

**Press Release – for immediate release
Wednesday 6 December 2006**

Pre-Budget Report;

**UKBCSE welcomes Gordon Brown's moves towards a
global carbon market**

The UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy welcomed the focus on tackling climate change in the Chancellor's Pre-Budget Report today.

David Green, Chief Executive of the UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy, comments:

"Businesses need clarity about the long-term market for carbon in order to invest in sustainable energy infrastructure. The Business Council supports the Government's ambitions to strengthen the European emissions trading scheme and to link with other schemes around the world as this will help drive an effective global market for carbon."

The Business Council also praised the Government's commitment to reform the planning system for major infrastructure.

"The UK's planning system has the scope to drive the move to a lower carbon economy. The establishment of an independent planning body has the potential to go a long way to ensuring that projects of national significance can be assessed in a timely manner", said David Green.

The Business Council also welcomed the commitment to boosting neighbourhood approaches to fuel poverty.

"Area based approaches such as Warm Zones offer real scope for innovation. Today's additional funding sets us on the right track. However, more action is needed if the Government remains serious about tackling the challenge of fuel poverty", said David Green.

While the Business Council welcomed the measures outlined in the Pre-Budget Report today, clearly more needs to be done to address the climate challenge.

"Given the scale of action needed, the Business Council looks forward to seeing a strengthened focus on tackling climate change in next year's budget", said Mr Green.

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The views expressed cannot be taken to represent the views of all parts of all the companies in the UKBCSE