

Planning Householder PD Consultation Response
Policy and Legislation Branch
3rd Floor
Millennium House
Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7BN



Web: www.nieenergy.co.uk

22 January 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

Householder Permitted Development Rights Consultation Response

NIE Energy Supply (NIEES) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Householder Permitted Development Rights consultation which has been issued by the Planning Service in Northern Ireland.

NIEES believes that it is extremely important for Planning Service to introduce changes to the permitted development rights for householders in Northern Ireland in terms of making them easier to understand and easier to enforce.

NIEES has been successful in encouraging the uptake of renewable energy in Northern Ireland during the last few years but customers have struggled to come to terms with the complexities of the planning application process which is required for some installations. In the context of continuing to encourage customers to consider renewable energy as an option for their homes, improvements to the permitted developments within Northern Ireland will be embraced as a very positive step for the future.

A change in culture within the Planning Service is also welcomed so that applications can be facilitated and managed more appropriately. There are significant benefits for householders from the proposed revisions to the General Development Order (GDO) and providing clarity about what householders can undertake without having to go through the planning application process will certainly improve the uptake of various household measures, hopefully including renewable energy technologies.

It is worth noting that the changes to the permitted development rights will need to be communicated effectively to householders in Northern Ireland so that the system retains credibility and achieves its objectives while ensuring that more applications are processed effectively.

We look forward to finding out more about the proposed changes as the consultation process continues.

Yours sincerely



NIE Energy (Supply)

