

## MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP

**Venue:** Training Room (Rooms 3 & 4),  
3rd Floor, Bailey House,  
Rawmarsh Road,  
ROTHERHAM. S60 1TD

**Date:** Friday, 3rd September, 2010  
**Time:** 10.30 a.m.

### A G E N D A

1. Introductions/Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th July, 2010 (Pages 1 - 5)
3. Matters arising from the previous minutes (Page 6)
4. Update on the Coalition Government Energy Policy (Pages 7 - 12)  
Paul Maplethorpe, Affordable Warmth & Sustainable Energy Co-ordinator, to report.
5. Local Food Project  
Sue Budby, Education Co-ordinator for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Schools, to report.
6. LA21 New Focus (Page 13)  
For information.
7. Environmental Management (Page 14)  
David Rhodes, to report.
8. Future Role of the Group - for discussion
9. Date and Time of Next meeting  
Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 at 10.30 a.m. – Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.

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FRIDAY, 30TH JULY, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Pickering and Steele.

**13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:-

The Mayor,	Chair, Sustainable Communities Scrutiny
Councillor McNeely	Panel
Councillor Austen	Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel
Councillor Burton	Senior Adviser, Community Development and Engagement
Gordon Smith	Quality & Design Co-ordinator
Wendy Foster	Place Shaping Officer

**14. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH JUNE, 2010**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

Resolved:- That the minutes be agreed as a correct record.

**15. ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Exercise Nimbus

Emma Bridge, Policy Officer, reported that Alan Platt, Best Value Officer, had responded to Members' question and this had been forwarded on.

An update item would be added to the September/October agenda.

**16. ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF THE PIPELINE SOCIAL HOUSING SCHEMES**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Liz Hunt, from the Neighbourhood Investment Team, relating to progress to date in meeting the requirements of the Code for Sustainable Homes which required all new social housing schemes to reach a Zero Carbon emissions standard by 2013.

It was reported at total of 288 homes of which 127 would be provided by the Council and 161 by the Council's Registered Provider (RSL) partners. It was, however, pointed out that a number of these were either subject to planning permission or at risk of funding withdrawal.

It was explained that Level 3 of the Code was Standard. However, most

of the social housing was either Level 4 or 5 as it was very difficult in the current economic climate to insist that private house builders build to Level 3 or above.

It was highlighted that, at current prices in the supply chain, a zero carbon property would cost on average an additional £34,000 to build. The 127 new Council homes, to be completed by 2012, would all be built to COSH Level 4.

The Code would become mandatory by 2016.

The following Retro Fit Demonstrator Projects were also reported on:-

Ann Rhodes Community Centre Demonstrator Bid – Brampton Bierlow - the property was intended to showcase measures and devices to reduce energy and water consumption, trial local renewable energy technologies and measures to promote sustainable living.

Retro-fit 6 properties – Wath Road, Brampton Bierlow – to showcase a package of improvements for difficult to treat properties to promote Eco measures in the private sector.

Those present raised and discussed the following:-

- Ways in which to educate the public
- Return to the Council from the lease of land
- Low income levels
- The need for more grants to become available
- Rate of return on investment and period of investment
- Lifespan of the technologies
- Development of new technology
- Profit levels of the Utility companies
- Monitoring

Agreed: That Liz Hunt be thanked for presenting this informative report.

## 17. LA 21

David Wilde, Local Agenda 21 Community Worker, reported on the following:-

- Support to develop the food focused project
- Food focused Environment Forum meeting and “Food for Free” walkabout in Herringthorpe Valley Park
- Completion of Green Check at a number of schools and continued work with others in the Dearne Valley Eco Vision area
- Further awareness raising for the Dearne Valley Eco Vision
- Continued charring of the Rotherham EDS (Delivery) Partnership – a multi-agency approach

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- Sustainability development awareness raising amongst country park ranger staff
- Attendance at the South Yorkshire Climate Change workshop

David further reported that he was leaving Groundwork Dearne Valley as from 30<sup>th</sup> July. However, with support from the Policy Office it was intended that he continued the multi-agency approach across Directorates and continue to Chair the Rotherham EDS (Delivery) Partnership. He would also continue to facilitate the Rotherham Environment Forum following a refresh. He would also take a lead role in the Food Project.

From 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2010, David would be taking up a post as South Yorkshire Climate Change Schools Officer in Sheffield and so would be working closely with the four South Yorkshire Local Authorities.

**18. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

David Rhodes, Property Environmental Manager, summarised key events in the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 as follows:-

Photovoltaic Panels:-

Working with CleverCO2 to lease old landfill sites to put arrays of PV panels. Also investigating interest from another PV company looking at other potential sites.

