



Dear Ms Vegro

Scotland's 2020 Climate Group Response to the Green Deal and ECO Consultation

The 2020 Group warmly welcomes the introduction of the Green Deal and ECO and support the Government's target to improve the energy efficiency of UK buildings.

While generally agreeable to the ambition of the consultation, we would like to express our opinion on the following:

Timing

The 2020 Group are concerned that due to the complexities of the issues, the timescales for the introduction of Green Deal and ECO are unrealistic. A rushed job could lead to unhappy customers and a limited uptake by UK homes. More time is needed to ensure that systems are designed correctly and operate smoothly so that customers are confident in the results.

Transition

We are concerned that there is no support for cavity wall and loft insulation under the Green Deal and ECO. While we understand that CERT and CESP were the main delivery vehicles for these measures, there should still be support to install them under new schemes for those homes which have failed to engage so far. Indeed, it is unfair to ask businesses to significantly ramp up their delivery capability of cavity and loft insulation in 2012, then withdraw support for these measures overnight.

Alternatives

While the Green Deal and ECO are valid policies, we should continue to consider other incentives which complement them in order to deliver improved energy efficiency in the UK building stock. Tax incentives, finance options, changes to building regulations and so on, can all play an important role.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this consultation. We hope our input is useful and that the Green Deal and ECO are effective strategies in reducing the UK's energy consumption.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Sheridan".

John J. Sheridan
Chairman, Scotland's 2020 Built Environment subgroup