

Press Release

House Builders Association (NFB) welcomes Shapps' zero carbon plans

Housing Minister Grant Shapps today set out further steps for all new homes to be carbon neutral by 2016. The plans aim to give councils and developers much more flexibility to decide how to meet the ambitious eco-standards.

Roger Humber, a spokesperson for the House Builders Association (HBA), a division of the National Federation of Builders (NFB) commented: "Following today's announcement by Grant Shapps about new flexibilities around zero carbon home building, the HBA welcomes the Minister's statement and particularly the acceptance of a carbon "buy-out' fund.

"This was always critical if small and medium sized builders were to play any part in the provision of low carbon homes. The re-examination of the 70% carbon compliance metric is also the first welcome sign that the Government may finally be listening to the industry.

"The continued funding of the Zero Carbon Hub to oversee this work also represents a welcome change of heart."

For further information on the HBA or the NFB please contact 08450 578160 or visit www.builders.org.uk

ENDS

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Notes:

- The HBA was formed in 2006 and is a division of the NFB. It is the only voice for small/medium sized house builders in the construction industry. It provides effective representation and targeted support for members to Government, ensuring the views of non-volume house builders are heard. Key issues which arise include the Code for Sustainable Homes, Planning applications, Home Information Pack's and CIL, to name but a few.
- The NFB is one of the UK's longest established trade federations for small to medium-sized (SME) builders, contractors and house builders across England and Wales. It was created 150 years ago to represent the building profession and to help create the conditions for its members to thrive and contribute to the economic success of the UK. Its members range from the sole trader to large, multi-million pound construction companies, with turnover ranging from below £500k to £100m plus. The NFB provides advice, training and business solutions to ensure members stay up to date.
- The NFB campaigns on the issues that impact the construction industry such as procurement, utilities, sustainability and funding. It represents the industry at government and industry forums and is an active media commentator and policy influencer.