



## **Initial Response to the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy Consultation Responses.**

The Government published a consultation on the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy (HESS) on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The consultation closed on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009. In total, we received 302 responses from a wide range of stakeholders. We also conducted a number of roadshows around the country to gain views from stakeholders on the consultation.

The purpose of the HESS is to set out an aim of reducing emissions from buildings to as close to zero as possible by 2050. The policies set out in the consultation document, taken together, aimed to reduce annual emissions by up to 44 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2020 – the equivalent of a 30% reduction in emissions from households compared to 2006 – making a significant contribution to meeting our carbon budgets.

We are most grateful for the number and quality of responses to this consultation, which covered a broad range of issues and policies. We have published a summary of the responses, which is available to download on our website: <http://hes.decc.gov.uk/> . You can also view the full responses of those respondents who did not request confidentiality.

The summary of responses shows that the majority of respondents supported the general direction of the HESS, and acknowledged the scale of the challenge and the importance of engaging with as wide a range of stakeholders as possible. Respondents wanted to see more information about how the indicative pathway to 2050 might be achieved, and were also keen to see more about how proposals in the HESS might affect and provide help to the fuel poor. The majority of respondents were in favour of extending an obligation on energy suppliers to deliver emissions reductions in households (the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) up to the end of 2012, in order to give certainty to industry. Post-2012, respondents recognised the need to consider greater coordination of delivery of these measures to households, though there were different views about how this might be achieved. Respondents highlighted that financing for energy saving and low carbon energy measures needed to be clear and easy-to-use. There was general support for the principle of 'pay as you save' finance, which helps consumers by providing the upfront capital needed to purchase a comprehensive package of energy efficiency measures and allows them to repay this finance through instalments that are lower than their energy bill savings. However, it was noted that this may need to be part of a wider mix of financial and other tools to help encourage change. Respondents broadly welcomed the renewed focus on district heating, as a means of supplying low carbon heating to appropriate communities, and the proposal to set up a Heat Markets Forum.

We are drawing on these responses in developing the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy, and will publish further proposals later in the year.