Agreed: (1) That the Panel receives further updates on this item

It was also reported that 60+ schools will be fitted with PV panels (9.9 kW) free of charge

Display Energy Certificates:

All surveys would be completed by the end of July. There was now an additional member of staff qualified who will take responsibility for producing DEC's for schools. In the future schools will be charged for this service.

CO2 Reduction Commitment:-

The Council had completed initial registration and the Environment Agency was now checking personnel and finance. Work continued to develop evidence packs, improve monitoring, analyse early action gains, develop a trading strategy etc.

Sustainable Procurement and Commissioning Code of Practice:-

An initial draft had been developed and had been presented to the Procurement Panel on 26th July, 2010. A copy of the draft document was attached to the submitted report, and was now available on the Internet and via the Council's Intranet. Members were asked to comment on the document via email to [david.rhodes@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:david.rhodes@rotherham.gov.uk) by 25th August, 2010.

EMAS Verification Audit:-

ISOQAR will be carrying out an EMAS Annual Statement verification audit w/c 6th September, 2010. The Annual Statement was now being prepared to performance manage RMBC's Environmental Policy. (A copy of the previous annual update was attached to the submitted report.) The Cabinet Member agreed to appear in the Foreword for this Statement.

NI 185/194:-

Performance should be reported on these indicators at the end of July. However the Council was awaiting direction from DECC regarding the date and format for reporting. Therefore a verbal update report will be given with CO2 emissions comparison with 2008/9 baseline year.

Agreed: (2) That the contents of the report be noted.

**19. ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT - ANNUAL UPDATE SEPTEMBER, 2009**

David Rhodes, Property Environmental Manager, spoke to Group about the Environmental Statement Annual Update September 2009.

**20. POLICY UPDATE**

Emma Bridge, Policy Officer, reported on the following:-

South Yorkshire Climate Change Leadership Programme:-

It was reported that funding had been agreed to the end of December, 2010. The 3 workshops already held had been at a lower than anticipated cost. Therefore it was proposed to hold an action planning workshop on 8<sup>th</sup> October in Sheffield. This would be aimed at the 4 Local Authorities, Local Strategic Partnership and community groups to look at tackling climate change, looking at key areas such as transport, PR and education.

Following the workshop it was proposed to report to the South Yorkshire Leaders and Chief Executives seeking commitment.

LA 21 changes:

Reference was made to David Wilde's new job, and continued involvement in various projects.

Service Planning:-

It was confirmed that Climate Change and adaptation to climate change was on the checklist for all Directorates'/Service Areas' service Plans. Service Plans would be checked to see that these aspects had been included.

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Energy Statement:

This had been released on 27<sup>th</sup> July, and set out 32 actions to speed up progress towards 2050 and reach the target for CO2 reduction. The

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results were positive and indicated that the target was achievable.

Member Briefing from the LGIU:-

This covered:-

- (i) What local Leaders could do to secure local communities.
- (ii) Getting ready for climate change – encouraging Councillors to help communities prepare to adapt to climate change.
- (iii) Consultation on the Natural Environment White Paper – this was out for comment until 30<sup>th</sup> October, and related to how best to protect and enhance the environment. This would be discussed with staff in Greenspaces to submit an appropriate response.

**21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no other items of business.

**22. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Group be held on FRIDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2010 at 10.30 p.m. – venue to be confirmed.

## EXERCISE NIMBUS

Email reply from Alan Matthews – 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2010

Thanks Janet. Alan refers to **Operation** Nimbus when in fact it was **Exercise** Nimbus. We are currently preparing a post exercise report which will be taken before the Senior Emergency and Safety Management Team (Chief Executive, Strategic Directors and two Cabinet Members) on 3 October and once approved it will be issued across the council to include all Cabinet Members etc. I am more than happy to forward you a copy when it has been to the Team on 3 October if that will 'fit the bill'.

Regards

Alan

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**From:** Cromack, Janet  
**Sent:** 22 July 2010 08:37  
**To:** Matthews, Alan  
**Subject:** RE: Operation Nimbus

Good morning Alan - it arose from a report on NI 189 Flood Risk Management and wider living with water work which was presented jointly by Alan Platt and Steve Smith.

Alan did respond by email (25th June) which was forwarded on to members.

If you think that email response below was sufficient I can take this item off the agenda, or indeed produce a brief report which includes this information.

