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Volume 26, 2011 - Issue 6

2,317 | 28 | 3
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Original Articles

Towards Zero Carbon Homes in England? From Inception to Partial Implementation

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Pages 933-949 | Received 01 Nov 2009, Published online: 05 Aug 2011

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2011.593132>



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Abstract

In 2007, the UK Government announced an ambitious zero-carbon target for all new housing in England. This paper shows how the definition and its associated policies emerged from discourses of environmental policy innovation; how the problem subsequently became framed as one of mainstreaming, consequent upon the apparent success of experimental schemes and defined in more detail through the interaction between pressure group politics and the technical analyses that accompanied the government's consultation exercises. Finally, it shows how regional and local variations in housing and property markets are likely to influence the ease of zero carbon development. The analysis uses concepts drawn from both the science and technology literature and the literature on policy implementation.

Keywords:

Notes

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⁴ Home Builders Federation (2007) Callcutt Review of Housebuilding Delivery.

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⁵ The Merton rule and other similar initiatives are explained in more detail in the case studies on the website of the Energy Savings Trust, notably 'Energy in planning and building control Merton's renewable energy planning condition'. Available at <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Information-centre/Publications-and-Report-Library/Publications-and-Case-Studies> (accessed April 2010).

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¹¹ Ministerial statement, 16 July 2009. Available at the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/ecozerohomes> (accessed July 2009).

¹² Ministerial statement, 16 July 2009. Available at the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/ecozerohomes> (accessed July 2009).

¹³ Presentation by J. Fox, Head of Sustainability for Barratt Developments, given at Sheffield Hallam University, 22 January 2009.

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