

We commend the Energy and Climate Change Committee for addressing the important issue of the off-shoring of consumption-based emissions which has long played a distorting role in the attempt to make serious progress in tackling the global threat of climate change. Green House is convinced by the key finding of the 2006 report from the Carbon Trust that 'Consumer purchasing decisions are the ultimate driver of carbon emissions in an economy. All carbon emissions can be attributed to the delivery of products and services to meet the needs of the consumer'.

The Kyoto Treaty established a process of measuring emissions based on nation-state boundaries, which encouraged many companies to move their operations from countries with a serious approach to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (such as the UK) to countries which were more prepared to be lax, an example of the so-called 'race to the bottom'. This way of measuring carbon also enabled governments in high-consuming countries to avoid the difficult process of engaging with their citizens on the issue of their high-carbon lifestyle. But if we are to make serious progress in tackling climate change then these debates need to be had and citizens need to learn to live within carbon budgets based on a model of global equity such as the Contraction and Convergence model.

Three reports that have identified problems with the current methods for measuring CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:

Christian Aid (2007) *Coming Clean: Revealing the UK's True Carbon Footprint*:

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/Images/coming-clean-uk-carbon-footprint.pdf>

Worldwide Fund for Nature (2006), *Counting Consumption*, 2006:

<http://www.wwf.org.uk/filelibrary/pdf/countingconsumption.pdf>

Carbon Trust (2006), *The Carbon Emissions Generated in All that We Consume* (London: Carbon Trust).

Contraction and Convergence: <http://www.gci.org.uk/contconv/cc.html>