

**For immediate use
Monday 21 May 2007**

UKBCSE Welcomes Planning White Paper

The UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy today welcomed the release of the Planning White Paper and its importance for the delivery of low carbon energy projects.

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

“We welcome the Government’s commitment to tackle the inertia in the planning system for major infrastructure.

This is critical to the achievement of the Government’s targets for reducing carbon emissions in the UK – especially for renewable projects.

We attach particular importance to the new national policy framework that is being set for national infrastructure and we welcome the new independent commission.

The new arrangements must however enable local communities to meaningfully participate in the decisions that affect them.

Many smaller renewable projects will continue to be approved locally and we support the Government’s intention to make these arrangements more effective for everyone - developers, local communities and local planning authorities alike.”

The UKBCSE believes that as part of the next steps the Government takes it must work actively with the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales to ensure that the new National Policy Statements do enable significant renewable and key network infrastructure projects to be moved forward.

The UKBCSE also believes that that there are important implications in the Planning White paper for the development of an effective national policy for the use of sustainable heat – with the potential for any new generation of energy from waste plants providing low carbon heating to local communities.

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

The Council made extensive and high level contributions to the Energy Review, as well as to the development of the Planning and forthcoming Energy White Paper.

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