



ZERO CARBON HOMES - PROGRAMME DELIVERY TIMELINE

2016 Taskforce – 2 November 2010

1. Overview

The Zero Carbon Hub maintains a series of timelines (see Appendix A for summary timeline) and convenes a cross-industry 'Timeline Group' on a regular basis to review and report progress.

Steady progress is being made towards the objective of zero carbon new homes from 2016. Despite very difficult house building market conditions, leaders from across the broader house building, supply chain, professional and client sectors are continuing to engage with the agenda. The required underpinning work on definition, policy and regulation also continues, although there are a few areas which are causing some significant concern.

Overall programme status – Amber, actions are required to ensure timescale is maintained.

2. Key points

Scaling up examples of low carbon and zero carbon homes (Amber/Green)

- CfSH/HCA requirements are driving the build of low carbon homes (at or above 44% better than 2006 Regs) and this will need to continue and increase to assist industry learning, dissemination and innovation.
- Circa 2,200 homes have been built to date to 25% better than 2006 building regulations although considerably less (157 to date) built to better than or equal to 44%.

Minimum Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard (FEES) (Green)

- Confirmed by the Minister

Carbon compliance (Green)

- The national level of a 70% reduction in regulated CO₂ emissions is under review by a Zero Carbon Hub Task Group and due to report to the Minister in mid December 2010.

Allowable solutions (Red/Amber)

- Scheme details and costs are necessary to complete the definition of zero carbon homes to enable housebuilders and others to predict future build costs and therefore confidently bid for land which can be purchased up to 10 -15 years in advance of build.
- The Ministerial announcement on 27 July confirming that the feasibility of enabling developers to make payments to fund local renewable energy projects to meet part of their carbon reduction requirements is being explored is a positive step.
- The Timeline indicates that a full definition for Zero Carbon is needed by end of Q1 2011 to ensure that progress is not jeopardised.

National compliance methodology - SAP (Red/Amber)

- SAP needs to be developed to ensure it is fit for use with low energy homes as outlined within the *Carbon Compliance for Tomorrow's New Homes* report. This development is on the critical path and is urgent for both 2013 regulations and 2016.
- Overheating has been identified as a critical risk with homes built to higher energy efficiency standards (including those built to 2006 regulations) yet there is not currently an adequate tool for guiding designers.

Knowledge and skills (Amber/Green)

- 2011 will be a critical year for ensuring that the knowledge base, initially focusing on industry professionals, is developing fast enough to meet the necessary timeline.

Community energy and infrastructure enabling actions (Amber)

- For developments of new homes built to greater densities there will be an increased reliance on community and district energy solutions. There is a need to have a suite of 'off the shelf' legal and administrative frameworks to speed deployment and reduce costs.

3. Next Meeting

The next Timeline Group meeting will be held in January 2011.

David Adams
28 October 2010

Zero Carbon Homes Delivery Time Line Summary

