

The Rt Hon Nick Clegg
PPC for Sheffield Hallam and Leader of the Liberal
Democratic Party
85 Nethergreen Road
SHEFFIELD
South Yorkshire S11 7EH

Date 31 March 2010

Dear Nick Clegg,

MORE HOMES, LESS CARBON: HOUSEBUILDING & HOME IMPROVEMENT MANIFESTO

With a General Election coming, the Builders Merchants' Federation (BMF) and others in house building & home improvement offer a message to those like you who seek votes shortly.

I write to share with you the enclosed manifesto that calls for steps to be taken to revitalise the economy to allow our businesses to build more homes and help to reduce carbon emissions.

The logos displayed show **More Homes and Less Carbon** is a collaboration between 6 trade associations who together speak for over 50,000 firms, employing approx. 860,000 people, with combined annual sales of £75 billion. It is a heavyweight industry coalition: everything from raw materials, along the supply chain, to the housebuilders and general SME building firms.

Politicians at all levels simply must wake up to the worsening housing crisis. The dearth of available homes is fast approaching a million - yet fewer homes are now being built than at any time since 1945. Socio-economic imperatives will force those elected to the next Parliament to address the obstacles that are in the way as a matter of utmost urgency.

The BMF has contacted city councils in South & West Yorkshire to explore partnerships under the Government's Community Energy Saving Programme. CESP obligates energy companies to reduce carbon emissions (and cut fuel bills) by completing targeted 'whole house' energy-saving measures to voters in specific low income areas on a house-by-house, or street-by-street basis.

Investment in housing to improve conditions and retrofitting heat & energy saving devices are central to our livelihoods. Builders' merchants sell heating & hot water systems, loft & solid wall insulation, modern glazing & lighting, and renewables. Most of what the Government and Opposition Parties sought industry advice about last year, we sell. The Boiler Scrapage Scheme is one such success. Investment in construction is a pre-requisite to achieve 80% of carbon reduction targets - irrespective of which party wins this Election.

"**More Homes and Less Carbon**" offers a blend of measures that industry wants candidates to adopt for the challenges ahead. I do hope you can find 5 minutes today to read our manifesto. Thank you.

A letter has gone to your Lib Dem Leader of Sheffield City Council. Thank you.

BRETT AMPHLETT
Head of Policy

*Yours truly,
Brett Amphlett*

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Supply Chain**