

Environmental Industries Media Briefing

February 2009



About the Environmental Industries Commission (EIC)

EIC represents over 300 companies providing solutions to the main environmental problems (water and air pollution, contaminated land, waste, transport pollution, climate change etc). EIC has the support of leading politicians from all three major political parties, industrialists, trade union leaders, environmentalists, and academics.

EIC's core message is that high environmental standards are good for the economy. EIC believes that the future of global and UK competitiveness will be based on a transition to resource efficient, low carbon economy – EIC lobbies for the policies that will facilitate this transition.

“EIC and its Members have demonstrated responsibility, innovation and leadership in low carbon business – and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the work you do.”

Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for the Environment, April 2008

Key EIC Lobbying Issues

EIC's Green Jobs Growth Strategy

Lord Mandelson recently stated that the environmental industry would create a “job revolution that cuts right across all sectors of the economy.” He acknowledged, however, that the worldwide environmental industry would be a “fiercely competitive sector...we will need a smart strategic approach from government”.

EIC recently launched its “Green Jobs Growth Strategy: Investing in the Future” setting out what this “smart strategic approach” should look like.

The Strategy aims to position the environmental industry as a key area for investment to help the economy out of the downturn. It puts forward specific proposals to support investment through long-term regulatory support, public spending and tax incentives. *For a copy of the Strategy email danny.stevens@eic-uk.co.uk*

WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES FOR THE UK'S ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRY?

EIC has published the first EIC Guide to the Environmental Industry Survey. The survey was completed by over 109 Environmental Companies (including Members) and will be repeated every six months.

The results of the survey informed the key proposals set out in the aforementioned Green Jobs Growth Strategy. For example, **42 per cent of respondents to the survey told us that no political party had the right policies to promote the UK's environmental industry.**

For a copy of the survey contact danny.stevens@eic-uk.co.uk

The voice of the UK's environmental industry
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- > Carbon trading
- > Land remediation
- > Air quality
- > Transport pollution control
- > Waste
- > Water pollution control
- > Renewable transport fuels
- > Sustainable development
- > Innovation
- > Environmental testing

London Olympics' Failure on Air Pollution

EIC recently launched the latest stage in its major lobbying campaign calling for urgent implementation of the London 'Best Practice Guidance on the Control of Dust and Emissions from Construction and Demolition' at all major construction sites in London, particularly the Olympics.

The Guidance aims establish best practice for reducing emissions across all aspects of managing a demolition or construction site, including from construction machinery. **Lord Coe has committed to ensuring that the London Olympics are the greenest games ever and as part of this "ensuring works are carried out in accordance with the Best Practice Guidance. However, almost 3 years after publication of the 'Best Practice Guidance', this has not being followed through on site.**

Extension of the Land Remediation Relief

EIC has written to Angela Eagle, Exchequer Secretary, calling on the Government to extend the Land Remediation Relief to support the redevelopment of brownfield sites as part of the fiscal stimulus package planned for the 2009 Budget.

The 2008 Budget announced the end of the exemption from the Landfill Tax for contaminated soils - which will result in an additional £40 million of tax revenues per annum from the development sector. This additional revenue is to be put into extending the Land Remediation Relief - which provides 150% tax relief on the costs of dealing with contamination - to long term derelict sites and to a broader range of costs associated with developing them (such as removing underground structures - as well as contamination).

However, the way the Government have defined what will qualify for the extended Land Remediation Relief will mean it is virtually impossible to claim. **EIC is concerned that the Government is simply introducing a tax on development by ending the Landfill Tax exemption but failing to recycle the additional revenues.**

Future EIC Lobbying Issues

Forthcoming EIC Parliamentary Briefings will ask for your support on the following issues:

- **Budget 2009** – a number of EIC's Working Groups will be submitting their growth proposals to HM Treasury in early 2009 as officials prepare the Budget.
- **Financial Incentives for improving energy efficiency in buildings** – EIC's Sustainable Buildings and Energy Efficiency Working Group will shortly publish a series of proposals for financial mechanisms to encourage the uptake of energy efficiency technologies in buildings.
- **Air Quality in the UK** – the Government is currently failing to meet targets under the National Emissions Ceilings Directive to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxide. EIC will seek your support for a campaign calling for urgent Government action to meet these targets.

EIC Policy Briefings

EIC produces regular briefings for its Members on a range of detailed policy issues.

Recent briefings include a summary of the Government's **Heat and Energy Saving Strategy**. EIC also produces a **monthly UK and quarterly EU news report** on all of the key policy developments affecting the environmental industry. *For copies of these news reports or EIC's policy briefings contact EIC (danny.stevens@eic-uk.co.uk).*