

# International Carbon Reduction and Offset Alliance (ICROA)

COURIER DELIVERY TO:  
The Rt Honourable Hilary Benn MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

8th May 2008



The CarbonNeutral Company  
protecting our climate

Dear Secretary of State,



We write in respect of the planned launch by Defra of the Code of Best Practice for offsetting. We think that it is crucial for industry to be further consulted during the final design phase of the Code, and that if there is no further involvement of market players during this final stage, it has a high probability of failing to achieve its objectives.

We support Defra's proposal to set up an 'Industry Panel'. We would urge that this Panel is established immediately so that through it Defra can work with ICROA, the Carbon Markets Association (CMA) and others to ensure that the Code is fit for purpose **before** it is launched.



ICROA is a quality dependent membership organisation that promotes robust standards across the carbon management and offset industry. ICROA's founding members (of which 5 are headquartered in the UK) represent thousands of major business clients and tens of thousands of individual customers. As Defra is aware, we are finalising ICROA's own policy and code of conduct through a rigorous process of analysis and development, in consultation with leading organisations in the carbon industry. We hope that ICROA and Defra can be mutually supportive in their efforts.



We therefore welcome Defra's efforts to provide clarity on the issues of quality and credibility in the offset industry and support the aim of the Code. However, as outlined in our letter to Defra of 2<sup>nd</sup> April our members see a couple of major and a large number of smaller problems with the Code. Without further work there is a very real chance that the Code will fail upon launch. With our international membership, ICROA is particularly keen that the Defra Code provides a successful template in other countries, demonstrating UK Government's leadership in this field.



Consequently, ICROA and other carbon market organisations, are keen to make the Code a success, and to ensure that the effort invested by Defra to date is not wasted. There is still time to work with the industry to launch a credible, practical Code that will help to drive high standards in carbon offsetting.



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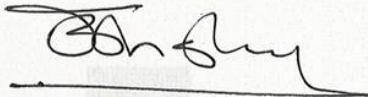
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Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for Environment  
8<sup>th</sup> May 2008, Page 2 of 2

It is in the interest of Defra, ICROA, the public and the climate to have a workable Code. Therefore we would urge you to accept our offer of further detailed involvement before launch.

The ICROA executive requests a meeting with you to discuss the formation of the panel, and our Secretariat will call your office to hear whether we can make suitable arrangements.

Yours Sincerely,



Jonathan Shopley  
Co-Chair, ICROA



Tom Stoddard  
Co-Chair, ICROA

### ICROA Founding Members:

Carbon Clear  
The CarbonNeutral Company  
ClimateCare  
Climate Friendly  
co2balance  
NativeEnergy  
Targetneutral  
TerraPass

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