



East of England

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30th November

Dear Graham Stuart MP, Minister for Energy and Climate, BEIS

REQUEST TO MEET

COP26 One Year On: Maximising the East of England's Contribution to Achieving UK Net Zero Held Tuesday 8th November

Unfortunately, you were not able to join us for the East of England APPG meeting which focused on “**COP26 One Year On**” and, in particular, how the region can maximise its potential contribution to - and help deliver - the UK’s statutory target of Net Zero by 2050.

In the event the APPG heard from Lord Deben, Chair of the Climate Change Committee, and Councillor Richard Roberts, Chair of the EELGA Climate Change Forum, as well as a panel of business leaders from Cadent, Anglian Water and Scottish Power.

We thought, therefore, that you would be interested to see a summary of the key points raised and the emerging conclusions as well as the excellent background paper that was prepared by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.

We would be very interested in your observations on these and extend an open invitation to you to address the APPG next year or, if you prefer, to meet with us privately to discuss how we are to realise the potential contribution of the region to net zero.

The SIX key points made at the event were:

- Climate change is happening and it is happening in the East of England which is very vulnerable to drought and flooding. It is already the driest region in the UK.
- The UK has the best targets and commitments of any nation in the world regarding net zero and the new Prime Minister has reaffirmed his commitment to these targets. However, there is a poor record of delivery.
- The East of England’s councils and key businesses are playing major roles in the important adaptation and mitigation agendas.
- Making homes more energy efficient through better insulation is a “win-win” as it reduces bills and reduces carbon emissions.
- With the delivery of East Anglia One, Two and Three, plans for Sizewell C and its pioneering work on hydrogen conversion, including the Capital Hydrogen and Hydrogen Valley projects, the East of England is set to become the supplier of half the UK’s renewable energy.

- The hydrogen economy in the East of England is “one to watch” – considerable investment and effort is being expended and the region is key to both the Hydrogen Capital and Hydrogen Valley initiatives.

The SIX emerging conclusions were:

- The region faces enormous challenges – long coastline, low lying and dry - but it also presents enormous opportunity, especially for renewable energy, which is the future. This special nature of the East of England should be recognised by Government.
- Planning should have climate change targets built in so that that new developments are only built to the best possible sustainability standards and building regulations should also ensure the provision of associated net zero infrastructure. Also consideration should be given to moving away from the ban on on-shore wind generation.
- The Government should consider a windfall tax on house builders that is then made available to homeowners to retrofit new homes so we get net zero housing. Also it must provide further funds to councils so that they can provide more grants for the public to upgrade our existing building stock so it is more energy efficient.
- The Government should introduce a Contracts for Difference (CfD) mechanism for sustainable aviation fuel, which is crucial to the decarbonisation of the UK’s aviation sector. A CfD would give long-term price stability for investors and would stimulate billions of pounds in investment just as a CfD mechanism effectively catalysed the offshore wind sector.
- National Grid should provide off-shore ring connectors so that renewable energy is brought onshore in one place rather than, as now, in multiple places which means the creation of substations which can be unpopular locally.
- Central Government will need to work with local government to achieve better results. Local councils have been good at setting out their net zero ambitions and there are many good examples of partnership, for example with Greater Manchester and with the West Midlands. The East of England and its constituent councils and businesses stand ready to work with Government.

We very much look forward to your reply and/or meeting you either at a future east of England APPG meeting or in private. Meanwhile if you or your officials have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Steve Barwick of the East of England APPG Secretariat who has sent this email on our behalf.

Yours sincerely

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Sent by Steve Barwick – for the East of England APPG Secretariat

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