



Bringing together the latest sustainable energy efficiency news from around the UK

July 09 | Issue 01

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the carbon capture

UK at forefront of a low carbon economic revolution

A comprehensive plan to move the UK onto a permanent low carbon footing and to maximise economic opportunities, growth and jobs was published by the Government today.

The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan plots out how the UK will meet the cut in emissions set out in the budget of 34% on 1990 levels by 2020. A 21% reduction has already been delivered – equivalent to cutting emissions entirely from four cities the size of London.

Transforming the country into a cleaner, greener and more prosperous place to live is at the heart of our economic plans for Building Britain's Future and ensuring the UK is ready to take advantage of the opportunities ahead. By 2020:

- More than 1.2 million people will be in green jobs
- 7 million homes will enjoy pay-as-you-save home energy makeovers, and more than 1.5 million households will be supported to produce their own clean energy
- 40% of electricity will be from low carbon sources, from renewables, nuclear and clean coal
- We will be importing half the amount of gas that we otherwise would
- The average new car will emit 40% less carbon than now.

The Transition Plan takes a cost effective route to reducing carbon and keeps the overall impact on the consumer to a minimum. Since 2000 £20 billion has been spent tackling fuel poverty, assisting millions of households in the UK.

The Plan includes greater powers for the regulator Ofgem to protect the consumer and, following new legislation, new resources for discounts off the bills of some of the most vulnerable households.

The Transition Plan is the most systematic response to climate change of any major developed economy, and sets the standard for others in the run up to crucial global climate talks in Copenhagen in December.

Also recently published was the Renewable Energy Strategy which maps out how we will deliver the UK's target of getting 15% of all energy (electricity, heat and transport) from renewables by 2020.

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband said: "The UK was the first country in the world to legislate for carbon budgets. It was a dramatic change in approach. This is a transition plan for Britain, a route-map to 2020, with carbon savings expected across every sector and a carbon budget assigned to every government department alongside its financial budget..."

The UK is the first country in the world to set itself legally binding 'carbon budgets'. Under the Climate Change Act 2008 emissions of greenhouse gases are constrained in each successive five year period. The Transition Plan sets out how we will cut emissions by 34% on 1990 levels by 2020 from the main emitting sectors - power, homes, workplaces, transport and agriculture - on the way to achieving a reduction of at least 80% by 2050.

An outline of announcements contained in the documents published today:

- We aim to place the energy suppliers' social programmes on a statutory footing with increased resources when the current voluntary agreement ends in March 2011.
- Strengthening the energy regulator Ofgem's powers to protect the consumer.
- 'Pay as you save' pilots helping people make their whole house greener by using the savings made on energy bills to repay the upfront costs, backed by up to £4m from low carbon investment funding. An eventual national roll out could create 34,000 jobs.
- Consultation on the shape and rates of a new 'clean energy cash-back' scheme (Feed in Tariff) to be in place by April next year. People and businesses that generate their own electricity from low carbon sources will be paid for doing so. A similar scheme for renewable heat will follow in April 2011.
- Extending the current CERT energy efficiency programme by a year to 2012. Alongside an uplift of 20%, total help under the scheme will total £3.2 billion.
- A new personal carbon incentive scheme to challenge people on a voluntary basis to save energy, through the Government's Act on CO2 campaign.
- Challenging 15 villages, towns or cities to be testbeds for piloting future green initiatives.'

In addition, around 50% of the annual emissions cuts between now and 2020, will be achieved by further greening of the electricity mix, 10% will be achieved through greater efficiencies in our workplaces, around 20% achieved by cleaning up the way we travel, and around 5% achieved by reducing emissions from agriculture, land use and waste.

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Views on the news...

The above press release issued by the Government has been edited to highlight in particular, the main areas of interest within the Government's Low Carbon Transition Plan, for all of us working within the field of home energy efficiency.

Active engagement of communities to save energy and become involved in green initiatives close to home is being supported by an extension of CERT to the end of 2012, which will not only benefit the public but all of us working within the industry. The insulation industry will benefit from a particular focus on insulation measures during this extended period, with the carryover over of measures from the current period to the extended period likely to encourage energy suppliers to bring forward extra insulation measures. The consumer will at the same time benefit from other energy saving measures included within the CERT extension.

Increasing consumer protection by empowering regulator Ofgem, should protect and aid residents across the UK; the people at the heart of a transition to a low carbon economy, which can only be good news. Protection and help for the consumer is also evident in the flexibility encompassed within proposed 'Pay as you save' pilots, which will provide new flexible financing methods to support the consumer in their efforts to achieve a greener home.

Many of the Government's highlighted initiatives will offer significant incentives to the consumer as they are challenged to pave a way towards a low carbon future. This overall strategy should invite a proactive attitude from everyone working together to reach collective goals.

This ambitious Low Carbon Transition Plan joins other, less thorough, low-carbon commitments made by the government in recent months, and demonstrates a firm commitment to reaching a low-carbon economy and to tackling climate change. It is only hoped that some of the repercussions, such as the extra 8% or £92 which will be added onto current household bills by 2020 as a result of all climate change policies, will fade into insignificance in light of the more noteworthy benefits.

UK Housing Minister promises new standard for zero-carbon homes

UK Housing Minister John Healey followed up last week's publication of the Government's Low Carbon Transition Plan with the publication of standards for energy efficient zero-carbon homes.

