

UK Business Council for
Sustainable Energy (UKBCSE)



Press Release
22 March 2006

For Immediate Use

Budget 2006: Welcome Steps for Sustainable Energy

- Household energy bills will be cut by around £20 million as energy companies commit to insulating an extra 250,000 homes - also saving 35,000 tonnes of carbon a year;
- £20 million from Government to help promote the take up of local initiatives such as cutting the Council Tax on homes that install insulation;
- £5 million to start the process of modernising Britain's energy meters by supporting a pilot to study the benefits to consumers and the environment of a new generation of 'smart' metering technologies;
- £50 million to support for the wider use of micro-generation – such as in schools and social housing;
- £20 million from Government to help promote the take up of local initiatives such as cutting the Council Tax on homes that install insulation;
- Creation of a new National Institute for Energy Technologies in partnership between the public and private sector;

Commenting on the Chancellor's announcements, David Green, Chief Executive of the UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy, said:

“The initiatives announced today demonstrate that smarter energy policy can deliver savings for the consumer and real benefits for the environment.

We welcome today's announcements, the direction it sets for future action, and the Chancellor's continued willingness to work with us to deliver creative solutions to the twin challenges of climate change and energy security”

Ends

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Notes to Editor

1. The UK Business Council brings together the Chief Executives of all of the UK's major energy companies. It works to support the fastest transition possible towards a sustainable energy economy consistent with the delivery of a secure and reliable energy infrastructure. The Council brings together the Chief Executives of Scottish & Southern plc, E.ON UK, EDF Energy, Scottish Power, National Grid, RWE npower, and United Utilities.
2. . The UKBCSE works to:
 - Provide a high level forum for dialogue between the UK energy industry, government and other stakeholders on the key issues shaping the deployment of sustainable energy technologies;
 - Promote the policies, investment and commitment needed to secure market growth, facilitate long term business planning and development;
 - Highlight the scope for technological and market innovation to deliver key environmental goals.
3. The UKBCSE has worked with H.M. Treasury in the lead into and the follow up the Chancellors Energy Services Summit, which he announced during the UK's G8 Presidency.