Email from Alan Platt – 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2010

"Janet,

Exercise Nimbus:

- A report is being produced by the Emergency Planning Team ( Annette Senior) and should be available by late summer
- The exercise was based upon the flood events that occurred in Rotherham on 25 June 2007
- A new multi messaging system was used to inform councillors of Exercise Nimbus
- The theme used in this exercise is more about adaptation, preparedness and dealing with the consequences of flooding events
- The exercise included a debriefing of all attendees and the completion of a questionnaire about the usefulness of this exercise, these results are being analysed
- It is expected that this exercise will inform a report to the Senior Emergency and Safety Management Team
- The exercise was used to test Rotherham MBC
  1. Multi Agency Flood Plan
  2. Emergency Reception Centre Plan
  3. Borough Emergency Plan
- Lessons learned will be put into planning arrangements and once again a report will be ready by late summer.

Thanks,

Alan Platt  
22901"

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Members' Sustainable Development Advisory Group</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2010</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Energy Efficiency updates</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services</b>

### 5. Summary

The Government believes that climate change is one of the gravest threats we face, and that urgent action at home and abroad is required. They feel we need to use a wide range of levers to cut carbon emissions, decarbonise the economy and support the creation of new green jobs and technologies. They therefore will implement a full programme of measures to fulfil their joint ambitions for a low carbon and eco-friendly economy.

The Coalition Government has made a number of policy announcements and changes to present policies their implications are noted and discussed in this briefing.

### 6. Recommendations

Members note content of this briefing



**7. Proposals and Details****Energy Bill 2010**

Legislation will be introduced to improve energy efficiency in British homes and businesses, to promote low carbon energy production, and to secure our energy supplies.

This Bill would deliver a national programme of energy efficiency measures to homes and businesses.

The purpose of the Bill is to provide a step change in the provision of energy efficiency measures to homes and businesses. It is also to put in place a framework to deliver a future with secure, low carbon energy supplies and fair competition in the energy markets.

**Key Elements**

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Implementation of a “Green deal” to deliver energy efficiency to homes and business – delivering a framework including potential incentives to energy suppliers and households that will transform the provision of energy efficiency in the UK by enabling a ‘Pay as You Save’ approach.

The Bill may also contain measures to:

- Regulate the carbon emissions from coal-fired power stations
- Reform energy markets to deliver security of supply and ensure fair competition
- Put in place a framework to guide the development of a smart grid that will revolutionise the management of supply and demand for electricity
- Require energy companies to provide more information on energy bills in order to empower consumers and to ensure fair access to energy supplies
- Ensure that North Sea infrastructure is available to all companies to ease the exploitation of smaller and more difficult oil and gas fields
- Create a Green Investment Bank to support investment in low carbon projects to transform the economy

**Announcements and actions**

- Establish a smart grid and roll out smart meters.

A smart meter is an advanced meter that identifies consumption in more detail than a conventional meter; and communicates that information back to the local utility for monitoring. Implications are a customer’s tariff can be changed in seconds. You can have day by day statements as electricity pricing usually peaks at certain predictable times of the day. Prices can rise significantly during these times as more expensive sources of power are purchased. It is believed that billing customers by how much is consumed and at what time of day will force consumers to adjust their consumption habits to be more

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responsive to market prices. In May 2009, the Government unveiled plans for smart meters to be installed in every home by the end of 2020. The projected cost of fitting approximately 22 million gas and 26 million electricity meters was estimated at £7 billion. This project will still go ahead and the cost will be met by the utility company's.

- Establish a full system of feed-in tariffs in electricity.

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) became available in Great Britain from 1st April 2010. Under this scheme energy suppliers make regular payments to householders and communities who generate their own electricity. The tariffs have been introduced by the Government to help increase the level of renewable energy in the UK towards our legally binding target of 15% of total energy from renewables by 2020 (up from under 2% in 2009).

The Tariffs give three financial benefits:

- A payment for all the electricity you produce, even if you use it yourself maximum £800
- Additional bonus payments for electricity you export into the grid 3p/kWh
- A reduction on your standard electricity bill, from using energy you produce yourself 3p/kWh

With the exception of solar PV (25 years) and micro-CHP (10 years) the tariffs last 20 years for almost all of the renewables systems.

The Coalition Government has made the following policy pledges establish a full system of Feed-In Tariffs in electricity, seek to increase the target for energy from renewable sources, subject to the advice of the Climate Change Committee, encourage community-owned renewable energy schemes where local people benefit from the power produced.

The Renewable Heat Incentive is a new Government-backed measure being introduced in 2011 to produce renewable heat. And will work on the same lines as the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs).

