

Darren Johnson AM
London Assembly
Environment Committee
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

Our ref: 2767477

19 February 2009

Dear Mr Johnson,

RE: Environment Committee report - Lagging Behind: Insulating homes in London

Thank you for sending me a copy of the report and your invitation to respond to the recommendations specifically directed to the LDA.

The report is a useful summary of the issues that need to be addressed in the private housing sector, including best practice examples of successful schemes that London can learn from.

As you know, the LDA is committed to the climate change agenda and our investment strategy is designed to enable London to transition to a low carbon city and significantly contribute to the Mayor's target of a 60% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2025. We will do this through a series of clearly defined interventions that deliver optimal return on investment.

We are currently working with the GLA to revise the approach to residential energy efficiency retrofit to significantly increase the uptake of carbon dioxide reduction measures and identify future barriers/opportunities to implementation including the availability of a skilled workforce. GLA energy officers have attended the London Insulation Group meetings and have been engaging directly with individual installers. Issues regarding challenges faced by the insulation industry are being fed back into the overall design of the retrofit programme. This work supports the report recommendation that the LDA should investigate ways to grow the capacity of the insulation industry in London..

In addition, to counteract the economic downturn a wider strategy is being developed with the Mayor including exploring measures such as inward investment to attract green tech/ manufacturing companies to locate in London; supporting the spin out and commercialisation of new green technologies from

our Higher Education Institutes; training schemes for existing workforce and supporting others to secure employment and; supporting/ encouraging the transition of London's financial sector to become the leading global carbon trading centre.

We have commissioned an economic modelling exercise to quantify and identify specific opportunities for London arising from growth in the low carbon economy. This study is due to report in Spring and will include a series of recommendations that the Mayor, the private sector, central and local government, and the LDA could take to realise the opportunity. We would be happy to share the findings of this report and discuss the results and opportunities for London with the Environment Committee.

In the meantime, if you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Geoff Raw (geoffraw@lda.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Peter Rogers
Chief Executive