In a written statement, Healey reconfirmed the Government's commitment to achieving zero-carbon new homes by 2016 and announced the definitions and standards that will be legislated.

The Government first unveiled its zero-carbon homes ambition in 2007 and began a consultation at the end of last year. Following that consultation, Healey published the Planning Policy Statement on Friday (17th), which sets out the standards for green homes.

New zero-carbon homes will have to show zero or negative carbon dioxide emissions from energy use across the year and meet a minimum 'carbon compliance' standard for on-site mitigation of 70%. The rest can come from what's known as 'allowable solutions' - either further on- or off-site reduction measures.

To meet these stringent requirements, homes will have to be highly energy efficient...

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Source: Energy Efficiency News, 20/07/09

Local projects receive £600,000 in 'big green challenge plus'

Community projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions and developing clean, local energy sources are set to receive up to £20,000 funding under a new partnership between the Department of Energy and Climate Change and NESTA.

The collaboration between DECC and NESTA (the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) will see direct funding and support package, worth a total of £600,000, provided by DECC to 17 grassroots projects across England. NESTA will administer the scheme.

A low carbon co-operative in Manchester, a project to deliver local hydro power from water mills near Bath, and a plan to install renewable energy technologies on local farms around Winchester, are among the projects to receive funding under the 'Big Green Challenge Plus' partnership.

The new money is in addition to funding already allocated by NESTA to 10 Big Green Challenge finalists, announced in October. The winners of the original challenge will be revealed later this year, sharing in prize money of £1 million. Because of the calibre of the applicants, DECC has agreed to provide funding for a further 17 projects...

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Source: News Distribution Service, 17/07/09



enact news

Welcome to the first edition of The Carbon Capture - capturing the carbon related news that you will want to read, and bringing it to you as an interactive, informative, and easy read!

Thank you to all of you who completed our HECA News survey. We took your views on board and as you can see, we have revamped HECA News to bring you a BRAND NEW newsletter in a BRAND NEW format with a BRAND NEW name.

Tesco Home Insulation Service

With Enact's support Tesco has employed a variety of marketing techniques to accelerate scheme interest further still. Refer a Friend mailings will be going out to all customers, advertising space allocated in the Tesco Direct catalogue and a feature article placed within the Tesco Magazine, supported by increasing in-store presence across the UK as the season turns.

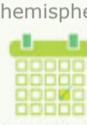
Heat Project

Without wishing a beautiful summer away, organised members of the public, thinking ahead and preparing for next winter are picking a perfect time to insulate their homes through the Heat Project. Contrary to the inevitable 'winter panic', these people are choosing a convenient time (perhaps when home more through school holidays!) to make sure they are equipped for the seasons ahead!

Enact Australia

New office premises have been acquired to house the ever growing team, and marketing tools employed to raise the profile of the Green Project.

Enact is also delighted to have now made entry into New Zealand, after securing its first contract! UK Head of Operations Jennie Butcher has gone out to help kick-start the NZ journey... so it's all go for Enact in the southern hemisphere



events

Pricewaterhouse Coopers West of England Business of the Year Awards 24th June

Enact joined other shortlisted businesses located in the west, to celebrate at this year's awards, held in Bristol. Enact were just beaten to the top spot by their energy suppliers Good Energy, after a very tough split decision between the two companies. Enact are extremely proud to be the only Cornish company shortlisted at the awards, and recognise that creating such strong competition at such a prestigious award, really is a great achievement.

Small Change , Big Difference Week: 13th - 18th July

Let us know what your council did during this week, and what you are doing to combat climate change and help your residents reduce their carbon footprints



headline links

Managing calm: what to do when the wind doesn't blow

Source: Energy Efficiency News, 21/07/09

UK biofuels beat Government targets for emission reductions

Source: Energy Efficiency News, 17/07/09

Healey: green light given on eco-town sites plus tougher standards for future homes

Source: News Distribution Service, 16/07/09

G8 set new global warming targets

Source: BBC, 09/07/09

Home energy saving pays its way

Source: BBC, 06/07/09

UK government should consolidate energy efficiency programmes

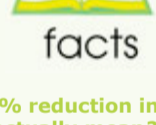
Source: Energy Efficiency News, 10/06/09

Government Response to Consultations on CERT and CESP

Sources: NIA, 02/07/09, NEA, 03/07/09 and DECC, 30/06/09

Interest-free loans for energy efficiency technology

Source: Energy Efficiency News, 11/06/09



facts

What does a 34% reduction in emissions actually mean?

A 34% reduction represents 266.8 million tonnes less of greenhouse gases in 2020 than in 1990. We've already achieved about 21% cut since 1990 - equivalent to cutting emissions entirely from four cities the size of London.

Put another way, it is equivalent to a reduction of almost six tonnes of greenhouse gases per person in 2020 compared to 1990. Six tonnes of CO2 is equivalent to driving an average car from London to Manchester over 45 times, or boiling a kettle for more than 340,000 cups of tea.

[Read more...](#)



For more information on our services please call us on
0870 442 7601
www.enactenergy.com
info@enactenergy.com

On a lighter note...

Enact are starting them off as early as possible! Eight year old Elissa Liddell, daughter of Enact's MD, illustrates her youthful enthusiasm for renewable energy.

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Get in touch...

Let us know your views on the articles featured in The Carbon Capture and if you have any suggestions. Email your bright ideas to: lucyw@enactenergy.com

