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Lord Adair Turner
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Dear Adair

I would appreciate your views on how we can better support Local Authorities (LAs) to show strong leadership and responsibility in cutting carbon emissions both from their own estates and operations and those arising within their areas. Many are enthusiastic about playing their part in meeting national carbon mitigation targets and have already set in place stretching ambitions and policies for emissions in their area – and are making a difference.

Chris Huhne signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Government Group on 9 March to recognise the pivotal role councils have in tackling climate change by:

- reducing carbon emissions from their own estate and operations;
- encouraging and enabling their residents, businesses and visitors to reduce their carbon emissions; and
- achieving national priorities such as the Green Deal and renewable energy deployment in a locally appropriate way.

However, I am keen that we should do more to help LAs to act on climate change locally and I would be grateful for your views on whether the Committee on Climate Change could help. What we are thinking of is benchmark advice on the scale of ambition that LAs may set themselves, possible approaches to deliver that ambition and how this would contribute to national carbon budgets.

I would be grateful for any initial views on what might be done and would be happy to discuss this with you further.

Yours
Gregory Barker