

# Environmental Industries Media Briefing

March 2009

**“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**



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## Key EIC Lobbying Issues

### **EIC's Recommendations for a Budgetary Stimulus for Green Jobs**

In March the Government published its “Low Carbon Industrial Strategy: A Vision.” The Strategy sets out the Government’s “vision” for making the transition to a low carbon economy in the UK – and for putting the UK at the forefront of the huge global market for the green technologies that will guide this transition. Whilst this is a welcome step forward, we need much more than just a “vision” to secure the huge economic benefits of a low carbon economy.

The forthcoming Budget is a real test of how serious the Government is about making the transition to a low carbon economy - and the thousands of new British businesses and hundreds of thousands of new jobs it will create.

**EIC has launched the report “A Budgetary Stimulus for Green Collar Jobs,” which sets out a series of fiscal recommendations that the Government should adopt in forthcoming Budget to create an economic stimulus for over 300,000 “green jobs.”**

The report complements EIC’s recent “Green Jobs Growth Strategy” which called for a comprehensive Government strategy to promote the UK’s environmental industry and place it at the forefront of what Lord Mandelson has highlighted is a “fiercely competitive sector.”

**For a copy of the report email [danny.stevens@eic-uk.co.uk](mailto:danny.stevens@eic-uk.co.uk)**

In support of the Budget Report, EIC has written to Gordon Brown, Alistair Darling, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business, Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment.

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### **National Framework for Low Emission Zones**

The UK is currently failing to meet its targets under the Ambient Air Quality Directive and recently consulted on plans to postpone the deadline for meeting a target to reduce emissions of particulate matter under the Directive.

In order to qualify for a time extension for meeting the limit values set out in the Directive, Defra must demonstrate that “all appropriate measures have been taken at national, regional and local level to meet the required limit values.” EIC does not accept that this is the case in the UK. One of the key reasons for this is, of course, Boris Johnson’s recent decision to suspend Phase III of the London Low Emission Zone.

**Nationally, however, the Government has failed to sufficiently support the introduction of Low Emission Zones across the UK. We welcomed the recent Local Air Quality Management Guidance but believe that it should be supported through the urgent introduction of a National Framework of Low Emission Zones.**

Such a framework should establish a nationally recognised standard for emissions and vehicle identification – supported by a national certification scheme of retrofit technologies. This would then leave local authorities with the decision on whether, when and where to have a Low Emission Zone - providing that they operate within the national framework. This would support national air quality objectives whilst maintaining local autonomy. **For a copy of EIC’s briefing paper email [danny.stevens@eic-uk.co.uk](mailto:danny.stevens@eic-uk.co.uk)**

The voice of the UK’s  
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- > Sustainable buildings and energy efficiency
- > Carbon trading
- > Land remediation
- > Air quality
- > Transport pollution control
- > Waste
- > Water pollution control
- > Renewable transport fuels
- > Sustainable development
- > Innovation
- > Environmental testing

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## ***Water Industry Price Review***

EIC has consistently argued that the current regulatory regime for the Periodic Review creates a “boom and bust” financial climate for the supply chain serving the water industry in the UK - because capital expenditure tends to be concentrated towards the end of the five-year period. **This situation leads to financial and managerial inefficiencies and instabilities in the supply chain and ultimately leads to higher costs for consumers.**

A consequence has been the migration of skilled resources out of this sector over the years to more stable sectors, where job security is better, resource management is easier and long-term planning can be better achieved, creating a severe and worsening skills shortage. EIC has written to Angela Eagle MP, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, and Philip Fletcher, Chairman of Ofwat, calling for urgent action to address these concerns.

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## ***Future EIC Lobbying Issues***

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

- **Launch of EIC’s Carbon and Environmental Management Working Group** - to provide greater weight, resource and expertise to the increasingly important legislative, regulatory and business support framework for carbon and environmental management solutions, EIC is launching a new Carbon and Environmental Management Working Group. The Group’s lobbying will be focussed on: **UK and EU Carbon Management Policy** (the key legislative and regulatory drivers for carbon management across the economy); **Sustainable Procurement; Carbon and Environmental Management Systems and Corporate Reporting.**
- **Soil Framework Directive** – EIC’s Contaminated Land Remediation Working Group will shortly publish a Position Paper on the European Commission’s proposals for a Soil Framework Directive. For more information on the Soil Framework Directive, email [danny.stevens@eic-uk.co.uk](mailto:danny.stevens@eic-uk.co.uk)
- **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.

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## ***EIC Policy Briefings***

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

- The Government’s **Low Carbon Industrial Strategy**
- The draft Regulations to implement the **Carbon Reduction Commitment**
- The Government’s new **Local Air Quality Management Guidance** for local authorities

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](mailto:danny.stevens@eic-uk.co.uk)).*

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## ***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.