

The Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

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To Whom It May Concern

As Chair of the South Somerset Partnership Committee (a collaboration between Somerset County Council and South Somerset District Council) I oversaw the work in 1999/2000 undertaken for the committee by Steve Charter (then operating as Somerset Sustainable Housing) initially to deliver a South Somerset Sustainable Construction Strategy and then to help found the Somerset Trust for Sustainable Development), as one of the core themes of the strategy.

The Trust – which gained charitable status in 2004 and has been operating as Ecos Trust since 2007 - has been a great success and has always enjoyed significant political and officer support for its activities, which both support the activities of Somerset's local authorities, and also deliver activities which local authorities are not able to deliver. The Trust has also gone on to play an important role at the regional level, thereby reflecting well on Somerset, as well as being a founder member of the Good Homes Alliance.

It has been a pleasure for me to see STSD / Ecos Trust and the housing projects delivered by Ecos Homes gain a national reputation, and win acclaim and awards for its first scheme – Great Bow Yard in Langport.

I happy to endorse the quality of Steve Charter's work for the South Somerset Partnership Committee, and believe that Trusts or social enterprises modelled on Ecos Trust and similar organisations can have an important and significant role in deliver local solutions to the climate change and sustainability agendas.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sue Miller', written over a horizontal line.

Baroness Sue Miller
Winner of the 2005 PRASEG award for the Peer making the greatest contribution in the field of renewable energy