The Renewable Heat Incentive is still being designed, so all the details described are provisional and may change.

Payments for the renewable heat produced earn a fixed income for every kilowatt hour of heat this is likely to be used in the property.

Renewable Heat Incentive Eligible energy sources are Solar heating systems Ground source heat pumps Biomass boilers Air source heat pumps. For almost all of the renewables systems the tariffs will last 20 years

- Create a green investment bank.

The present government has pledged to create a GIB, but these plans will not be announced until after the Comprehensive Spending Review on October 20.

- Retain energy performance certificates.

The Coalition Government have suspended Home Information Packs which was a manifesto pledge from 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010. HIPs was a Labour Government

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initiative requiring home owners to have a pack produced prior to sale containing local authority searches, title documents, guarantees, home condition report etc. as well as the energy performance certificates. The Coalition Government can scrap the HIP but not the energy performance certificates as this is a European requirement.

Government is currently considering rewarding people that improve the energy efficiency performance of their home by moving up the Energy Performance Certificate rankings it is proposed that a tax would be placed on energy inefficient homes (those rated F or G) and a rebate would be available for significant improvements.

Homes rated F and G are expected to make up less than 8% of the market.

Costs for improvements to homes would range from £800 to over £9,000.

Funding is available for assistance for many of these measures such as Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) or the Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP).

An EPC is needed for all properties within 28 days of the property being marketed. The EPC rates the property from A to G as to how energy efficient it is and it will recommend measures that can be undertaken to improve its rating. These measures are being considered as part of a collection of initiatives to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes.

- Warm Front

Labour Government flag ship fuel poverty scheme

It looks increasingly likely that Warm Front's contract which is due for renewal in 2011 will not be renewed. Warm Front will begin scaling back from September and will take no new applicants and completely close its doors by May 2011 when it will have run out of money and all schemes currently in the pipe line will have been completed. The implications of this are being felt now where applications for boiler replacements are falling as customer are being refused help.

- Green Deal

Homeowners will be able to spend up to £6,500 improving the energy efficiency of their homes through 'Pay as You Save' (PAYS). Repayment will be from savings in future energy bills – but with the homeowner still seeing an overall saving. Crucially, if the property is sold, the repayment will continue to be made through the energy bills by the new owner. The key benefit to this is the concept that the barrier of the upfront cost is removed and the savings exceed the costs irrespective of how long the person making the expenditure is in the property – so it always makes sense to act.

However, there remains a lot of uncertainty and confusion as to how the Green Deal will work. The most immediate question is how the Green Deal will affect social housing.

The signals from CLG indicate that an EPC would be required before you would be able to agree Green Deal measures with homeowners.

Unfortunately, the signals from DECC have been much more ambiguous.

What is clear is that the Coalition Government - is optimistic that Green Deal is going to have a significant impact. Previous initiatives have been

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fragmented and insufficient. Green Deal will be a “real game changer” and help to “reach the remaining 14 million households in the UK in a meaningful time scale”. Green Deal will “unlock billions in new private capital to support energy efficiency”. There is also the suggestion that Green Deal might not be entirely optional. The Minister Grant Shapps has said “through legislation and opening up new markets with new regulation, we can ensure that there is no cost up front to every single householder”.

**Legislation:** Green Deal requires new primary legislation – the Energy Bill will be introduced later this year. This is needed to create the legal framework for the financing arrangement.

**Measures:** Green Deal is about financing straight energy efficiency measures. It is also unclear whether it will cover heating system upgrades – one could hardly justify 25 year financing on a replacement boiler.

**Coverage:** Green Deal will cover both homes and businesses – especially small and medium-sized ones.

**Timing:** Green Deal isn't going to have any impact in the short-term. It looks as though the intention is that Green Deal financing and the revised supplier obligation (CERT) will both come into force at the end of 2012.

**8. Finance**

The Feed-In Tariffs scheme could be viewed as potentially an investment and funding stream systems can be obtained through EAGA for £6,000 if 2,000 properties were retrofitted with PV installation then that would generate £1,600,000 income per year. In 25 years the income would be £40,000,000

Warm Front's cancellation represents a saving of £75m on current contract. The introduction of Pay As You Save in 2012 was expected to be the replacement part of government reform to move away from grants to loans.

The Government has estimated that building the new low-carbon infrastructure that the UK needs will cost £550bn between now and 2020. The total bill over the next twenty years could hit £1tn. Three quangos with an annual budget of £185m to be folded into a Green Investment Bank (GIB) - the Carbon Trust, the Energy Technologies Institute, and the low carbon wing of the Technology Strategy Board. They also have their eye on six government funds with a total budget of £2bn.

