



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change  
3 Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2AW  
[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Mrs Sydney Charles  
Flat 6  
Southwood Park  
London  
N6 5SG

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Dear Mrs Charles,

Thank you for your letter dated 7 August, to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, about Climate Change. I have been asked to reply.

The Government accepts the overwhelming scientific view, expressed by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and others that the climate is changing and that humans are causing it through increased greenhouse gas emissions, including CO<sub>2</sub>. Evidence that the Earth is warming up comes from a range of climate indicators, such as increasing average surface temperature, sea level rise, increased ocean warming and world-wide glacier retreat.

The UK and other countries are working hard to agree an ambitious global agreement on climate change in Paris later this year - which keeps the internationally agreed goal to limit the average global temperature increase to below 2°C within reach. It is not only Governments who want this deal – there is huge support for it from NGOs, campaign groups, but also from business.

The Government has committed to delivering on the National Infrastructure Plan, published in December 2014, which set out its strategic vision for UK infrastructure and outlined clear delivery plans for each of the key economic infrastructure sectors to 2020-21 and beyond. This contains a number of priority investments and underlying key projects which support the development of low-carbon infrastructure including; rail electrification, low-carbon energy such as nuclear and renewables, energy efficiency measures such as Smart Meters and reducing emissions through carbon capture and storage.

The Infrastructure Carbon Review, jointly developed by Government and Industry and published in 2013, set a clear link between lowering whole life carbon and lowering lifetime costs, in line with the Government's climate change commitments. The joint initiative, which identified potential savings of as much as 24 million tonnes of carbon and £1.46 billion a year by 2050, includes support from the Government, infrastructure clients, and suppliers, who have pledged to incorporate carbon reduction objectives within their infrastructure projects and programmes by 2016.

This has demonstrated leadership to the critical issue of lowering carbon emissions and achieving cost savings and the Government will be measuring the progress and performance in meeting these commitments.

I hope that this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

DECC Correspondence Unit