

EMBARGO: Thursday 24 January 2002 14.00 hrs

## **£50 MILLION BOOST TO TACKLING FUEL POVERTY WELCOMED**

Welcoming today's announcement of the Government's new programme to boost the use of community energy, Combined Heat and Power Association (CHPA) Vice President Tony Colman MP comments:

*"The Government has a strong commitment to CHP. Today's announcement demonstrates this – it will help deliver better heating to many vulnerable households and, in the longer term, help achieve the Government's CHP target."*

The Government's £50 million Community Energy Programme will help refurbish existing community heating schemes, and to develop new ones. Already at work in Newcastle, Sheffield, parts of London, Nottingham, and Southampton, the new programme will help the UK move towards the much wider use of the community energy as in other parts of Europe.

David Green, Director of the CHPA comments:

*"The most well known customer of community energy is Tony Blair. Today's announcement will help many more customers to get the full benefit of community energy – it will be able to help hospitals, schools and other energy users to connect to a sustainable low cost heating option."*

The new programme is due to run over two years, until April 2004.

*"The industry is ready to meet this challenge, and the CHPA is pleased to be working in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust and the Carbon Trust to deliver the Community Energy Programme."*

*To achieve the full potential of the programme, also we need a long-term commitment by Government and early action to address the challenges currently facing CHP developers."*

**ENDS**

Notes:

1. The *Community Energy Programme* was first announced by the Deputy Prime Minister in April 2001 (26 April 2001 News Release 237: *Prescott announces Community Energy Programme*).
2. Details about participation in the CHPA's District Energy Initiative can be found at:  
<http://www.chpa.co.uk/deiindex.html>

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