



**For immediate use
Wednesday 23 May 2007**

UKBCSE welcomes Government progress towards a clear framework for sustainable energy

The UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy today welcomed the release of the Government's Energy White Paper and its wide ranging associated consultations.

David Green, Chief Executive of the Council comments;

"To secure investment in new and lower carbon energy sources companies need a clear and long-term policy framework – today's White Paper is a clear step in that direction. However we must not substitute consultation for action – the challenge of climate change is too urgent."

"We particularly welcome the White Paper's emphasis on the key role of carbon markets and the Government's commitment to bear down on the sustained growth in energy demand that as consumers we are all driving. Achieving real change here will itself create significant new business opportunities."

The Council will be maintaining its active involvement in the next stage of delivery as the UK sets out to achieve carbon reductions of at least 60% by 2050.

David Green concludes:

"The sustainability of the UK's energy system will depend on investment decisions made in the next few years. While the Council welcomes the direction outlined in the Planning and Energy White Papers, and the draft Climate Change Bill, it is critical that legislation is now put in place to create the long term momentum needed to significantly reduce the UK's carbon emissions."

The UKBCSE brings together the major energy companies in the UK to secure the fastest transition possible towards a sustainable energy economy consistent with the delivery of a secure and reliable energy infrastructure.

The UKBCSE will continue to work with Government to scrutinise and develop the details of the policies set out in the White Paper.

ENDS

Notes to editor:

The UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy brings together 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 has sister organisations in Washington, Frankfurt and Melbourne

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