



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**SCOTTISH HOME BUILDERS SUPPORT LOW CARBON STRATEGY  
*but call for greater cost analysis***

The home building industry 'stands ready to play its part' in implementing the Scottish Government's *Low Carbon Building Standards Strategy for Scotland* announced today (12 December 2007), according to representative body Homes for Scotland.

The Strategy sets out a phased route to deliver carbon dioxide savings in homes of 60% more than the 2007 Building Standards by 2013; with a target for net zero carbon homes from the period 2016 and beyond.

Homes for Scotland's Chief Executive Jonathan Fair is a member of the expert panel appointed by Scottish Ministers to prepare the strategy and subsequent Sullivan Report. He comments:

"The home building industry recognises the political imperative behind the drive to significantly reduce carbon emissions. There will be challenges ahead but our members stand ready and willing to work with the Scottish Government and the Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA) to help realise this important ambition for Scotland.

"This stretching target will not be delivered on the scale required without consistent implementation through national Building Standards and close attention to the interests of consumers.

"We are encouraged that the Government strategy defines a road map for future regulatory development allowing the home building industry, including its supply chain, to prepare for change.

"In seeing this process through, we recognise that some homebuilders will have a natural desire to innovate and become market leaders in this field through going much further than national minimum standards. The Scottish Government must recognise however that the move to low carbon emissions within home building will require a number of important process adjustments which have significant financial implications for homebuilders and their customers. A key issue that remains to be resolved is balancing these policies with the desire to maintain affordability. This is particularly relevant in relation to the increased cost of the basic building fabric together with the addition of renewable technology that such targets imply.



“Homes for Scotland is ready to assist the Scottish Government and SBSA in its future research programme identifying real developments where such additional costs can be quantified and properly evaluated.

“Under the 2007 Building Standards new homes are already many times more energy efficient than those built just a few years ago. In addition, there are numerous examples of sustainable good practice from within our member companies which push the boundaries still further. We look forward to working with the Scottish Government, SBSA and our member companies to find ways of overcoming the obstacles identified within the strategy as we move to a low carbon economy.”

The report is available at [www.sbsa.gov.uk/sullivanreport.htm](http://www.sbsa.gov.uk/sullivanreport.htm)

## **Ends**

### **Notes to the Editor:**

1. Homes for Scotland ([www.homesforscotland.com](http://www.homesforscotland.com)) represents the country's home building industry which:
  - is the largest source of private investment in Scotland
  - contributes £5bn to the economy annually
  - builds 20,000 new homes per annum
  - employs more than 110,000 people
  - is the largest user of the planning system in Scotland
2. Homes for Scotland member companies build 95% of all new homes built for sale in Scotland each year.

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