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DCLG sets out its decentralised energy vision....but must ensure delivery through the detail

REA acknowledges the release of the Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change and hopes it will provide a positive contribution to the mass up take of renewable technologies across the country.

In requiring a 'clear rationale' for microgeneration targets within local plans the REA believes that the minimum 10% target has been proven to be easily achievable by a significant number of Councils across the country. This has further been supported by a detailed study carried out recently by South Bank University into the impact of the GLA policy in London. As such we believe Communities and Local Government should recognise these as the very minimum that Councils and Regional Assemblies should be seeking to specify in their local plans.

The REA believes that renewable energy targets in local plans play a vital role in preparing for the delivery of Zero Carbon homes in 2016. Without such targets it will make the overall costs of bringing zero carbon homes to the market less viable. As such, though there will be additional costs incurred through onsite targets, these should be viewed against their role in enabling the government to achieve its ambitious, but achievable targets.

Andrew Cooper Head of Onsite renewables at the REA said,

"The minister's statement on the need to maximise the contribution from on-site renewables is particularly welcome, and we look forward to seeing this further clarified in next year's guidance notes. We look forward to working with DCLG to ensure that the vision for onsite renewables becomes a reality on the ground."

REA are organising a seminar for local and regional planning authorities in the New Year on implementing on site renewable targets in their local and regional planning documents

ENDS

For further information or to request an interview, please contact:

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Notes to editors

(1) The Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change can be found here:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppsclimatechange>