

COUNCILLOR PAUL STEEDMAN
Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

Alex Bailey
Acting Chief Executive
Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

Date: 25 February 2009

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Dear Alex – and members of the Sustainability Cabinet Committee

Working with the Council's suppliers to help them reduce the ecological or carbon footprint of the Council's supply chain

I would be grateful if you could place this letter on the agenda of the Sustainability Cabinet Committee for 16 March 2009.

Through its Carbon Management Programme the Council seeks to reduce the direct carbon emissions of the authority's operations. This is very welcome. Yet the carbon emissions – and other damaging environmental impacts – of the Council's supply chain are likely to be much greater. The ecological and carbon footprints of the goods and services procured by the Council are currently unknown. This makes it difficult for the Council to monitor and reduce these footprints through its procurement policy; it makes it difficult to identify the priority 'hotspots' in the supply chain; and it makes it difficult for the Council to work in partnership with its suppliers to improve their environmental performance.

The London Borough of Lewisham recently undertook an analysis of the carbon footprint of their supply chain. They found that their supply chain was responsible for 89,000 tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to the emissions created by 10,000 households in the UK each year. In comparison, Lewisham Council itself produces 33,000 tonnes of CO₂.

This analysis has helped Lewisham to:

- Explain the outcome of the project to suppliers, encouraging those not disclosing their carbon emissions to do so
- Hold a seminar for suppliers demonstrating the benefits of cutting CO₂ emissions and sharing practical information about the actions they can take
- Work closely with local voluntary and community sector organisations to provide additional help for those keen to do more to understand and act on their CO₂ emissions

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Green Member for QUEEN'S PARK Ward

- Revise Council procurement policies to ensure greater transparency on the environmental impact of goods and services

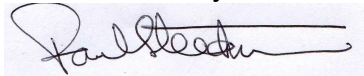
This supply chain approach fits directly with the latest industry thinking on sustainability and with the principles underpinning the city's draft One Planet Living Plan.

The most recent City Sustainability Partnership also discussed the need for better support for businesses in the city, especially SMEs, to get to grips with sustainability, including public sector organisations helping to create 'space' for sustainability thinking and providing easy to use tools for smaller businesses.

I would like to request that the Sustainability Cabinet Committee receive a report into working with its suppliers to help them reduce their ecological footprint. As a first step I would request that the Council considers undertaking an analysis of both the carbon and the ecological footprints of the Council's supply chain. Committee members might like to consider whether it would be appropriate to work with other public sector partners to create a citywide, sector-wide analysis.

I hope that this is something that members will feel able to support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Steedman', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Councillor Paul Steedman