Pay As You Save has been reduced from proposed £10,000 to £6,500; this will not cover many of the energy improvements available. Its clear householders will be expected to install measures at their own cost. With the implication that properties with low RdSAP ratings will be penalised with a tax it is not clear how this helps the fuel poor.

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### 9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Feed-In Tariffs scheme will be reviewed by the government every five years, to coincide with the reviews of the Renewables Obligation.

The first review is due in 2012, with any changes suggested becoming effective in April 2013.

The energy bill has not yet been finalised and it will need to go through due process which may result in changes and the time frame may slip.

The cost and complexity of Pay As You Save that is being proposed the parties involved – retailer, installer, finance provider and energy Companies - will need to cover their administrative costs and expect the scheme to contribute to their profits. This may well create a scheme that will cost more than it is intended to save. Then there is the 25-year pay back period and the fact that the householder may move or change energy company at any time. There will be a complex IT system needed to underpin this. One possibility will be to link this to the plans for centralised data collection from smart meters. But any project that relies on integration with the billing systems of energy companies will be an IT nightmare. The proposal not to fund boiler replacements in PAYS removes the largest number of energy improvements asked for by householders and will probably encourage whole heating replacements when this was not necessary; therefore generate a larger cost implication to low income households.

### 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Warm Front are redirecting calls to the council in the hope we can fund applications for boiler replacements - the winter months may well see an increase in calls. With funding in our South Yorkshire energy advice centre less than in previous years we shall only be able to help a small number of applicants. Staff time will be taken up explaining to customers that funding is not available.

Pay As You Save the Coalition Government is expecting councils to play a large part in the scheme though as yet it is not clear what this may involve

### 11. Background Papers and Consultation

**None**

**Contact Name:** Paul Maplethorpe,  
Affordable Warmth & Sustainable Energy Coordinator  
Tel: 01709 334964  
Internal from old: 4964  
Internal from new: 744964  
Email: paul.maplethorpe@rotherham.gov.uk

## Members Sustainable Development Advisory Group



There is an ongoing re-orientation of the LA21 project due to a refocus onto community involvement in sustainable development and David Wilde no longer being currently fully employed by Groundwork Dearne Valley.

Focus has therefore moved to a certain extent away from direct involvement with schools to co-ordination of the developing food project, reported on elsewhere in this meeting. LA21 will however continue to co-ordinate the Rotherham Education for Sustainable Development Partnership (RESDP) and facilitate Rotherham Environment Forum, with continued involvement from Groundwork.

Attendance/reporting to this group/Scrutiny, the Sustainable Development Officers Group and Sustainability Partnership will continue to be when appropriate.

Contact details: David Wilde Tel: 01709 822789  
e-mail: [david.wilde@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:david.wilde@rotherham.gov.uk)

Date report produced: 20.8.10

# Sustainable Development Advisory Group

Rotherham  
Metropolitan  
Borough Council



## Environmental Management System

### 1. Overview of the issue

Environmental Management is an ongoing activity within RMBC with a current priority of legal compliance and CO<sub>2</sub> reductions.

### 2. Summary of key events in the period – up to 3 September 2010:

#### Photovoltaic Panels

Two projects underway:

1. Lease old landfill sites to put arrays of PV panels.
2. PV panels on ~60 schools.

A number of actions required:

- Checking legal/deeds restrictions or requirements
- Checking planning requirements
- Authorisation from Governors/Headteacher.
- Authorisation from Assistant Director of Legal.
- Sanctioned by SLT/Cabinet

A process of competitive tendering will be implemented.

#### Carbon Reduction Commitment – Energy Efficiency Scheme

Continued work in preparation for purchasing allowances April 2011 and reporting emissions.

#### Sustainable Procurement and Commissioning Code of Practice

No comments from initial consultation presented back to Procurement Panel 11 October 2010.

#### EMAS Verification Audit

ISOQAR will be carrying out an EMAS Annual Statement verification audit w/c 6 September 2010. Annual Statement now being prepared to performance manage RMBC Environmental Policy.

#### NI 185/194

Awaiting direction from DECC to date and format for reporting. Continuing with reduction target and activities.

### 3. Key issues for Rotherham / how this fits in with Corporate priorities

Legal compliance with EPBD; CRC; maintaining EMAS Registration and going beyond the 2% reduction target.

### 4. Next Steps or action required.

Taking forward all current projects reported on above.

Contact details: David Rhodes tel. 54017 e-mail: [david.rhodes@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:david.rhodes@rotherham.gov.uk)

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