliverables and milestones. We will aim to have agreed the initial plan covering 2009/10 by 31 July 2009 and for subsequent years by 31 March.

Implementation, monitoring and review

The Low Carbon Economy Team of DECC and NWDA, as lead RDA for DECC, will be responsible for ensuring that this agreement is implemented and for monitoring its effectiveness and impact. The agreement will be reviewed annually, by 31 January each year, to assess how it is working and whether changes are needed.

Signatures

 Date 1-7-09

Moira Wallace

Permanent Secretary, Department of Energy and Climate Change



Date 1/7/09

Steven Broomhead

Chief Executive, Northwest Regional Development Agency (as lead RDA for DECC)