Response ID ANON-NWJM-13MG-M

Submitted to **Leading by Example: Cutting energy bills and carbon emissions in the wider public and higher education sectors. A Call for Evidence**
Submitted on **2017-12-04 10:29:57**

About you

1 What is your name?

Name:
Iain Patton

2 Name of your organisation

Add the name of your organisation:
Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

3 Where is your organisation? (Region)

Add the region where your organisation is based:
South West

4 Are you happy for your response to be published?

Yes

5 Would you like to be contacted when the consultation response is published?

Yes

Executive Summary

Chapter 1: The current situation

1 Please rank the TOP FIVE barriers that you think prevent organisations taking action. 1 = most significant barrier. 5 = least significant barrier.

Top five barriers - lack of interest in energy efficiency:

Top five barriers - conflicting priorities:
1

Top five barriers - low capital availability:
3

Top five barriers - upfront investment costs:
4

Top five barriers - unseen/unexpected costs:

Top five barriers - complex decision chains:

Top five barriers - lack of time/resource:
2

Top five barriers - low status of energy efficiency:

Top five barriers - lack of knowledge:

Top five barriers - length of payback:
5

2 Tell us about any further barriers or issues not listed above

Add further barriers here:
Limited drive, other than financial.
Lack of available internal funding.
Complex decision chains and a lack of influence at the top.
Lack of awareness and engagement from those outside of roles that directly deal with energy efficiency.
Lack of understanding of the long term value of being more energy efficient both financially and to the planet as a whole.

Chapter 2: An emissions reduction target for the wider public and higher education sectors

1 If you work for a relevant organisation, would you support and report against a voluntary emissions target?

Choose one option:
Yes

2 Please explain why.

Add further detail or state 'not applicable':
We polled our members, which consist of Further and Higher Education institutions - and while the majority were supportive of a voluntary target, there was a preference for a mandatory target.

3 Would your organisation be able to meet a 30% emissions reduction target on 2009/10 levels by 2020/21?

Choose one option:
Not applicable

4 If you answered NO, please specify what you think is achievable.

C:

5 Which organisations should be expected to meet a voluntary target? Please tick all that apply.

Local authorities, Hospitals, Other NHS (i.e. GP surgeries, health centres), Emergency services, Further education institutions i.e. Sixth Form colleges, Higher education institutions i.e. universities, Leisure services i.e. swimming pools or sports centres, Museums and libraries, Housing Associations

6 Are there any other organisations that should be expected to meet a voluntary target? Please list here.

Add further detail:
No - all education institutions should be expected to meet a voluntary target.

7 Which organisations should NOT be expected to meet a voluntary target? Please list here.

Add further detail:
All educational institutions should be expected to meet a voluntary target.

8 Please explain why.

Add further detail:
For there to be wide scale change - there cannot be exceptions to a voluntary target. Any organisation that would struggle to implement targets will need additional support financially and in terms of capacity.

9 Which non-domestic buildings should be covered by the target?

Offices, Retail, Commercial, Community, cultural or leisure

10 What transport arrangements used should be covered by the target?

All domestic business related travel, Domestic business related travel: Air, Domestic business related travel: Fleet vehicles

11 Are there other emissions sources that should be covered by the target, and if so why.

Add further detail:
It needs to be clear if Scope 3 emissions are to be included. If so, then clear guidance needs to be provided to ensure a robust and coherent measuring and reporting system is put in place.

12 If you work for a relevant organisation, what do you already collect and report on?

Not applicable

13 What data about your emissions would you be willing to provide to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) annually?

Add further detail or state 'not applicable':
Not applicable - but please see accompanying documentation for further information from our members.

14 What data about your emissions would it be difficult to collect and report on?

Add further detail or state 'not applicable':
Not applicable - but please see accompanying documentation for further information from our members.

Chapter 3: Capital finance support for the wider public and higher education sectors

1 What barriers to accessing finance do organisations face?

Upfront investment costs, Borrowing regulation or limitations, Complex decision chains

2 Are there any additional barriers to accessing capital finance for energy efficiency?

Add further barriers here:
We asked our members this question (see supplied documentation). Their main barrier was 'complex decision chains' - 43% reported this as a problem. All the other barriers were reported as an issue by at least one member.

3 How are public and higher education sector energy efficiency projects currently financed?

Capital funds, Salix finance

4 What other sources of finance could be, or are used for energy efficiency projects?

Add further detail:
We asked our members this question (see supplied documentation).
Capital funds was the most commonly used financial source, with Salix coming a close second. Others mentioned were: Invest to Save fund, Condition Improvement Fund, Energy Performance Contracts, Public/Private Funding Combination and European funding - but these were reported to a much lesser extent.

5 How should we plan to support less cost effective measures in the future (e.g. low carbon heat/generation schemes), if at all?

Add further detail:
Innovation funds to support new technology. Funding needs to be long term to provide assurance to institutions on longevity to invest. Funding should be applicable for refurbishments as well as new buildings. Funding should be available to all of the UK including Northern Ireland. Potential source of funding could be from fines for those not meeting standards.

Chapter 4: Capacity and capability support for the wider public and higher education sector

1 What resource barriers do you think organisations face?

limited internal capacity to manage and deliver projects, lack of time/resource, complex decision chains

2 What other resource barriers are there?

Add further barriers here:
Please see supplied documentation for more in-depth information on this topic.
We asked our members, and they stated complex decision chains, and a lack of time/resource and internal capacity were the standout issues.

3 If you work for a relevant organisation, do you use Energy Service Companies or Energy Performance Contracts?

Choose one option:
Not applicable

4 Please explain why.

Add further detail or state 'not applicable':
not applicable

5 If you DO NOT use Energy Service Companies or Energy Performance Contracts, what would encourage you to use them?

Add further detail or state 'not applicable':
Not applicable.

6 What else could support to overcome capacity and capability issues in the wider public and sector higher education sectors?

Add further detail:
Access to funding. Mandatory targets that are taken seriously by senior management which in turn allows for capacity to be released. Coherent reporting requirements incorporated into existing systems.

7 What other non-monetary services could be offered which would encourage organisations to invest in energy efficiency measures? E.g. access to reliable information or skills training

Add further detail:
Comprehensive guidance and training on Scope 3.

Chapter 5: Other future options to cut energy bills and carbon emissions

1 What further actions would support low carbon and energy efficiency investment in the public sector's own estate?

Add further detail:
Please see supporting documentation for a list of potential further actions from members.

2 If you work for a relevant organisation, would it support a voluntary 2030/31 emissions reduction target on 2009/10 levels for the wider public and higher education sectors on their own estates in England?

Choose one option:
Yes

3 Please explain why.

Add further detail or state 'not applicable':
Having polled our members, the vast majority would support a voluntary target, though as previously mentioned, they show a preference for a mandatory target.
Please see supporting documentation.

4 At what level should a future voluntary target be set?

50-59%

5 Please explain why.

Add further detail:
When we asked members, the majority suggested a target of 50% or more.
Please see supporting documentation.

6 Would you support a move to a mandatory target in due course?

Choose one option:
Yes

7 Please explain why.

Add further detail:
Please see supporting documentation.
Members felt that mandatory targets would motivate institutions more than voluntary targets.
Sustainability orientated staff often struggle to get senior buy in to sustainability measures - mandatory measures will force the issues further up the decision chain.
There is a huge variation in capacity within tertiary education, any regulation and penalties would need to be made very clear.

8 What further actions could support the public sector to catalyse the wider low carbon transition?

Add further detail:
Please see supporting documentation.

9 What national or international examples of best practice can we learn from?

Add further detail:
Please see documentation providing examples from members.

Annex