eauc

The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

8th June 2007 **Consultation on draft Climate Change Bill**

The EAUC has the following comments on the draft Climate Change Bill.

Q1. Is the Government right to set unilaterally a long-term legal target for reducing CO2 emissions through domestic and international action by 60% by 2050 and a further interim legal target for 2020 of 26-32%?

There must be short term and long term targets. Due to recent scientific reports that global warming is occurring at a much faster rate and that the oceans are losing capacity to store CO_2, the targets must be more challenging. We recommend:

- Long term CO_2 emission reductions by 2050 should be increased to 80%
- Interim legal target should be for 2010

Q17. Do you agree with the principle of taking enabling powers to introduce new trading schemes?

We are concerned that HE and FE institutions do not get full value for the generation and/or purchase of renewable energy. We understand the issue of double counting under the Carbon Development Mechanism but there is little incentive to support the renewables market if institutions do not get any benefit on these new proposals. We ask government to ensure the full value of renewable energy is delivered to institutions.

Many HE/FE organisations will be required to participate in the proposed carbon emissions trading scheme. Due to their organisational constitutions none can benefit from the Enhanced Capital Allowances scheme available to the private sector. This is a massive disincentive to investing in low carbon technologies and puts the sector at a competitive disadvantage. This has been reported several times to Defra but no response has been obtained. We urge government to address this inequality by providing a scheme that delivers financial benefits similar to those enjoyed by the private sector.

Q19. Do you agree that the Committee on Climate Change should be responsible for an independent annual report on the UK's progress towards its targets which would incorporate reporting on a completed budget period every five years?

Yes, it is essential for reporting to be done by an independent body.

If we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact our national office.

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